

Finance & Rules Committee
September 24, 2024
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Michael Montigelli, Legislators Philip Reed, Daniel McBride, John Peck, Board Chair William Johnson

Others Present: Legislators Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Patrick Jareo, Christopher Boulio, Corey Grant, Anthony Doldo, Interim County Administrator Dylan Soper, County Attorney John Sabik, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Ashley Durham, Employment & Training Director Cheryl Mayforth, Purchasing Director Michael Bagley, DSS Commissioner Karen Marcum, Office for the Aging Director Bethany Munn, JCIDA Executive Director Marshall Weir, JCIDA Deputy Director Jay Matteson, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Purchasing Director Michael Bagley outlined an electronic bidding pilot program his office is undertaking that will streamline the bidding process and make it more efficient than the current paper heavy system. He received three quotes for this program and he chose the Planet Bids platform with a five year commitment at an annual cost of \$12,990 for the first year and a 3% increase each year thereafter. He outlined the many features within the platform including a bid spec library with many commodities which he found very helpful with the recent Electric Supply Bid that was done. He answered questions of legislators related to the platform.

At the request of Chairman Montigelli, Director Bagley updated the Committee with regard to electricity procurement. He said historically the County has signed a fixed rate agreement for electricity and natural gas which provides security during market fluctuations, but in a sense is disadvantageous from a cost savings stand point because of risk mitigation fees. Long term variable rates also have fees but will provide overall cost savings per his research. Director Bagley said when the County's fixed rate electricity contract ends in October we will have the opportunity to work with National Grid to analyze usage and explore cost saving options including variable rates. The same will be done with the natural gas contract when it ends April 30, 2025.

Administrator Soper advised that that from a budget perspective long term variable rates can provide cost savings, and specific fund balance allocations can mitigate years with increased rates, considering we have a healthy fund balance. He said this would be the strategy if we pursue the variable rates.

Chairman Montigelli offered Privilege of the Floor however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the August meeting, as written.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing on Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution for Payment of Legislators Expenses and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to the Employment & Training Department Work Experience Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to the Employment & Training Department New York Systems Change and Inclusive Opportunities Network Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Appointing County Historian and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Administrator Soper advised that the next resolution was revised to include amending the agreement with Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency and a copy was on legislators' desks for consideration. Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Amended Agreement with Jefferson County Local Development Corporation and Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency in Relation to the American Rescue Plan Act and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing Settlement of Claims Relative to Brandon USCIO vs. County of Jefferson, et al. and amending the 2024 County Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli updated the Committee with regard information he gained by attending the recent NYSAC Fall Conference. He said the Fall Conference is informational and the Conference in February is more for lobbying. Legislator Bartlett-Bearup said this was her first time attending a NYSAC Conference and she found it valuable and informative for networking and the many issues that all counties are facing. She recommended legislators attend a conference. Legislator Jareo said the session on mental health commitments and restoration was particularly informative, and other counties were surprised that Jefferson had stopped paying the State for these commitments in the hope of gaining some attention and resolve.

On a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator McBride and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following General Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to Fuel Truck Repairs at the Watertown International Airport
- ✓ Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to Buildings Department Accounts
- ✓ Amending the 2024 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery Funds and Allocating Same in Code Enforcement Department Budget
- ✓ Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal-aid and State "Marchiselli" Program-aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-aid Project and Appropriating Funds Therefore and Amending the 2024 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending the 2024 County Budget Relative to the Correctional Facility

On a motion by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Peck and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following Health & Human Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Establishing a Specialist, Services for the Aging Position and Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association Inc. Grant
- ✓ Amending the 2024 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Community Services Programs
- ✓ Authorizing Amended Agreements with the Home Care Association of New York State and Iroquois Healthcare association Related to Additional Funding for the Community Medicine and Paramedicine Programs and Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Authorizing Agreement for Public Health Service Participation in the Central New York Epidemiological Alliance
- ✓ Establishing Charges for Certain Public Health Services

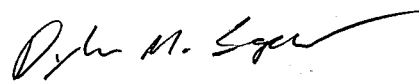
On a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Reed and unanimously carried, the Committee entered executive session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss a pending criminal investigation as well as pending and current litigation concerning Uscio vs. Jefferson County, LaTray vs. Jefferson County, Wheel, Perry, Schell, Smith and Schofield vs. Jefferson County.

The Committee returned to open session at 8:02 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Reed and unanimously carried.

The Committee concurred with the settlement payment of \$5,250.60 in the matter of Wheel, Perry, Schell, Smith and Schofield vs. Jefferson County. They also concurred with the settlement payment of \$7,500 in the matter of LaTray vs. Jefferson County; and on a motion by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and unanimously carried, the Committee approved a resolution that will deal with the policy issues of this settlement being brought forward for Board approval.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator McBride and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dylan M. Soper
Interim Clerk of the Board