

Finance & Rules Committee
July 30, 2013
Minutes

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

Others Present: Legislators Robert Thomas, John Peck, Robert Ferris, and Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, County Attorney David Paulsen, Information Technologies Director Gregory Hudson, Real Property Tax Services Director Paul Warneck, Malecki & Drescher Representatives Luke and Tom Malecki, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Daniel Flatley, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The Committee approved the minutes of the June meeting as written.

Luke Malecki, Malecki & Drescher made a presentation to the Committee highlighting Jefferson County's 2012 Financial Statements. He advised that their opinion on the basic financial statements is unmodified (formerly called unqualified) or the utmost opinion they can provide, a single audit report regarding federal aid in which no issues of non-compliance were found was provided, and a management letter with a few housekeeping observations was also included. He outlined revenue vs. expenditures for the solid waste fund and the general fund with only a \$400,000 difference in the latter, discounting a one time \$2.2 million expense for the FBO (Fixed Base Operator) at the Airport. He said this demonstrates a very stable budget where there is neither overtaxing nor overspending.

Mr. Malecki outlined the operating funds-(total)fund balance and the general fund-fund balance advising that the unrestricted general fund-fund balance was at an acceptable level at \$6.7 million which dropped by \$2 million dollars from last year for the one-time FBO expense. He advised that according to NYS Government Finance Officers Association ideally an organization should have unrestricted fund balance to sustain spending for 2 months or 16% of the overall budget, and Jefferson County is currently at 13%. He related that a prior significant deficiency with the Solid Waste fund was remedied and was not listed this year, and no material weaknesses were found. He said it was a pleasure to work with the County departments in putting these statements together. Chairman Gray congratulated Administration for executing a well adopted budget.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution increasing taxes on sales and uses of tangible personal property and of certain services, on occupancy of hotel rooms and on amusement charges pursuant to Article 29 of the Tax Law of the State of New York and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit and seconded by Legislator Ormsby. Chairman Gray and Administrator Hagemann confirmed that the only change to this resolution is that the extension is through November, 2015, the rate remains the same as in the

past. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution authorizing payment in lieu of taxes agreement relative to Woolworth Watertown, LLC and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec and seconded by Legislator Montigelli. Chairman Gray advised that this agreement was reviewed internally by Administration and the Real Property Tax Services Department and Mr. Hagemann added that we are the last taxing entity to authorize the pilot. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Gray introduced a resolution authorizing agreement with JR Associates for the hosting of automated teller machines at several county building locations 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 authorizing the final dissolution of Tom Brouty Aircraft Services 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 establishing time and place for a public hearing on the inclusion of viable agricultural land in certified agricultural districts before the districts' established review periods and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Adsit and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

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

- ✓ Amending the 2013 County Budget in Relation to the State FY10, FY11, and FY12 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant (LETPP)
- ✓ Authorizing FY2012 Operation Stonegarden Grant Agreement and Amending the 2013 County Budget in Relation Thereto

On a motion by Legislator Ormsby seconded by Legislator Adsit and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following Health & Human Services Committee sponsored resolution:

- ✓ Amending the 2013 County Budget Relative to Mental Hygiene/Community Services and Authorizing Amended Agreements in Relation Thereto

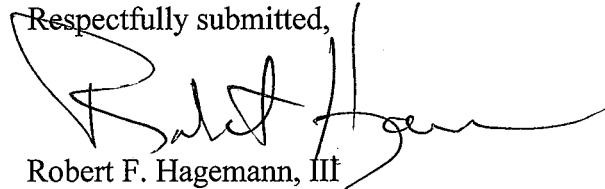
Chairman Gray advised that Final Assessment Rolls for the towns were in the agenda packet explaining that this is how sales tax and other costs are allocated to all of the communities and asked if an in-house presentation on how Mr. Warneck arrives at these numbers was necessary.

RPTS Director Warneck explained that a presentation would include how the County arrives at the figures that are on a tax bill. He said that at this point there are still some outstanding small claims assessment reviews but it is important for legislators to realize the impact of how a revaluation or equalization can affect sales tax and how money is allocated to the towns. He said he would be happy to put a program together for before or after a Committee meeting explaining those issues and how the towns are now charged. There was interest expressed by Committee/Board members for such a presentation by Mr. Warneck.

Legislator Nabywaniec commended the Audit Ad Hoc Committee in working with Administration concerning budget numbers as they were very close according to the audit. He also noted that Jefferson County rated very well in the "stress test" done by New York State concerning county finances. He said it shows that Jefferson County is being good stewards with tax payers money. Chairman Gray added that the Board stressed stability in taxing the residents and diligence in monitoring the budget. Chairwoman Fitzpatrick also commended the job done by County Treasurer Karen Christie in this regard.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Nabywaniec seconded by Legislator Montigelli and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Hagemann", written over a horizontal line.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board