

General Services Committee
March 12, 2013
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chairman Philip Reed, Legislators Michael Behling, Jennie Adsit, Anthony Doldo, Chairwoman of the Board Carolyn Fitzpatrick

Others Present: Legislators Robert Thomas, Allen Drake, Michael Montigelli, John Peck, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Michael Kaskan, County Attorney David Paulsen, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, Fire and Emergency Management Services Director Joseph Plummer and Deputy Director Fred Lampman, Undersheriff Paul Trudeau, Planning Director Don Canfield, Treasurer Accountant Anne Converse, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Daniel Flatley, Senior Typist Torri Richmire

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and offered privilege of the floor. The minutes of the February meeting were approved without objection or correction.

James Wright, Executive Director, Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) addressed the Committee regarding a proposed regional local law to provide a uniform system for managing the collection, transportation and disposal of solid waste and recyclables. He stated that this began in September 2011 when DANC started to finalize a regional solid waste plan for Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence counties. He stated that back then it was recommended by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to establish a single solid waste management plan for the three counties which coincided with the expiration of each county's plan.

Mr. Wright introduced his staff, Rich LeClerc, General Manager of Solid Waste Division and Jan Oatman, Regional Recycling Coordinator. He commended Jim Lawrence and his staff for working with DANC to foster a partnership between the three counties.

He stated that NYSDEC requires an approved comprehensive regional plan creating a common local law with a concept that the three counties are working in partnership to create a mutual description of recyclables which they can advertise and promote.

He stated that landfill volumes are declining, meaning that they are maximizing investment, allowing them to spread the significant capital cost over a longer life which is in compliance with the states objectives and plans for waste diversion.

Mr. Wright advised that each county adopted their own local law over 20 years ago with the differences being penalties, procedure and process. DANC has retained an attorney with expertise in solid waste to review all three local laws and come up with a consolidated version that included all the various provisions of each county. That draft was reviewed by each county attorney and solid waste professional to get it to the point that it meets the tri-county needs. He stated that it is not

DANC's expectation that each local law be identical but that there is a concurrence to enforce the law.

He stated that administration of the law is vested with the county allowing each independence with provisions that enable the county to delegate certain activities to DANC in terms of enforcement if they so choose. He advised that DANC is not seeking that responsibility but recognized that it is easier for someone on the outside to enforce a program. Violation of this local law for non-compliance could be enforced with a series of fines which are civil administrative sanctions.

County Administrator Hagemann stated that one of the toughest questions in this local law is flow control which will be a serious issue to address with the board.

Mr. Wright advised that while he recognizes Jefferson County is not a flow control county and the other two are, that the local law can have that section pulled out. He stated that it is not a requirement and that they capture the vast volume of the material simply because of location but advised that DANC feels that it is advantageous to Jefferson County stating that to flow control recyclables is a very successful revenue for the county helping to offset other costs. He also stated that there are some larger projects that Jefferson County has lost outside the region to large trucking firms that he suspects have long term agreements with private landfills.

In response to a question regarding recycling agriculture plastics, Mr. Wright stated that DANC does not see it as a sustainable model due to the cost of maintaining and replacing equipment, transporting waste and that there is not a market for the product.

Chairman Reed stated that DANC does a great job at the landfill in Rodman with odor control, traffic control and educating haulers. He also stated that the recycling piece has done a good job of working with haulers and educating the community. He advised that the committee will take the local law into consideration and even though he has a different philosophy on flow control the group will work together to make it meet the needs of Jefferson County.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution authorizing agreement with Blue Wing Services, Inc. for Engineering Consultant Services relative to the County's Public Safety Communications System and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit and seconded by Legislator Doldo. Deputy Administrator Michael Kaskan advised that NYS Office of Homeland Security (NYSOHS) grant funds received by Fire and Emergency Management Services is being used for this service. Fire and Emergency Management Services Director Joseph Plummer stated that the \$89,900 is being funded through two years of NYSOHS grant funds. In response to a question from Legislator Behling regarding the purchase of public safety communications systems, Mr. Plummer stated that this will be a large undertaking for the county but that this resolution allows for the hiring of an engineering consultant to review what radio systems Jefferson County currently owns and is using within the different departments. They will review all complaints and concerns that first responders have and then will come up with two solutions to be brought back to the adhoc committee. He stated that this request for proposal was written in a three phase approach, this funding will take care of phase one and two. Mr. Plummer stated that in the 1970's when purchased,

the system was designed to work on mobile radios mounted in vehicles. He advised that the system still works exactly the way it should but with advances in technology these radios need new infrastructure to keep up. Legislator Behling stated that he would like to save money as well as keep safety. Chairman Reed stated that by joining the Northern New York Region Interoperable Communications Consortium last summer it will allow Jefferson County to save costs by sharing resources with neighboring counties. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

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

Legislator Adsit left the meeting.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution authorizing an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation and the City of Watertown to form the Watertown-Jefferson County Area Transportation Council and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Adsit and seconded by Legislator Doldo. County Administrator Hagemann explained that this goes back approximately 30 years when the federal government determined that any urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more based on census population data would follow a process for securing federal money for road and bridge projects carried out by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This agreement includes NYSDOT, City of Watertown and Jefferson County with the timeline to complete this being the latter part of March. In response to a question from Legislator Behling, County Administrator Hagemann stated that in the future when applying for federal money for eligible bridges the process will be to go through the MPO where they have planners who will assist in putting all the pieces together. He advised that the same people locally will be involved in the process and work with the MPO. Legislator Behling expressed his frustration that this is a federal mandate and stated that when the resolution goes before the full board he will not vote for it. There being no further discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Reed introduced a resolution authorizing agreement with Passero Associates in relation to the Watertown International Airport New Hanger/Business Center Project and entertained a motion for consideration. County Administrator Hagemann advised that there is a slight revision to this resolution and a copy of that is on Legislators' desks. 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 introduced a resolution authorizing agreement with the Transportation Security Administration relative to Airport Security and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Doldo and seconded by Legislator Behling. Undersheriff Trudeau stated that it will cost the Sheriff's Department more than \$29,200 provided by the Transportation Security Administration but there will be security coverage at the Watertown

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

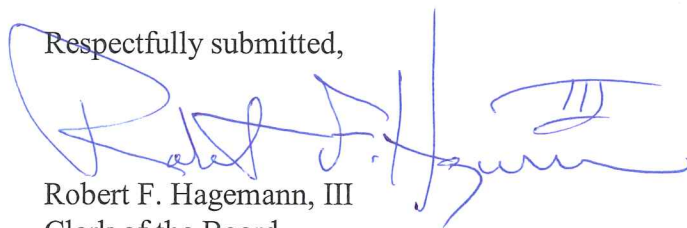
Undersheriff Trudeau stated that he is working on a report that County Administrator Hagemann requested and due to the topic he prefers to give a power point presentation instead of a hand written report. He advised that the presentation will be made in the near future.

Legislator Behling stated that during the 2012 budget season the subject of employees in the probation department carrying guns was discussed and it was decided to review after the first of the year. He would like to take action by having a resolution prepared allowing the officers to carry hand guns for protection. Chairman Reed stated that he has been in discussions with Chairwoman Fitzpatrick and Administrator Hagemann and has advised them that this needs to be addressed preferably with a full committee in attendance to discuss and make an informative decision before putting a resolution on the table. He stated that he has talked to both Probation Director Edward Brown and Chairwoman Fitzpatrick today and he intends to bring the information that Mr. Brown has obtained to the committee shortly. He advised that he is not sure that the full board shares Legislator Behling's feelings but it deserves a fair look with an open mind.

Legislator Doldo is in agreement with Legislator Behling stating that this needs to move forward to see whether it has the support of the whole board. Chairwoman Fitzpatrick stated that since the first of the year illness and vacations have stalled this topic but that it will move forward. Chairman Reed stated that a timeline will be put together which will include Probation Director Brown's input to address this subject.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "H".

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board