

Finance & Rules Committee
August 28, 2018
Minutes

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

Others Present: Legislator Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Sarah Baldwin, County Attorney David Paulsen, Community Services Director Roger Ambrose, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, Probation Director Martin Morrison, District Attorney Kristyna Mills, Chief Asst. District Attorney Patty Dzuba, County Treasurer Karen Christie, County Treasurer Accountant Anne Converse, Thompson Park Conservancy Chairman Mark Irwin, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Abraham Kenmore, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor, however no one wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the July meeting, as written.

Luke Malecki, Partner, Drescher & Malecki, LLP made a presentation to the Committee concerning their audit of Jefferson County's 2017 financial statements. He stated that Nichole Ruf, Senior Manager was the engagement manager for this audit and worked directly with departments however she was unable to make the meeting this evening. He said in their opinion there were no significant findings or material weaknesses noted in the statements, and there were no findings in the New York State Department of Transportation and Passenger Facility Charge procedures (Airport) required audits they performed. He provided a five year graphic of revenues vs. expenses for the General Fund, and went over what is contained in the General Fund revenues and expenses for 2017 noting that again this year revenues slightly outpaced expenses. He also provided a five year ratio graphic of revenues and transfers in vs. expenditures and transfers out for the general fund as well as for unassigned and assigned unappropriated general fund-fund balance to total general fund expenditures and transfers out. He said the County's current fund balance is within the range of the established Fund Balance policy. Mr. Malecki stated that once again they noted that a significant deficiency exists within the internal controls of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. He said even though the Solid Waste Fund paid down the debt to the General Fund as scheduled, they felt it warranted the attention of the Board still because it is not an established practice yet. He clarified that a significant deficiency is not something the Board needs to take action on, it is simply anything that comes to the attention of the auditors that they think the Board should be aware of and keep an eye on.

Community Services Director Roger Ambrose said they were asked to give a snap shot of the current status of opioid use, misuse, and treatment programs in the community as he understood the Board is considering the possibility of joining with other counties in a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies. He said Dr. Pisaniello from the Credo Community Center

will be presenting on the data for their medical assistance treatment program and outpatient treatment program, and Ann Smith, Coordinator with the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization North Country EMS Program will be presenting data collected from various EMS and law enforcement agencies regarding opiate overdoses and Narcan uses.

Mr. Ambrose reported that data collected by staff and counselors at the Jail indicate that approximately 75% of the inmates, and most likely a higher percentage, are there because of opiate issues; use, misuse, illegal behaviors associated with their use, sales, etc. He said Legislators should keep in mind that people who go through detox in Jail may not be eligible for health care coverage that would pay for treatment once they process out because they have not been actively addicted or using for 30-60 days. Of the 185 current inmates the mental health counselor has worked with 47 who were opiate users and the chemical dependency counselor is seeing like numbers, not necessarily the same people. He cautioned that not everyone who needs help goes to see the counselors. In August, 9 people received bed dates, 3 are awaiting beds, 11 are waiting to hear if they have been approved for treatment facilities (which can depend on whether they have exceeded the number of days without using drugs which makes them no longer eligible for insurance coverage). He surmised that in the last five year there has been about a 60% increase in the percentage of inmates in jail because of opiate issues.

Dr. Pisaniello advised that Credo operates the original Substance Abuse Clinic which is now called the IOS (Integrated Outpatient Services) that offers mental health and substance abuse services, and in 2016 they opened the OTP (Opioid Treatment Program) that treats people with OUD (opioid use disorder). He said patients in the OTP can come in daily to receive their medication which is the only way doctors are allowed to prescribe methadone for addiction in the US. Even though they can prescribe suboxone for OUD, if a patient is unreliable in taking it or is misusing it, the OTP gives them the flexibility to have those patients come in every day to receive their medication also. The clinic is not open on Sunday so patients do get one take home dose, and may gradually, over time, work up to only having to come in a few days a week and getting take home doses the rest of the time. Currently there are 115 people in the OTP with 90 on methadone and the other 25 on suboxone, and 13 patients are also receiving suboxone through the IOS. Since the beginning of the OTP program 8 pregnant women have been treated, and there is no waiting list for the program but there are 19 people in the pipeline to receive services. Their current number of 115 clients is the most they have ever had in the program, and since January, 2018 there have been 11 people per week coming in for treatment of OUD. The OTP in addition to the IOS have a total of 521 people, and of those about 50% have OUD as their primary diagnosis, 26% have alcohol. Dr. Pisaniello said he has been in this business a long time and it used to be everyone was an alcoholic, but that has changed dramatically. They are currently experiencing space issues and they are hoping to resolve that in the future with the use of an empty JRC building next to them. He said there were 18 opioid overdoses in Jefferson County in 2016 when their program was just getting under way, and in the first six months of 2017 there were two, so he is hoping they are making a difference in the death rates, because there are certainly not less people using opioids. Dr. Pisaniello explained that they treat OUD like a chronic disease, and believe those individuals will have to stay on medication for the rest of their lives in order to be productive citizens. Trying to wean someone off the methadone or suboxone or if they stop using it, there is a much higher rate of relapse. He said while most

people may have started on prescription drugs, they are seeing much more heroin addiction right now due to restrictions that have been put in place with prescriptions and because heroin is cheaper.

Ann Smith said FDRHPO, North Country EMS established an Opioid Overdose Program in 2015 with a focus on ensuring the availability of Narcan to first responders (law enforcement, EMS agencies, fire departments, etc.) the folks most likely to be first on the scene. She provided the Committee with a hand out depicting the statistics for the program as follows. The program covers the tri-county area and has a total of 28 participants; Jefferson County (10 agencies), Lewis County (2 agencies), and St. Lawrence (16 agencies). They document administrations of Narcan by use reports provided from the agencies to resupply their stock or replace an expired kit. The totals provided include Transport and Non-Transport Agencies. In 2016 there were a total of 238 administrations (Jefferson 186, Lewis 6, St. Lawrence 46), 2017 233 (Jefferson 128, Lewis 21, St. Lawrence 84), and 2018 year-to-date 86 (Jefferson 60, Lewis 5, St. Lawrence 21). She advised that there are weaknesses and fragmentations they see which include: transport agency numbers included on the hand out are all 80 agencies she oversees in our region that administer naloxone whether they are enrolled in the FDRHPO program or get it somewhere else; the report doesn't include any law enforcement administrations for entities not in their program (State Police, Town/Village police departments), all advanced life support agencies carry Narcan, many basic life support agencies carry Narcan but do not receive it through the program.

Mr. Ambrose advised that the commonality in all of this is that the opiate system and response is fragmented. He said funding comes in all over the board and we don't always have discretion in how the funding is used, the State makes those determinations, and often times it is based on more urban areas rather than the kinds of needs we have rurally; it has been very difficult to pin down exactly where we are heading and how we are doing. He said the statistics we have statewide indicate that Jefferson County is in the middle of the pack in terms of treatment program and availability, and response, but there is no way to tell if that correlates to if we are making a difference or if we are just spinning our wheels. He told legislators to contact him if they have any questions. Mr. Hagemann related that Mr. Ambrose provided him with some documents electronically and he would pass those along to legislators.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution for payment of legislators' expenses 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 amending the 2018 County Budget relative to Community Services Department and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Johnson seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution selecting an airport consultant and authorizing agreement for airport consultant services at the Watertown International Airport 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.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution amending the 2018 County Budget in relation to the Probation Department and creating a Probation Officer position, and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution authorizing extension of lease agreement for parking rights at Lower Department of Social Services Lot and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator Johnson and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution appointing Director of Code Enforcement and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution amending an agreement with the Thousand Islands Regional Tourism Development Corporation for the provision of public benefit services for promotion and publicity and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

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

- ✓ Amending the 2018 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recovery and Allocating Same in Dog Control Department Budget
- ✓ Authorizing Agreement and Amending the 2018 County Budget in Relation to a New York State Empire State Development Grant
- ✓ Amending the 2018 County Budget in Relation to the County Road Machinery Fund

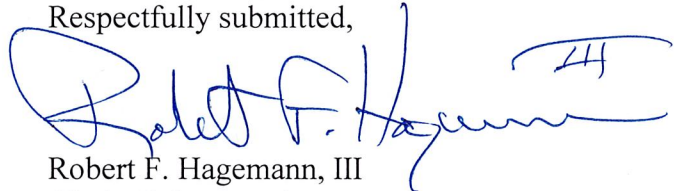
The Committee entered executive session at 6:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person, on a motion by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Johnson and unanimously carried. The Committee returned to open session at 7:12 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator Cantwell and unanimously carried.

On a motion by Legislator Drake seconded by Legislator McBride and unanimously carried the Committee approved hiring a Physical Therapist in the Public Health Department at a Grade XX Step 5 on the CSEA pay scale.

On a motion by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Johnson and unanimously carried the Committee approved hiring an Assistant District Attorney at a Grade VI Step B on the Management/Management Confidential pay scale.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Drake and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Hagemann, III". To the right of the signature is a small, stylized mark that looks like "HH" enclosed in a circle.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board