Health & Human Services Committee
February 23, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair John Peck, Legislators Michael Docteur, Jeremiah Maxon, Robert Ferris, and Chairman of the Board Scott Gray

Others Present: Legislators William Johnson, Michael Montigelli, Daniel McBride, and Patrick Jareo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, County Attorney David Paulsen, Public Health Director Ginger Hall, Buildings Superintendent Spike Decker, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Airport Manager Grant Sussey, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Brian Molongoski, Secretary Torri Richmire, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Peck called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor.

Public Health Director Ginger Hall addressed the Committee to update them on the rabies virus situation relating that there has been an 8th case of racoon rabies confirmed in a skunk on Washington Street in the City of Watertown; 6 of the cases have been in the City of Watertown. She said they are working with the County Dog Control Office with regard to skunk citings and the City Police have been going out to dispose of the animal and a nuisance officer picks them up so they can be tested for rabies. She said a rabies vaccination clinic was held at the Salvation Army on State Street, Watertown today and there were about 250 animals vaccinated. Rabies clinics are not normally held this time of year, but they felt it was warranted. They are also working to increase rabies oral bait drops, distributing them by plane and by hand. Because it is raccoon rabies the oral bait drops will help prevent and mitigate the transfer of the disease from one skunk to another. She said with the calm/mild winter the skunks have been moving around more than they normally would be this time of year, if it were colder they would have died in their dens and we never would have known they had rabies. Mr. Hagemann said kudos go out to the Salvation Army for providing the space for the clinic and to Senator Patty Ritchie's Office for providing some of the funding for the clinic. Mrs. Hall indicated that at this point their Spring Rabies clinics are in place and they do not plan for additional clinics, but they will be soliciting for funding related to any actions needed to respond to the situation.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution establishing compensation for temporary professional employees employed in connection with the County rabies program vaccination clinic and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris, seconded by Legislator Docteur and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution authorizing a three year agreement with Erie County Department of Health for toxicology testing services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution authorizing amended agreement for home health care services to Public Health in relation to NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) workforce development funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Docteur and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced a resolution amending the 2015 Comprehensive Planning Resource Allocation Agreement with the New York State Office of Children & Family Services and authorizing amended contractual youth program agreements in relation thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Docteur and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Peck introduced an additional resolution for continuation of the enhanced funding from New York State Agriculture and Markets to enhance the scope of the oral rabies vacine bait program within Jefferson County and the region, and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Docteur and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Administrator Hagemann noted that the General Services Committee sponsored a resolution appointing and reappointing members to the Fire Advisory Board and EMS Advisory Board noting that the two boards were combined a number of years ago and this Committee is provided with the list as an information item. No Committee member expressed objection to any of the appointments/reappointments.

The Committee approved the minutes of the January meeting, as written.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Maxon seconded by Legislator Ferris and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board