

Finance & Rules Committee
July 29, 2025
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Michael Montigelli, Legislators Philip Reed, Daniel McBride, Frances Calarco, Board Chair William Johnson

Others Present: Legislators James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Christopher Boulio, Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Ryan Piche, Deputy Administrator Dylan Soper, County Attorney John Sabik, Conf. Asst. for Fiscal Affairs Kristy O'Shaughnessy, County Auditor Stefanie LaPier, Human Resources Director Valerie Nugent, Real Property Tax Services Director Roxanne Burns, Real Property Tax Services Tax Services Supervisor Alex Marchenkoff, Code Enforcement Director Jason Crump, Fire & Emergency Management Services Director Joseph Plummer, Office for the Aging Director Bethany Munn, Public Health Director Steve Jennings, Recycling & Waste Management Director Kyle Ratigliano, Highway Superintendent Candidate Joseph Waselewski, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones, Confidential Secretary Jaimie Lee

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and offered Privilege of the Floor however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the June meeting as written.

Code Enforcement Director Jason Crump made a presentation to the Committee concerning the proposed Unsafe Structures Local Law that is on the agenda. He outlined the responsibilities and staffing of the department related to enforcing the NYS Building Code as well as lead paint inspections for public health programs in 30 of the 42 municipalities in the County. Director Crump said current unsafe structure compliance relies on voluntary cooperation or legal action through NYS Supreme Court with the County Attorney, which can be lengthy and difficult to enforce. The proposed local law would establish a stronger mechanism to ensure public safety, grant final decision-making authority to the Board of Legislators, align with similar laws in other municipalities, and provide a process for municipalities not under County jurisdiction. Associated costs would be recovered from property owners through land charges or court collection. He provided examples of current unsafe structures in Deferiet and Mannsville.

Thomas Haynes, DANC - Director of Engineering, and Jacob Jacques, DANC - Assistant Director of Engineering were present to provide project updates for demotion of the Deferiet Paper Mill property and the Abbass Foods Plant property. Mr. Jacob said DANC has been acting at the County's Project Manager for these demotions. He said the Deferiet Paper Mill property demolition began in April 2025, with completion targeted for October 31, 2025. As of July 29, 2025, twelve buildings have been demolished, with over 11,500 tons of material disposed. He said work is currently ongoing for demolition of Buildings 1 and 10. They have encountered challenges with unexpected quantities of coal, deep basements, debris-filled cavities, and material separation difficulties, along with regulatory requirements treating concrete masonry unit (CMU) as regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM) with no options for testing. Mr.

Jacques said the Abbass Foods Plant demolition started in May 2025 and as of July 29, 2025 the main processing facility has been demolished, with 2,156 tons of waste removed. He said clean concrete and brick are being crushed for site hardfill, and a second bid package is being prepared for demolition of an ancillary structure across the road from the main processing facility that they did not realize was part of the property. He said challenges included asbestos-containing material in roofing and beneath asphalt, as well as a hazardous underground storage tank currently being removed. They reported that both projects are progressing on schedule despite unforeseen complications, and answered questions of legislators.

Chairman Montigelli reported that he received a letter from the Soil & Water Conservation District that they received \$2,913 in revenue for the sale of white ash that was harvested from County Reforestation properties.

Chairman Montigelli advised that the Committee could not act on a resolution to implement the extra 1% in sales tax for the next two years because the Governor has not signed the State legislation yet.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing County Administrator to Approve Budget Transfers up to \$20,000 within the Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Concurring in Settlement of Tax Certiorari Proceedings and Authorizing Refund of Taxes to Navy Point Marine Properties, LLC in Connection Therewith and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Maintenance and Revitalization Capital Projects Plan for Jefferson Community College and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the Thousand Islands Regional Tourism Development Corporation for the Provision of Tourism Development Distribution Grant Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Amended Agreement with ACP Buffalo for the Demolition of the Abbass Foods Site and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Amended Agreement with Sabre Demolition and Amending the 2025 Budget in Relation to Demolition of the Deferiet Paper Mill and RESTORE NY Grant Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco and seconded by Legislator Reed. Legislator McBride expressed concern that additional funding was being allocated to this project and questioned the source and amount of funding. Administrator Piche confirmed that the funding is coming out of the property remediation account and there is approximately \$1.6 million remaining in that account. Following debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement for One-Stop Operator and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with The Spyglass Group, LLC For Technology Audit Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a Resolution in Support of Fort Drum as a Candidate Site for the Department of Defense's Advanced Nuclear Microreactor Initiative and Collaboration with NYSERDA and NYPA and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a Resolution Calling on Governor Kathy Hochul to Veto S.8012/A.8332 Relating to the Assessment of Solar and Wind Energy Systems and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Appointing County Highway Superintendent and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented, which Legislator McBride opposed.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Approving Appointment to the Sports Fishery Advisory Board and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Amended Agreement with Zoo New York and Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as

presented. Legislator Reed noted that this was approved in the 2024 Budget and the money comes out of the Occupancy Tax fund.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Zoo New York for Tourism Advertising and Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented with Legislator McBride opposed.

Chairman Montigelli introduced Local Law Intro No. 5 of 2025 - A Local Law Providing for the Repair or Removal of Unsafe Building, Unsafe Equipment and Collapsed Structures and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with GYMO, Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying, D.P.C. for Professional Services Related to County Dog Control Facilities and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Adopting a Policy for Jefferson County Vertical Asset Collocation Policy and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the Highway Department Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Funds and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Decreasing the Sheriff's Office Petty Cash and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced an additional resolution for consideration that had not been listed on the agenda Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing on Local Law Intro. No. 5 of 2025 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

On a motion by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Calarco and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following Health & Human Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Authorizing an Agreement with PIVOT and Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending the 2025 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Community Services Programs
- ✓ Amending the 2025 County Budget to Allocate Additional Opioid Stewardship Funds for Jail Based Services
- ✓ Amending 2025 County Budget Relative to Additional Revenue From the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for the New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- ✓ Amending 2025 County Budget Relative to Social Service Department Accounts

Chairman Montigelli entertained a motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person. Such motion was made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator McBride and the Committee entered executive session at 6:48. On a motion by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator McBride and unanimously carried, the Committee returned to open session at 7:01 p.m.

The Committee concurred with hiring a Chief Accountant and a Registered Dietitian at higher than the entry level step.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Reed and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Piche". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and last name "Piche" clearly distinguishable.

Ryan Piche
Clerk of the Board