

General Services Committee
August 13, 2013
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chairman Philip Reed, Legislators Michael Astafan, Michael Behling, Robert Ferris, Jennie Adsit, Anthony Doldo

Others Present: Legislators Robert Thomas, Allen Drake, John Peck, James Nabywaniec, Barry Ormsby, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Michael Kaskan, Fire & Emergency Management Services Director Joseph Plummer, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Buildings Superintendent Spike Decker, Senior Typist Torri Richmire

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor. The minutes of the July meeting were approved without objection or correction.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution amending the 2013 County Budget and Capital Plan in relation to Local Enhanced Wireless 911 Funds and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State "Marchiselli" Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project (CR 156 (Barnes Corners Road) Over Sandy Creek), and Appropriating Funds Therefor and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Behling. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution authorizing the Implementation and Funding of the Federal Aid and State "Marchiselli" Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project (North Main Street over Pleasant Creek), and Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2013 County Budget and Capital Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Astafan and seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution amending the 2013 County Budget in relation to the Road Machinery Fund Fleet Repair Accounts and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution amending the 2013 County Budget with regard to FY 2010 and FY 2011 Operation Stonegarden Grant Funds and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Behling and seconded by Legislator Doldo. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed stated that due to some big ticket items that will be included in the 2014 Capital Plan Budget requests, he has asked Buildings Superintendent Spike Decker and Highway Superintendent James Lawrence to report on those within their departments. Mr. Decker reported that every year he provides energy efficiency upgrades in mechanical, electrical and plumbing, safety upgrades and cosmetic renovations to county buildings allowing them to be dependable and overall efficient. He stated that the last couple of years a few items on the list have been put off due to tight budgets and they will need to be addressed, those being roofs, parking lots and elevators. He stated that the Human Services roof is twenty-five years old, Public Safety building is twenty-four years old, County Office building has a twenty year old roof and they are all at the end of their life. He reported that one elevator is fifty years old and doesn't meet today's code standards. Mr. Decker also stated that the County Office building has twenty year old windows that are horribly inefficient. He advised that parking lots are another major project to update, stating that he has been working with Mr. Lawrence the past few years and they have been packing them but they have base failure and because of safety issues those will need to be addressed.

Highway Superintendent James Lawrence advised that the highway involves over 11,000 signs, 540 miles of road and 420 bridges (including culverts) anywhere from 5 feet to 200 feet in width. He stated that they prioritize the roads by their condition, rating them good, fair or poor with half the roads and bridges in fair condition at this time. He reported that currently 130 miles of road are in good or excellent condition, approximately 270 are in fair condition and roughly 130 roads are in poor condition. The status of bridges are 105 in good or excellent condition, 210 are in fair condition and 105 are in poor condition to the point that roads may need to be closed soon, with 2 roads currently closed.

He stated that the goal is to try to bring poor roads up to good condition and also maintain roads that are in fair and good condition. He said that what people don't understand when they question why you won't fix their road when you just paved a nearby one is that it costs approximately \$20,000 per mile to keep a good road in good condition and to bring a poor road to fair condition costs approximately \$300,000-\$400,000. He stated that he prioritizes to be as efficient and effective as possible.

He advised that his 6 year Capital Plan is to spend \$1.5 million each year on bridge repair and \$1.5 million on road repair. He stated that with budgets the past years being so tight and projects being put off, those roads or bridges cost more to bring up to good condition resulting in less work being done on other projects.

He stated that as the cost of fuel, tires and blacktop have increased it makes it difficult to adhere to a budget resulting in less projects getting done. He reported that there are certain roads that they tear up, recycle and put back down with a new surface cover to bring a fair road to good condition, ten years ago they were doing approximately 50 miles of road with that procedure but last year only 37.9 miles were able to be done due to the increase in costs. He also reported that Federal aid has put added requirements on the projects they fund with the burden of additional expense being put on the county budget. He was also notified by New York State that there will be no Marchiselli funding for 2014 leaving Jefferson County to finance the 15% that they covered for any upcoming projects.

In response to a question from Legislator Astafan, Mr. Lawrence stated that his 6 year Capital Plan is approximately 3-4 years behind using the average of \$1.5 million each for roads and highway. Legislator Ormsby stated that in the past the highway department has endured cuts to their capital plan when it was necessary to keep taxes down, but he is in support of making a concerted effort to put resources back into the department to take care of the counties crumbling infrastructures. Legislator Doldo is in agreement with Legislator Ormsby, stating that roads in the county are an investment and have fallen behind and it needs to be taken care of. Chairman Reed stated that times are tough and it is a juggling act and he does not want to see Jefferson County's highway system suffer.

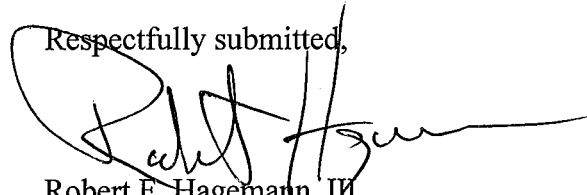
County Administrator Hagemann advised that as challenging as it has been, shared services among towns, villages, the city and the county have been able to balance the increase by utilizing each others assets to mitigate some of the costs. Chairman Reed stated that in talking with towns they are very satisfied with the shared services program. Mr. Lawrence commended the shared services stating that it is not only with the towns and villages but the services offered by county departments is a big cost savings that most people don't realize.

Mr. Lawrence advised that he periodically receives a report based on outgoing passengers at all airports throughout the country and where Watertown International Airport was not on the list two years ago they are now ranked 325 of 500 airports, a 181% increase.

Chairman Reed stated that they should take a look at the classification of roads to prevent the hard work already done from going down the drain.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Doldo and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Hagemann, III", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board