

Finance & Rules Committee
September 24, 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, Michael Astafan, John Peck, Robert Ferris and Anthony Doldo, Deputy Administrator Michael Kaskan, County Attorney David Paulsen, JCC President Carole Mccoy, JCC Vice President for Administration Daniel Dupee, Information Technology Director Gregory Hudson, Real Property Tax Services Director Paul Warneck, Human Resources Director Valerie Borland, County Treasurer Accountant Anne Converse, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Daniel Flatley, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Kate Garbut, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance representative made a presentation to the Committee concerning new registration requirements for the STAR program. She said that everyone eligible for this exemption for 2014 will need to register with her department for it before December 31, 2013, and this is being done to protect against inappropriate or fraudulent exemptions. Only senior citizens who have the enhanced STAR are not affected by the new registration requirements. Residents who currently receive the STAR exemption were mailed letters that contained a STAR code that homeowners will need to register; they can register through the Tax Department's website or over the phone. If residents do not register by the deadline they will not receive the STAR exemption. She said there is an appeals process but urged everyone present to register by the deadline and get the word out to others to do so.

The Committee approved the August meeting minutes as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution setting and reporting standard work day hours to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System for certain appointed officials and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ormsby seconded by Legislator Adsit and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution amending the 2013 County Budget to properly fund accounts and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Docteur and seconded by Legislator Montigelli. Chairman Gray advised that this resolution is being done at the recommendation of the County Treasurer and our external auditors to clean up negative accounts during the year. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution assuring County funds in relation to Jefferson Community College Collaborative Learning Center and Dewey Building renovations and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Drake and seconded by Legislator Montigelli. Chairman Gray said this resolution demonstrates our willingness to show a commitment to the College for Master Plan building additions and renovations and allows them to go to the State with guaranteed County funding. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution amending the 2013 County Budget and Capital Plan relative to Jefferson Community College and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec and seconded by Legislator Adsit. Chairman Gray and Mr. Kaskan explained that by using capital chargeback dollars the College can leverage 50% funding for the projects from the State when the projects might otherwise be a small capital project or part of operational expenses. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution authorizing the execution of a release from future real property tax liability to Cayuga Energy, Inc. As sole member of Carthage Energy, LLC 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 recognizing the receipt of surplus funds from the dissolution of the Jefferson County Job Development Corporation and authorizing the funding of the Jefferson County Local Development Corporation and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ormsby seconded by Legislator Montigelli and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution authorizing agreements with Passero Associates and Green Island Construction Group, LLC for Rehabilitation of Taxiway "B" Reconstruction (Phase 2) and entertained a motion for consideration. Mr. Kaskan noted that an amended resolution for Committee consideration was on their desks; it was amended to include the Green Island Construction Group contract. A motion was duly made by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislator Ormsby and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the amended resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray advised that there were to additional resolutions for the Committee to consider. He introduced a resolution appointing Airport Manager and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ormsby and seconded by Legislator Nabywaniec.

Legislator Ormsby thanked Legislators Reed, Nabywaniec, Chairwoman Fitzpatrick (Airport Ad Hoc Committee) and Administration for working through the interview process. He said Mr. Sussey has experience in running an FBO operation, is from a rural area, has worked in a number of different facilities, interacts well with the state and federal governments, will be an

asset to the Airport and will add to the continued momentum we have at the Airport. Legislator Drake questioned what percentage management pays for health insurance. Mr. Kaskan and Mrs. Borland advised that neither management nor the union pays a percentage it is a biweekly deduction of \$54 for individual and \$84 for family coverage. Legislator Nabywaniec felt Mr. Sussey will be a great Department Head for the Airport and suggested that the Airport Ad Hoc Committee might not be necessary now that the Airport is doing well and a Department Head will be there. He said Mr. Sussey was very well prepared for the interview and is excited about having him on board. Chairwoman Fitzpatrick added that she was impressed with the fact that his family has a background in aviation and his life has revolved around planes, including that two of his brothers work in the airline industry, and he trained in this area as well as does training in this area. Legislator Reed said Mr. Sussey was an outstanding candidate and will be a nice fit to the facility. He thanked Board members for their support of the Ad Hoc Committee. He commended Highway Supt. Jim Lawrence for his leadership to this point and said that as the Airport reaches the third year of 10,000 enplanements it is good to have a professional on board to carry the Airport forward. There being no further comments, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution appointing Commissioner of Social Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec and seconded by Legislator Adsit. Legislator Montigelli advised that as part of the ad hoc committee he did not have any depth of knowledge about the candidates but was well informed about the position and what the County was looking for, and said the committee unanimously agreed upon this candidate. Legislator Docteur stated that the County was fortunate to have people in place for succession in the departments and any time we could promote from within we should. He said Teresa Gaffney is a long standing employee of the organization, and commended ad hoc committee members (Legislators, Nabywaniec, Montigelli, Astafan, Adsit and Chairwoman Fitzpatrick) for a job well done. Legislator Astafan also agreed that the County should promote from within when possible, and said in his opinion at least three of the four interviewed candidates could have stepped right into the position which is a very positive thing for a department of that size. He said Teresa Gaffney came to the forefront and the committee agreed she was the best candidate. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

On a motion by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Ormsby and unanimously carried, the Committee approved a General Services Committee sponsored resolution amending the 2013 County Budget in relation to Whispering Pines auction.

On a motion by Legislator Docteur seconded by Legislators Adsit and Montigelli and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following Health & Human Services Committee resolutions:

- ✓ Amending the 2013 County budget Relative to Mental Hygiene/Community Services and Authorizing Amended Agreements with Credo Community Center in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending the 2013 County Budget in Relation to the Department of Social Services

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Kaskan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent part.

Michael E. Kaskan
Deputy Clerk of the Board