

**Finance & Rules Committee**  
**June 25, 2019**  
**Minutes**

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

**Others Present:** Legislator John Peck, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Planning Director Michael Bourcy, JCC Vice President for Administration and Finance Daniel Dupee, JCC Vice President of Academics Tom Finch, JCC Chief of Staff Megan Stadler, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Abraham Kenmore, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and introduced Community Action Planning Council (CAPC) Executive Director Melinda Gault for a presentation.

Ms. Gault thanked the Committee for the opportunity to outline their services and programs. She provided the Committee with CAPCs 2018 Annual Report which has a general summary of services and finances, along with a handout containing more detailed information about each program (copy attached for file reference). She said their fiscal year runs October (2017) to September (2018) and they generally report unduplicated numbers, which means each customer is only counted once during the year even though multiple services are frequently accessed. Last year they served almost 6,000 unduplicated individuals, over 2,000 unduplicated families, 950 volunteers contributed 18,000 hours of services and 12,000 of those hours were contributed by individuals living in poverty. Their main departments are Family Center Services, Head Start (their biggest program), Pre K, Jefferson-Lewis Childcare Project (JLCP), and Housing & Energy Services. She briefly explained their newest and very successful initiative "Getting Ahead" which was started in 2017 and is 16-week adult education workshop series in which a 12-14 person cohort investigates the causes and solutions to poverty in their lives and their community.

Ms. Gault said the mission of CAPC is to assist, support and empower people through diverse programs designed to alleviate poverty, promote self-sufficiency, and advance community prosperity, and that has not changed since the Economic Opportunity Act was signed in 1964 that initiated the "War on Poverty". Community action is a grass roots effort, there are 1,000 community action agencies in the United States, 49 in New York State, and they are all different based on a needs assessment for the community; Watertown CAPC was incorporated in 1966. By legislation, 1/3 of their Board consists of public officials, or their designee, and they have always had great participation from the County and City in that regard. Jefferson County's allocation to CAPC is used to support programs that have a shortfall of grant revenue versus expenses and to enhance existing services. With the funding they received, CAPC is required to leverage 25% local match that is not State or Federal funds, this match totals about \$700,000 annually, and the County's allocation is a tremendous help with that. She said they are big on

partnerships and collaborations with other volunteers, agencies, governments, and organizations and without those collaborations they would not be able to administer all their programs. CAPC currently employs 180 full and part time staff, and their budget for 2018 was \$7,800,000. Ms. Gault detailed the services provided through each of their programs including: Head Start, Universal Pre-K, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Child Care Resource & Referral, Child Development Associate Credential, Child Care Registration (Jefferson and Lewis Counties), Employers Resource Network, Housing/Utility Services, Fair Housing Office, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Food Pantry, Summer Food Service Program, Nutrition Outreach and Education, Ready to Work, Holiday Programming, Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World, Weatherization, and Empower. Chairman Montigelli thanked the Director for the work her agency does and for her presentation.

Chairman Montigelli introduced Volunteer Transportation Center Executive Director Sam Purrington for a presentation. Mr. Purrington advised that the Volunteer Center of Jefferson County was formed by United Way under the direction of Ben Coe back in 1991 as a way to triage volunteers and people who needed volunteers. He said they learned that people seemed to find their way to whatever agency they wanted to volunteer for, and found out very shortly that the need in the community was for rides. Slowly, over time, the Volunteer Center of Jefferson County became the Volunteer Transportation Center (VTC). In 2018 the Center provided over 5 million miles of transportation in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties, and surrounding areas. They have over 85 volunteer drivers throughout Jefferson County picking up seniors, disabled, the blind, people on public assistance, and military spouses, taking them to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping and other critical needs. He said the mission of their 501(c)(3) not-for-profit is to provide rides for those folks that have a barrier to care, through volunteer drivers and mobility management. He doesn't have a laundry list of services they provide because they have a singular focus, transportation, however they spend a lot of time on operational excellence as in the transportation business you need to be on time and you need to make a dollar stretch. Their office in Watertown processes over 800 trips total a day throughout the North Country. Their computer system is able to optimize schedules to be efficient as the drivers get reimbursed for mileage, not the number of people in their car. So if they can combine trips that are in the same general area, they do.

Mr. Purrington said the volunteer transportation driver model tends to be extremely inexpensive in rural America. VTC is able to transport people using volunteers' personal vehicles, so VTC doesn't have to buy their own, and drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. Most of the volunteer drivers are seniors, their average age is 60, a lot of them are retired, and typically their recruitment strategy is word of mouth. All volunteers need a background check and VTC works hand in hand with the Department of Social Services who handle the background check process on the drivers as it is the same background check a foster parent would go through. He said VTC also transports foster children for the Department of Social Services.

Mr. Purrington said the authorized agency funding provided by the County goes directly to mileage reimbursement, it is not used for administration or the computer system. Their annual budget is \$5,000,000, and they have to raise \$400,000 in individual donations annually in order

to provide needed services. VTC is in every town budget in Jefferson County, most in Lewis County and they are working on St. Lawrence county towns. He said they are able to stretch those dollars further because of the breadth of their services. 75% of what they do is contract work for the government, 15% is contract work they do for other not-for-profits, and 10% is fundraising to support seniors, disabled and the blind who don't have government programs to help them stay in their homes. He said long term, Jefferson and St. Lawrence County are lacking in public transportation, and asked legislators to remain open minded to the possibility if it comes up in the next few years in discussions with the City and the MPO, because the need is there and it will get utilized. He answered questions of legislators related to: transporting foster children; mileage reimbursement rates that are \$0.20, \$0.44 and \$0.58 per mile depending on the service; and said they are a human services agency, not a contract driver like Uber or Lyft, you have to call and schedule your ride a head of time. Also in answer to questions he advised they do not provide vehicle insurance to the drivers, but they do have an umbrella policy that covers drivers should an unusual event happen while they are transporting someone.

Chairman Montigelli introduced Burney Haney from the Sports Fishery Advisory Board (SFAB) for a presentation. Mr. Haney said Treasurer Hal Horton couldn't make it tonight, so he is giving the presentation (copy attached for file reference). He is Secretary of the SFAB, has been involved with the Board for 4 ½ years, and it is the best kept secret in the North Country. He said the Board was enacted on June 3, 1980 by Board of Supervisors Resolution 90 and their purpose is to study the problems associated with maintaining and improving the Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River and inland fisheries; to determine needs for improved access, support facilities and services, and to advise the County Legislators, County Administration and local governments as to actions to be taken to realize the full potential of the county's fishing resources. Their bylaws allow for them to also provide fishing information to Jefferson County and the general public, they work with the (NYSDEC) Fish & Wildlife Management Board, and they provide a public forum for sportsmen, businessmen, and government officials to address the problems and potentials of the sports fishery. They also work with Lake Ontario Sport Fish Coalition to address problems, if they think there are problems, in the Jefferson County waters of Lake Ontario.

Mr. Haney said the anglers surveys for 2009 (NYSDEC & Cornell Coop Ext.) and 2011 (US Fish & Wildlife) are old, but they are the most up to date information they have. Prime time fishing in Jefferson County is from June to September and people primarily come to Jefferson County to fish for black bass. He highlighted information from the 2009 survey including that over 626,000 fishing days were committed in the County; over 134,000 people came from out of state to fish here; Lake Ontario is the #1 body of water fished in NYS and the St. Lawrence River is #4; the daily expenditures for resident anglers is \$22 - \$28, and non residents is \$90; \$35 million was brought into Jefferson County for angler expenditures. The 2011 survey showed daily average per trip expense increase to \$35 for residents.

The SFAB annually concentrates their actions on and provides funding from the County allocation for: advertising for three different fishing derbies; a Captain's Day that includes 6 captains who take children out on a morning fishing trip followed by a shore dinner; purchasing creel limit cards provided to tackle stores and marinas throughout the county that have the

Board's newly created email on them; and an annual dinner meeting for Board members and potential new board members. The SFAB has also worked with the Region 6 DEC Fishery Chief to obtain a public boat launch on Butterfield Lake, and worked with Albany NYSDEC to force the Region 6 DEC office to host a public forum so anglers could comment on the possible implementation of the Statewide Catch & Immediate Release season for black bass. He said since 2006 in every other county in the State except Jefferson, from December 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June there is a Catch & Immediate Release season on black bass. DEC Region 6 local office will not allow it because they contend that the bass population has not recovered from when cormorants were feeding on small mouth bass and depleted the supply. The SFAB does not share that view, and he said DEC studies have shown that 95% of what the cormorants now eat is round gobies, and yet they will not open Jefferson County waters for the Catch & Immediate Release season. He said SFAB will continue to work on getting the Catch & Release season implemented in Jefferson County. Besides that initiative, for the future they will also continue to send letters to the IJC to repeal Plan 2014 B concerning lake levels, and will address any other issue brought forward by anglers, marina owners, tackle shops, hotels, campgrounds, restaurants, etc. Mr. Haney answered questions of legislators relative to SFAB informal position on Plan 2014 B, their contact with other fishing organizations in the County, their contact with other agencies that could further their cause, and he advised that sport fishing is the best it has ever been in the County. He confirmed that they do have a representative from the Thousand Islands Tourism Council and DEC on their Board, but they are not currently active. Chairman Montigelli thanked Mr. Haney for his passion for the sport and a very informative presentation.

Chairman Montighelli acknowledged JCC Vice President for Administration and Finance Dan Dupee for a presentation concerning the 2019-2020 JCC Budget. Mr. Dupee introduced JCC Vice President for Academics Tom Finch and JCC Chief of Staff Megan Stabler who were in attendance. Mr. Dupee stated that the latest Center for Community Studies survey showed that 66% of people surveyed said access to higher education was either excellent or good, and that was one of the highest quality of life indicators from the study. He outlined five different awards and recognitions the College received in 2019 for their work with veterans, the military and their spouses, student support services, the Health & Wellness center and the campus environment.

Being a great resource for the community, Mr. Dupee said in their last graduate survey, 83% of the respondents were successfully employed and/or continuing their education; in 2019 JCC graduated 48 nursing students which was an increase of 60% over the previous year; provided over 6,000 credit hours in the EDGE program with high school students; their Center for Community Studies completed six projects; JCC hosted community conversations and events, and continue to provide a venue for the community to come together for meetings, discussions, debates and thought provoking presentations. JCC provided new programs to meet community needs, specifically Homeland Security, an online certificate program in Chemical Dependency Studies, and brought on a few new partners in the Higher Education Center to provide four year Bachelors Degrees and Masters Degrees. In terms of workforce development they partnered with 15 local employers and did 45 courses to 418 workforce students.

Mr. Dupee said for academic year 2019, 586 degrees were conferred upon 569 graduates, 73% of students were Jefferson County residents, the top programs of study are math and

science, humanities and social sciences, individual studies, business administration and criminal justice. Community College enrollment is down in the national, state and local landscape because of the growing economy, however Jefferson is not declining as quickly in terms of high school populations as other counties, and they continue to do well in getting that population to attend JCC.

He advised that they again requested flat funding instead of per FTE funding from SUNY, but also wanted the FTE base to increase in case there was a recession in the future and enrollment spiked again, there is coverage on both ends. Flat funding means they would receive a pool of funds (98% of the 2018/2019 budgeted amount), or \$100 an FTE, whichever was greater. JCC received the flat funding which only amounted to a loss of about \$150,000 vs. \$450,000 if they had received the per FTE. Their total operating budget is \$28.6 million, a .4% decrease from the 2018-2019 budget and most of that is in personnel. They are scaling their current services to see how they can do things more effectively and efficiently, and their programs will also be adjusted to meet the needs of the students. For this budget they are proposing: a tuition increase of 3.5%; fund balance usage is \$490,000 which is within the range set by SUNY; a net 2% increase from Jefferson County, and the chargeback rate will increase by that amount also. He thanked the Board for their continued support of the College. Mr. Dupee answered questions of legislators related to the Excelsior Program, noting that 143 students have taken advantage of it, and it has not had much of an impact on JCC at all except that students who use it have to be kept at the 2016/2017 tuition levels which amounted to \$27,000 last year. He said 83% of their students receive some sort of financial aid so cost factors and interest rates on student loans are not factors for JCC students.

Chairman Montigelli offered privilege of the floor, however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the May minutes, as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a memorial resolution for James D. St.Croix, Sr. 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 for payment of legislators' expenses and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution amending the 2019 County Budget to provide for payment of tax certiorari refunds and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Johnson seconded by legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution adopting the 2019-2020 Jefferson Community College Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the

Committee approved the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution appropriation for the conduct of Jefferson Community College for fiscal year 2019-2020 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Fitzpatrick and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution amending 2019 County Budget in relation to Employment & Training Department and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

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

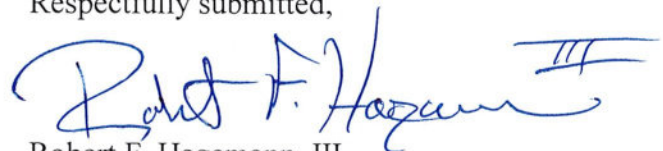
- ▶ Amending the 2019 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Transfers within the Road Machinery Fund
- ▶ Amending the 2019 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Lake Ontario Flooding
- ▶ Amending the 2019 County Budget in Relation to Recycling & Waste Management
- ▶ Amending the 2019 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Allocating Same in Sheriff's Department Budget

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

- ▶ Accepting Funding in Relation to Office for the Aging 2019-2020 Aid to Localities Addressing Unmet Needs and Amending the 2019 County Budget

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

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board