

**Planning & Development Committee**  
**April 16, 2013**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Committee Chair Barry Ormsby, Legislators Robert Thomas, Philip Reed, Allen Drake, John Peck, Michael Behling, Robert Ferris

**Others Present:** Legislators Michael Docteur, Michael Astafan, James Nabywaniec, Scott Gray, Jennie Adsit, Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Michael Kaskan, County Attorney David Paulsen, Planning Director Don Canfield, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Real Property Tax Services Director Paul Warneck, Agricultural Coordinator Jay Matteson, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Daniel Flatley, Senior Typist Torri Richmire

Chairman Ormsby called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. The minutes of the March meeting were approved without objection or correction.

Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution authorizing Appointments and Re-Appointments to the Jefferson-Lewis Workforce Investment Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Behling and seconded by Legislator Reed. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution authorizing an agreement with the Thousand Islands Regional Tourism Development Corporation for the provision of Public Benefits Services for Promotion and Publicity and amending the 2013 County Budget in relation thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Drake. In response to a question from Legislator Peck, County Administrator Hagemann stated that this is a result of surplus in the bed tax account. He advised that the tourism council has identified areas where state funding of \$160,000 and funding from Jefferson County of \$150,000 will be used on a one time basis to promote tourism in the area. Suggestions include trying to expand summer season tourism by focusing on a fall campaign for the wine industry, where not only that industry benefits but also hotels, restaurants, gas stations and retail. He stated that the tourism council will be doing the outreach on a regular basis and they will be managing the money and running the programs.

Mr. Hagemann stated that a portion of the funding will go towards filming of the Black River, forest lands in Southern Jefferson County, and areas of the county that don't normally receive a lot of tourism coverage. Chairman Ormsby advised that they will also be marketing the Watertown International Airport to capture Canadian travelers between Kingston and Brockville. Legislator Reed stated that the goal is to promote the entire county as a whole to keep people in the area for week long trips. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution supporting amendments to the New York State

General Municipal Law to permit IDA's to provide technical and financial assistance for agricultural projects and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck and seconded by Legislator Behling. Chairman Ormsby stated that Jefferson County has done an excellent job in promoting agriculture and showing that it is an economic force in the region. It would make sense that the agricultural industry would get equal representation with other industries that receive financial assistance promoted through the Industrial Development Agencies. He stated that he appreciates Senator Ritchie's leadership and assistance getting this through the Senate and hopes that the Assembly will see the value of agriculture for the upstate communities.

Jay Matteson, Ag Coordinator, stated that Jefferson County has been a trailblazer in agriculture economic development much to the credit of the Jefferson County Board of Legislators. He stated that if this legislation does pass, the IDA can play an important role in growing agriculture. Mr. Matteson advised that over the past ten years this legislation has passed in the Senate but never in the Assembly. He stated that Assemblywoman Russell and Assemblyman Blankenbush have both signed on as co-sponsors for this bill. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution appointing member to the Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Thomas. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Legislator Behling requested that Jefferson County pay to have a parcel of land in the Town of Rutland surveyed. He explained that the parcel is forest property maintained by Soil and Water Conservation District with no access road to get to the property and that the neighboring farmer has no interest in working with Soil and Water. Legislator Peck stated that it is overgrown and difficult to tell from the old maps where the right of way is to the property. He advised that this is not Soil and Water Conservations responsibility as this is county owned and they just maintain it for the county.

County Attorney Paulsen stated that he has tried recently to make contact with the farmers attorney to find out what their current position is on this. He agrees that it is the counties responsibility to establish access to the property and the first step to resolving the issue is for the farmer to voluntarily agree to have the survey conducted to determine where the access should be.

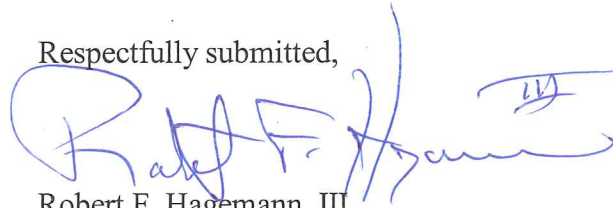
Chairman Ormsby stated that this should be discussed further and they may want to find out what the value of the timber on the property is and whether the county should proceed, as there are no real connections for trails.

County Administrator Hagemann advised that each legislator had on their desk an invitation to the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Jefferson County Dairy Princess Coronation. He also stated that each has received an update on enplanement figures for Watertown International Airport through March 2013 and happy to report there continues to be increases.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator

Ferris and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is stylized and includes a flourish at the end.

Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board