

**Finance & Rules Committee**  
**April 30, 2019**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Committee Chair Michael Montigelli, Legislators Robert Cantwell, William Johnson, Allen Drake, Daniel McBride, James Nabywaniec, Carolyn Fitzpatrick and Board Chairman Scott Gray

**Others Present:** Legislators John Peck, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris and Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs and Information Technology Director Gregory Hudson, Insurance Director Lisa Jock, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, Probation Director Martin Morrison, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Abraham Kenmore, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to address the Committee. The Committee approved the minutes of the March meeting, as written.

Lisa Porter, Owner and Operator (with her family) of Porterdale Farms in Adams Center, and Co-Chairperson of the Agricultural Promotion Board that administers the Dairy Princess Committee, thanked legislators on behalf of the Ag Promotion Board and the Dairy Princess Court for their support of young people. She said these young people voluntarily take on the job, all year long, of promoting one of Jefferson County's largest economic engines, agriculture and our dairy industry. They promote the three key messages of the dairy industry: <sup>1</sup>Milk and dairy products have nine essential nutrients that come from daily, fresh local sources (three servings of dairy recommended through milk, cheese or yogurt each day); <sup>2</sup>Dairy farmers take good care of their cattle; and <sup>3</sup>Dairy farmers take good care of their land and resources. She outlined the many appearances they make to read books; serve ice cream, yogurt, cheese, butter; and to smile and wave at fairs, festivals, Ag Extravaganza, Taste of the Town at JCC, Old Home Days, etc. Between the students involved, they make hundreds of appearances a year.

Ms. Porter said the County funding (\$2,601) is primarily used at the Dairyland Festival the first Friday in June. The Festival includes 1200-1300 elementary students and 300-400 adults at the State Office Building where they can experience the dairy industry through the 25- 30 participants: children can milk an automated cow; make butter; eat ice cream and yogurt; taste test cheese; climb on a tractor; pet a baby goat, mini horse, llama, rabbit or a chicken; or listen to the Dairy Princess talk about her home farm. The festival culminates with Watertown's largest parade in the evening, followed by the Dairy Princess and Court serving a huge, free ice cream sundae to everyone present. Their other funding sources are: fundraising booths done by the kids (\$2,500); American Dairy Association North East (\$1,000) which is dependant upon a benchmark of activities and promotion events completed, and comes directly from farmers as a portion of every hundred weight of milk sold; and direct donations from local farmers, agri businesses and friends of the program (\$4,000 - \$5,000). Their total annual budget is between

\$12,000 - \$15,000 depending upon the number of kids involved. Both Ms. Porter and legislators felt it is important for children to have the opportunity to learn where their food comes from. She answered questions from legislators about the program, and said that for the very first time they have a young man involved in the program this year, and he prefers to be called a Dairy Dude, not a prince. She handed out cheese samples and agricultural decals to Legislators.

Larry Sorel, Executive Director, Thompson Park Zoo thanked the Board for its past and present support for the Zoo, and said their second Annual Report was on legislators' desks. He reminded legislators he was only at the Zoo for six months of last year, and said they are hoping to improve the numbers in the report. He played a professional 2 ½ minute video that they can chop up and use in other promotions, and he hoped to use the video in the next few years in conjunction with a capital campaign. He briefly outlined the history of the Zoo since it was established in 1920, noting that it became managed by a not-for-profit in 1991, and said presently their main focus now is on conservation and education, not just recreation. In addition to finances, over the past year they have focused on animal care, animal welfare, conservation and education. He said the standards for maintaining animals in human care have dramatically changed in the last 5-10 years and they have to make sure they keep up with it. Total visitors to the Zoo are in the 30,000 - 60,000 range annually, and if there is good weather, they can expect about 45,000 this year.

The Zoo received a \$5,000 grant from Watertown Sunrise Rotary and Mr. Sorel said it will allow them to bring every 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader in the Watertown City School District to the Zoo. The grant covers admission and transportation, and it will be a curriculum based educational experience. They will evaluate the program and the goal is to expand the program, as grants/funding allows, to all school districts in Jefferson County, and ultimately in the region. They are adding special events; they added three "river days" this year focusing on Clayton, Alexandria Bay, and Cape Vincent; each event will bring businesses from that area to the Zoo. They are looking to expand their reach and not be a Watertown Zoo, but a regional zoo and bring in people from Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence and Oswego counties, to increase memberships and attendance. Questions about the Zoo were asked in the 2014 Center for Community Studies Survey of the Community and the answers were very favorable in terms of opinions of the Zoo and importance to the community. He said their total budget is \$800,000 with government support at 25%; City of Watertown contributing \$30,000 towards their lease agreement plus utility support of approx. \$110,000, and the County at \$54,000 and he appreciated the support.

Mr. Sorel said they are going through a strategic planning process in 2019 that will help them revision what the Zoo is, reaffirm what they are, noting that they are the only zoo in the world that focuses on New York State animals and environment. It will focus on how they can do that better, touch more students and people in general, and preserve the environment. Mr. Sorel answered questions from legislators related to results from their enhanced marketing efforts, marketing efforts related to social media, attendance as it relates to other attractions at the Park, current as well as future efforts to enhance the petting zoo area as it relates to local agriculture, and brochures that are available for distribution. Chairman Montigelli acknowledged Thompson Park Conservancy Chairman, Professor Mark Irwin who was also in attendance.

Chairman Montigelli introduced Dawn Cole, Urban Mission Executive Director, and acknowledged Urban Mission Board Chairman Steven Todd and Vice Chair Carole McCoy who were in attendance for the presentation. Ms. Cole thanked the Board for their support of the Mission as it truly means a lot to the work that they do and further empowers them to be effective in delivering services. She said the Mission was founded in 1968, they are a 501(C)(3) human services organization who takes their roots in the faith community, and their services are broad, as is the audience they serve. The focus of their work is that they provide support and advocacy for those in need. While the scope of the needs have changed and the definition of those in need has broadened considerably, they provide support to those who are struggling with generational poverty, addiction, domestic violence, financial setbacks caused by job loss or illness, homelessness, food insecurity, mental/behavioral health issues, and sometimes loneliness and isolation. Their goal is to provide help for today but also to encourage people to seek opportunities for a better tomorrow.

Ms. Cole said their work is collaborative and relies on help from individuals, businesses, churches, schools, community groups, and local government entities. They have a staff of 32 and their annual operating budget is \$1.9 million, they have 500 volunteers who contribute more than 31,000 hours annually. Their services include: the largest food pantry in Jefferson County that serves an average of 450 families a month; a Critical Needs Program for people who may not qualify for traditional social services programs and are in danger of falling through the cracks and funded entirely by philanthropic dollars; Meals on Wheels; the Impossible Dream store; Christian Care Center; Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World Workshop - she invited Legislators to their first graduation of this program (74 individuals) being held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Mission; Wheels to Work; Hearth Program (Solutions to End Homelessness - STEP); and the Bridge Program. She thanked the Board for their support of the Mission as it spans across several programs, as every community partner makes a difference in allowing them to stabilize lives and serve as that source of hope and encouragement. Following brief discussion with Legislator Peck, Ms. Cole said she is very interested in pursuing a partnership with the Jefferson County Farmers Co-op to acquire milk products for their Food Pantry as milk is a hard commodity to come by and 1/3 of the individuals served by the Food Pantry are under the age of 17. Chairman Montigelli thanked the Executive Director for her very informative presentation.

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 Johnson and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution authorizing the County to Jefferson to accept maintenance jurisdiction rights from the State of New York for the portion of State Highway No. 1962 in the town of Orleans, Jefferson County, as shown on attached Map 28 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.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution authorizing the acceptance of an offer to sell

unused highway property in the Town of Orleans to the United States General Services Administration for use in the expansion project of the Alexandria Bay Land Port of Entry and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Fitzpatrick seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution authorizing an agreement with the New York State Environmental Protection and Spill Compensation Fund regarding tax map parcel no. 7.09-1-60 in the Town of Alexandria and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution adjusting positions in the County Clerk's Office and amending the 2019 County Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Fitzpatrick seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution authorizing State Environmental Quality Reivew Act (SEQR) determination in relation to the Jefferson Community College Green Campus Entryway Project and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution for a memorial for Ralph A. Green, Sr. and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Johnson seconded by Legislator Fitzpatrick and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

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

- ✓ Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the State "Bridge NY" Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Project (County Route 189 over Clora 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 State "Bridge NY" Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Project (County Route 53 (Brown Road) over Philomel Creek Tributary), Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2019 County Budget and Capital Plan
- ✓ Recognizing NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Program Grant and Amending the 2019 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending the 2019 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Allocating Same in Sheriff's Department Budget
- ✓ Amending the 2019 County Budget in Relation to Law Enforcement
- ✓ Accepting Donation for Sheriff's Department and Amending the 2019 County

- Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending the 2019 County Budget Relative to Weights and Measures Department

On a motion by Legislator Johnson seconded by Legislator McBride, Nabywaniec and Fitzpatrick and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following Health & Human Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

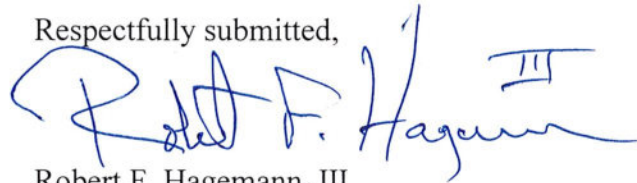
- ✓ Amending the 2019 County Budget Relative to DSRIP Funding for Community Services Department
- ✓ Amending the 2019 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Community Services and Mental Health Programs and Authorizing Amended Agreements in Relation Thereto

Chairman Montigelli entertained a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the medical history of a particular person. Such motion was made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Drake and unanimously carried. The Committee moved into executive session at 7:15 p.m. On a motion by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and unanimously carried the Committee returned to open session at 7:34 p.m.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution authorizing the recovery of a workers' compensation law lien by participating in the settlement of a medical malpractice action and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Fitzpatrick seconded by Legislator Drake and unanimously carried.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Cantwell and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board