

Finance & Rules Committee
August 26, 2025
Minutes

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

Others Present: Legislators Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Karen Freeman, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Christopher Boullo, Corey Grant, 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, Purchasing Director Michael Bagley, Real Property Tax Services Director Roxanne Burns, RPTS Supervisor Alex Marchenkoff, County Treasurer Brian Peck, Solid Waste Maintenance Supervisor Kyle Ratigliano, Thousand Islands Regional Tourism Development Corporation Executive Director Corey Fram, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones, Confidential Secretary Jaimie Lee

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Charles Trottier of Drescher & Malecki, LLP made a presentation to the Committee concerning their audit of the 2024 Jefferson County financial statements. He said their opinion regarding the financial statements is clean/unmodified and their opinion regarding the effectiveness of internal controls is also unmodified/clean with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. There were also no question costs on the Single Audit which is required of governments using over \$750,000 in federal awards; they tested six random programs this year as required and they were all clean. Their opinion was also unmodified and there were no findings in the required audits they performed for: New York State Department of Transportation (CHIPS), and the Passenger Facility Charge Report (Airport).

Mr. Trottier outlined graphics of five year trends for revenues and other sources vs. expenses and other uses for the General Fund, of real property tax in proportion to General Fund total revenue (29%), and of net sales tax in proportion to general fund total revenue (19%). He also outlined amounts the County's fund balance and said the fund balance policy provides that the Board stay within the calculation of two months expenditures (approximately 16.7%) +/- 10%. The ratio of unassigned fund balance to current year expenditures for 2022 was 35.2%, 2023 40.8% and 2024 is 34.4%. He provided contact information in the event legislators have questions at a later time.

Chairman Montigelli offered Privilege of the Floor however no one wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the July meeting, as written.

Chairman Montigelli introduced Local Law Intro No. 6 of 2025 - A Local Law Providing a Real Property Tax Exemption from County Property Taxes Pursuant to New York Real

Property Tax Law Section 485-A for Non-Residential Real Property Converted to Mixed Use Property Within the City of Watertown and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the local law as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing on Local Law Intro. No. 6 of 2025 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Abolishing the Position of Solid Waste Maintenance Supervisor and Reestablishing and Appointing the Position of Director of Recycling and Waste Management and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Appointing Director of Planning and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing the County of Jefferson's Participation in the Proposed Settlement of Opioid-Related Claims Against Sandoz, Inc. and Its Related Corporate Entities, and Directing the County Attorney and/or the County's Outside Counsel to Execute the Documents Necessary to Effectuate the County's Participation in the Settlement and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Accepting the Purdue Pharma Bankruptcy Plan and Authorizing the County of Jefferson's Participation in the Proposed Direct Settlement of Opioid-Related Claims Against the Sackler Family, and Directing the County's Outside Counsel to Execute the Documents Necessary to Accept the Plan and Effectuate the County's Participation in the Settlement and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Ferris and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing the County of Jefferson's Participation in the Proposed Settlements of Opioid-Related Claims Against Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, And Zydus and Their Related Corporate Entities, and Directing the County Attorney and/or the County's Outside Counsel to Execute the Documents Necessary to Effectuate the County's Participation in the Settlements and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, 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 Destination Marketing and Amending the 2025 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 discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

On a motion by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Ferris and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the following General Services Committee sponsored resolutions:

- ✓ Authorizing an Agreement with the New York Department of Transportation in Relation to Airport Equipment and Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending 2025 County Budget for the Airport Department Relative to General Ledger Coding Review and Miscellaneous Budget Adjustments
- ✓ Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Runway 28 Medium-Intensity Approach Lighting System with Runway Alignment Indicator Lights (MALSR)
- ✓ Authorizing Agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration, New York State Department of Transportation, and McFarland Johnson for the Watertown International Airport Runway 25 Obstruction Removal Design and Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan
- ✓ Authorizing an Agreement with Rifenburg Construction, Inc. for the Watertown International Airport Runway 10-28 Rehabilitation- Phase 1 and Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Authorizing Agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration, McFarland Johnson, and Rifenburg Construction Inc. for the Watertown International Airport Runway 10-28 Rehabilitation - Phase 2 Construction and Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan
- ✓ Amending Agreements with Federal Aviation Administration and New York State Department of Transportation in Relation to Watertown International Airport Terminal Gateway Project
- ✓ Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Statewide Targeted Reduction of Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) Grant Award to the District Attorney's Office and Amending the 2025 Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Statewide Targeted Reduction of Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) Grant Award to the Probation Department and Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation Thereto

On a motion by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Potter and unanimously carried the Committee entered executive session at 7:29 p.m. to discuss the proposed sale, lease or purchase of real property. On a motion by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Ferris and unanimously carried, the meeting returned to open session at 7:45 p.m.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator McBride and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Piche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan Piche
Clerk of the Board