

Finance & Rules Committee
March 26, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Acting Committee Chair William Johnson, Legislators Robert Cantwell, Allen Drake, Daniel McBride, James Nabywaniec, Board Chair Scott Gray

Others Present: Legislators Philip Reed, John Peck, Patrick Jareo, Jeremiah Maxon, and Anthony Doldo, County Attorney David Paulsen, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, Information Technology Director and Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Gregory Hudson, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Abraham Kenmore, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Acting Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. and introduced JCIDA Executive Director Don Alexander to make a presentation concerning their operations and programs.

Mr. Alexander thanked the Committee for the opportunity to address them as economic development affects everyone in the community, and he hoped to be able to come back and talk to the Committee more in depth about the concerns he has with respect to the future in NYS and how it will impact economic development moving forward. He introduced Deputy Executive Director David Zembiec, who was also present and said their door is always open for legislators to answer questions or discuss business. The IDA was created in 1969, there are seven full time employees, and a lot of what they do is not necessarily public record/public knowledge, as much of their work is behind the scenes to cultivate relationships. Their office operates three separate corporations JCIDA, JCLDC, and JCCFDC and they all have distinct responsibilities.

Mr. Alexander presented one of their newest TV ads as an example of their economic development marketing efforts. Their staff spends time supporting many different initiatives related to their programs including: outreach and retention not only of existing businesses, but recruiting new businesses; marketing in many sources; and are very focused on workforce development. He said current activities include: 24 active PILOTs, 15 active microloans (totalling \$300,000), 14 active revolving loan fund accounts (totalling over \$2,000,000) they often partner with other local development agencies (DANC, Watertown Trust) for this program; through the JCCFDC large-scale bonding activity (SMC - Cancer Treatment Center \$95 million, JCC Dorms \$22.5 million, with two other potentials), and through the IDA Industrial Revenue Bonds (ReEnergy \$25 million). They work on business expansion and relocation, as well as provide business and technical assistance in the areas of grant writing, business to business networking, regulatory assistance, and resource referrals. They operate a safety training program fully supported by grant funds, conduct business seminars and the annual Jefferson County Agriculture Conference, are involved in an expansive microgrid development for renewable energy, many workforce development activities, an Agri-Business Development Park out near the BOCES complex, and are actively working on the Business Complex at the Watertown International Airport. Mr. Alexander expressed deep concern for the future of small business in

New York State with the decisions coming out of Albany concerning minimum wage, workers compensation, family leave act, etc. and wants to have further discussion and partner with legislators who can get the attention of those in Albany to try and do something about it. In response to questions from legislators he confirmed that the brochure distributed and the power point presentation for tonight were done in house, and legislators complemented him on both.

Edward "Fritz" Keel, made a presentation to the Committee concerning Advocate Drum, formerly known as the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization (FDRLO). He appreciated the opportunity to address the Board and thanked the Board for their support of Advocate Drum over the years. He also appreciated the ad just shown by Mr. Alexander as it demonstrates the welcoming attitude of people in this community for new soldiers coming into the area, which is very unique and is referred to as "North Country Strong", and said legislators will be hearing more about that in the next few months leading up to Armed Forces Day. Advocate Drum exists to foster the relationship between Fort Drum and the North Country to mediate where conflicting interests materialize, and to continually advocate at all levels for Fort Drum and the soldiers, civilians and family members who serve there. This mission is especially important during base realignment and closure (BRAC) actions and requires constant engagement and activity to protect Fort Drum from future base closures and/or troop strength reductions.

He said the organization was formed in 1985 as the Fort Drum Steering Council (FDSC) to be the first point of contact between the military and civilian communities and to serve as a platform for informed discussion to facilitate the rapid expansion requirements that would be needed with the reactivation of the 10th Mountain Division. The organization was predisposed to disband when its planning role was no longer necessary, and the sunset for FDSC was September, 1990. After that sunset, both the civilian and military communities felt that a follow up organization was necessary to keep the lines of communication open between them. The Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization (FDRLO) was formed to foster that strong, positive communication that enhances the interrelationships between the military and civilian residents of the Fort Drum region.

Since that time FDRLO has assisted with: development in housing and quality of life improvements needed when the 3rd Brigade Combat team was placed at Fort Drum in 2004; in various BRAC rounds as an advocate for the community and Fort Drum to protect it from cuts; in 2005 they were instrumental in securing funding needed to expand the railhead on post, and Advocate Drum is now working to replace those same lines in order to meet increased demands for throughput. They were instrumental in securing the \$50 million in funding needed for the new exit off I81 connecting it to the Fort Drum Main Gate. In 2013 and 2015 when reduction in troop strength was threatened at Fort Drum they organized a day of presentations for representatives of Washington D.C. in an effort to show them the positive interrelationships and integration between the military and civilian community in terms of the schools, healthcare and the fabric of the community in general, the day culminated in a huge rally at Jefferson Community College. Last fall FDRLO conducted an education survey to determine what is working in the schools and what is not so issues can be mitigated as in his recent experience, community education will be the criteria that posts are judged on in the future. The annual Economic Impact report they conduct shows both the direct and indirect impact Fort Drum has

on the community and for 2018 there was an 18% increase with a total regional impact of \$1.9 billion and more than 25,000 jobs in the tri-county region; \$1.7 billion and nearly 24,000 of those jobs are in Jefferson County.

Finally, he said the North Country was selected as one of five communities across the United States as a "Great American Defense Community". They look forward to celebrating this remarkable recognition at the Armed Forces Day parade in Watertown, and then sharing their story with America at the Association of Defense Communities National Summit in Washington D.C. in June. He said Advocate Drum is necessary because having an installation in the community and enjoying all the benefits because it is here is a privilege, not a right. We must never become complacent and believe for a moment that a BRAC action would not happen here. We must be vigilant and constantly engaged with Fort Drum and our local, state and federal elected officials to ensure that we are ready when the next round of troops cuts occurs. Advocate Drum has been that voice and subject matter expert with boots-on-the-ground knowledge to arm decision makers with facts when they make those recommendations. They are planned, positioned and proven, ready when needed to advocate for Fort Drum and the North Country community. In response to questions from legislators Mr. Keel said in addition to the \$25,000 from the County, they receive grant funds; and they are a membership organization, so members pay dues; their total annual budget is about \$220,000 and they have two employees. Legislators thanked Mr. Keel for a very informative presentation.

Acting Chairman Johnson offered privilege of the floor, but no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the February meeting, as written.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution authorizing the establishment of a petty cash fund for the County Attorney's Office and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution amending 2019 County Budget to reappropriate funding from NYS Department of Labor for Employment & Training Department and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Acting Chairman Johnson introduced a resolution funding position in the Employment & Training Department and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Mr. Hagemann related that he will send out a complete schedule of the authorized agencies and when they will be coming in to make presentations to the Committee. Next month is Thompson Park Conservancy and Urban Mission.

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

- ✓ Authorizing Agreement and Amending the 2019 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the FY18 New York State Interoperable Communications Targeted Grant (SICG)
- ✓ Authorizing Inter-Municipal Agreement with the City of Watertown Regarding FY 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program and Amending the 2019 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Authorizing Agreements for an Additional Allocation for The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop-DWI Crackdown Enforcement Grant and Amending the 2019 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ 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 (CR 62 over Mill Creek), Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2019 County Budget and Capital Plan
- ✓ Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State "Bridge NY" Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project (County Route 62 over Mill Creek), Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2019 County Budget and Capital Plan

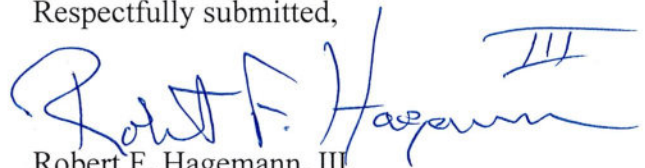
On a motion by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator McBride and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following Health & Human Services Committee sponsored resolution:

- ✓ Amending 2019 County Budget Relative to Mental Health Programs and Authorizing Amended Agreements in Relation Thereto

County Attorney Paulsen advised that following last month's discussion concerning an offer of employment to an individual that included 10 vacation days and 10 sick days, he is happy to report that the applicant has accepted and Carrie Fairenbach will be joining his office at the end of April.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H" and "M".

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board