

Finance & Rules Committee
September 30, 2025
Minutes

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

Others Present: Legislators Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Karen Freeman, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Steel Potter, 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, Insurance Director Matthew Roy, JCC President Dr. Daniel Dupee, JCC Vice President for Administration Sid Pond, Real Property Tax Services Supervisor Alex Marchenkoff, Highway Superintendent Joe Waselewski, Sheriff Pete Barnett, Undersheriff Kris Spencer, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones, Confidential Secretary Jaimie Lee

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and offered Privilege of the Floor however no one present wished to speak.

County Administrator Ryan Piche and Deputy Administrator Dylan Soper presented an overview of the Capital and Personnel portions of the 2026 Tentative Budget to the Committee. Mr. Piche advised that one change from previous budgets is that the Capital Plan will be a separate document from the Budget and will be adopted as such. He said the 2026-2031 Tentative Capital Plan defines capital projects as expenditures of \$10,000 or more and capital equipment as \$5,000 or more. He outlined key projects in the Plan for the Watertown International Airport (Total Capital Highlight: \$9.884M); Human Services Building (Total: \$4.0M) and will include bonding; Public Safety Building (Total: \$1.6435M) which includes funding 18% of the building-wide expenditures from the City; miscellaneous Buildings & Grounds projects ; and Highway Capital Projects (Total: \$12.3M) which include \$8.3M in CHIPS funding; equipment projects. Administrator Piche advised that budgeting for Capital Projects will be moving toward budgeting *total* funds for each project in the Capital Budget Plan, and the Board will see that difference next year in the 2027 Budget process. He presented Capital equipment highlights for 2026 that included a Capital equipment budget of \$1.384M for general and \$1.972M for County Road equipment. He also briefly highlighted each piece of equipment that was included in the budget and its cost.

Deputy Administrator Soper presented the recommended 2026 Personnel Budget of \$61.3M, up from \$55.0M in 2025. He said the costs are driven by employee benefits totaling \$35.9M; projected retirement costs of \$8.4M as the NYSLRS announced increased employer contribution rates for SFY 2026-27; 17.6% of payroll for ERS (up from 16.5%) and 36.5% of payroll for PFRS (up from 33.7%). Also included is health insurance and the budget will utilize \$1M in Health Insurance Fund Balance for 2026. He said total benefit claims payments are estimated at \$28.5M. Mr. Soper detailed new or reclassified positions including the following

mandated/funded positions: new positions for Corrections Officers are mandated by an August 2025 NYS Commission of Corrections Audit; new Home Health Aide (Public Health) and Paralegal (Public Defender) positions are funded by new State funding. He also detailed succession planning highlights for various positions in the budget.

Insurance Director Matthew Roy reported on the recent RFP process for Health Insurance Third Party Administrator (TPA) and Prescription Benefits Management (PBM) services, noting the valuable guidance provided by the County's health insurance consultant. He related that nine RFPs were sent out for TPA services, resulting in three responses. The evaluation Committee recommended retaining the current TPA, UMR, and the consultant negotiated a lower administrative fee, resulting in an annual savings of \$20,000. Seven RFPs were sent out for PBM Services (ProAct), also resulting in three responses. The Committee unanimously recommended renewing the contract with the current PBM, ProAct, achieving a total cost savings of \$2.0 million over the previous contract. Mr. Roy thanked the County Committee for their work and expressed satisfaction with the diligence of the new health insurance consultant throughout this process.

The Committee approved the minutes of the August meeting, as written.

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

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing on Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Reclassifying Position in the County Attorney's Office and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing The Local and Regional Plans Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Employment Agreement with the Faculty Association of Jefferson Community College and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed seconded by Legislator Cantwell and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Employment Agreement with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Employees Local 3089, Council 82, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Appointing Director of Real Property Tax Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Cantwell seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Establishing the Position of Administrative Supervisor-Highway and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with ESI Employee Assistance Group for an Employee Assistance Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Reed and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with UMR, Inc. for Administration of Jefferson County Health Benefits and Health Benefits Managed Care Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Pro Act, Inc. for Prescription Benefits Management and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator McBride and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing a Joint Services Agreement with the Town of Alexandria for County Assessment Services Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law 1537 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing a Joint Services Agreement with the Town of Clayton for County Assessment Services Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law 1537 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.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing Amended Agreements with Sabre Demolition and Green 2 Green Consulting LLC 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 Cantwell

seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli indicated that if there were no objections the jurisdictional committee resolutions would each be dealt with in a block and legislators can pull out and discuss or vote separately on any of them if desired. No one expressed any objection to addressing the resolutions in that manner.

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

- ✓ Amending the 2025 County Budget for the Airport Department Relative to Fuel
- ✓ Authorizing an Agreement with McFarland Johnson for Parking Lot Construction Administration and Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation to Buildings Department Accounts
- ✓ Authorizing an Agreement and Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services FY 2023 Domestic Terrorism Prevention Program Grant
- ✓ Amending the 2025 County Budget Relative to Correctional Facility Medical Expenses
- ✓ Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Statewide Targeted Reduction of Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) Grant Award for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Amending the 2025 Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Authorizing Agreements for The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's Stop DWI High Visibility Enforcement Grant and Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation Thereto

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

- ✓ Amending the 2025 County Budget Relative to Public Health Accounts for Security

On a motion by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Reed and unanimously carried, the Committee entered executive session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation. On a motion by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Potter and unanimously carried, the Committee returned to open session at 7:29 p.m. The Committee concurred with the settlement of a lawsuit entitled James Stansbury v. Jefferson County in the amount of \$10,000.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Reed and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Piche
Clerk of the Board