

Finance & Rules Committee
December 2, 2013
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Scott Gray, Legislators Michael Docteur, Allen Drake, Michael Montigelli, James Nabywaniec, Barry Ormsby, Jennie Adsit, and Chairwoman of the Board Carolyn Fitzpatrick

Others Present: Legislators Robert Thomas, Philip Reed, John Peck, Robert Ferris, and Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Michael Kaskan, County Attorney David Paulsen, Information Technology Director Gregory Hudson, Real Property Tax Services Director Paul Warneck, Treasurer Accountant Ann Converse, Fire & Emergency Management Services Director Joseph Plummer, Deputy Director Fred Lampman, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Daniel Flatley, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor.

Gail Sovie, 824 Coffeen Street, Watertown and Dispatch employee reiterated concerns previously expressed concerning the fatigue of dispatch employees and the need for additional positions in the Department. She shared a letter from former dispatch employee Liza Blackford-Kampnich (2007-2010) who said she quit her job due to the overtime requirements. Ms. Sovie did not want to see the department lose any more good employees and asked for the Committees assistance in that regard.

The minutes of the November Committee meeting stand as presented in the absence of objection or correction.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution levying 2014 taxes and assessments for annual town budgets 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.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution levying 2014 Consolidated Health District taxes and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit seconded by Legislator Ormsby and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Mr. Hagemann advised that finalized numbers for the next two resolutions would be forthcoming at Board Session. Chairman Gray introduced a resolution levying returned delinquent 2013 school district taxes and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislator Montigelli and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution levying returned delinquent 2013 Village taxes and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit seconded by Legislator Ormsby and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution directing the completion of the tax rolls and the execution and delivery of warrants and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Docteur and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution authorizing accounts payable year end adjustments to 2013 County Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit seconded by Legislator Montigelli and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution approving management compensation plan for 2014 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislator Montigelli and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution calling for organizational meeting of the 2014-2015 Jefferson County Board of Legislators and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution authorizing agreement in relation to the ignition interlock device monitoring program funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislator Drake and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution approving appointment to the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit seconded by Legislator Ormsby and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

On a motion by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislators Drake, Adsit, Montigelli, Nabywaniec and Ormsby, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following General Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Amending the 2013 County budget to Recognize Restitution Money and Allocating Same in Buildings & Grounds Department Budget
- ✓ Amending the 2013 County Budget in Relation to Road Machinery Fund
- ✓ Amending the 2013 County Budget in Relation to Airport Department

On a motion by Legislator Adsit seconded by Legislators Ormsby Docteur, Nabywaniec, Montigelli and Adsit, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following Health &

Human Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Amending the 2013 County Budget Relative to Mental Hygiene/Community Services and Authorizing Amended Agreements in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending the 2013 County Budget Relative to Medical Supplies
- ✓ Accepting Donations on Behalf of the Department of Social Services and Amending the 2013 County Budget

Chairman Gray advised that Committee members received information sent out by Mr. Hagemann concerning the data put together by Administration and Joe Plummer directly off the CAD system which speaks to the staffing issue in the Fire & Emergency Management Department (Dispatch). The plan brought forth by Legislator Behling at the November Session has also been reviewed and numbers for overtime and a few other accounts, including a corresponding revenue related to the reduction in non-secure juvenile detention have been adjusted. When all is said and done it appears there is enough money to justify changing the dispatch position approved in the 2014 Budget from part time to full time. He expressed cautioned that any further increases in staffing would have to come from fund balance, and while Legislator Behling's plan is admirable it is a dangerous precedent shifting expenses between departments or cannibalizing one department to add positions in another, and having to maintain that in future years.

Legislator Nabywaniec expressed support for the resolution as there has been good information provided and good discussion and the resolution recognizes that we are moving forward to rectify the problem. Legislator Ormsby echoed those comments, said no significant impact was made on other departments and the resolution was worthy of support. Legislator Doldo said this was a good move in the right direction and from a business stand point understood the hesitancy to add additional staff but the issue should be a priority for further discussion. Legislator Docteur said he would support the resolution and commended Director Plummer, Deputy Director Lampman and staff for their work. He said the County has been successful in reducing its workforce and provide services at a reasonable cost to taxpayers through the budget process with attrition and with the help of department heads. He said this is the trend in private business also to do more with less.

Chairman Gray added that the Chairwoman and Director Plummer have worked together and believe this is a good compromise. Legislator Peck asked if overtime could be spread more evenly among employees and said with the private sector normally there is a cap on the amount of overtime one person can work understanding that union contracts come into play. He said it is admirable to find money to fund a position today in an effort to save money, but not find monies to add more expense or shift positions and money from one department to another. Chairman Gray advised that given the numbers from the CAD system, Administration is pursuing discussions concerning staffing and overtime patterns with Director Plummer, so likely from the administrative level there will be changes. Legislator Drake said he knew this is a compromise and wished the County could do more but realized there are fiscal responsibilities involved. Legislator Thomas said the public expects dispatch to have adequate personnel and equipment to handle their job effectively when needed. Legislator Reed said he has been involved in dispatch for a long time and understood it is a stressful job and he would like to see greater flexibility or

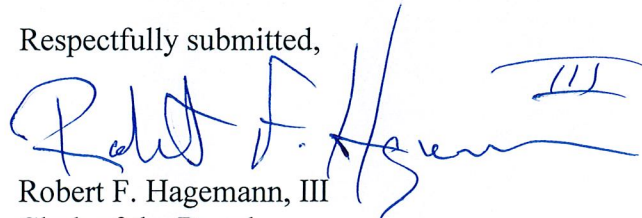
creativity with the scheduling. He appreciated prep work done by Administration in getting overtime specifics together and everyone's willingness to participate and looked forward to exploring opportunities for movement in scheduling. Legislator Ferris appreciated the work done on this and agreed that the focus should remain on scheduling and a way to alleviate some of the issues. Director Plummer explained that the CAD reports show each event entered into the (CAD) system not necessarily every call they received for a particular event. There being no further discussion, Chairman Gray entertained a motion to sponsor a resolution amending the 2014 County Budget in relation to the Fire and Emergency Management Department. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ormsby seconded by Legislator Docteur and unanimously carried by the Committee.

Mr. Hagemann reminded legislators that the picture of the Board for the 2012-2013 term will be taken at 2:30 p.m. just before the 3:00 p.m. Board Session. He also reminded legislators that there is a Planning & Development Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Airport that is a public hearing regarding the eminent domain process. Our consultants will be giving a presentation concerning the runway protection zone areas focusing primarily on the four properties involved in the eminent domain proceedings. The property owners and any one else present will also have the opportunity to address the group. The findings will be presented to the Committee at a future date who will then pass them on to the Board.

Chairman Gray thanked committee members and legislators for allowing him to serve as Finance & Rules Committee chairman for this term and for their support and interaction regarding issues, and particularly thanked outgoing Legislator Ormsby as he has been diligent in his pursuit of the issues and it has been a pleasure to work with him over the years.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislator Montigelli and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is stylized and includes the Roman numeral "III" at the end.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board