

**General Services Committee**  
**January 20, 2026**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Committee Chair James Nabywaniec, Legislators Philip Reed, Robert Ferris, Steel Potter, Corey Grant, Board Chair Johnson

**Others Present:** Legislators Karen Freeman, County Administrator Ryan Piche, Deputy Administrator Dylan Soper, County Attorney John Sabik, Director of Aviation Grant Sussey, Planning Director Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Nabywaniec called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered Privilege of the Floor, however no one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the November meeting as presented.

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District Executive Director, Justin Bach, presented to the Committee an outline of the current status and future management of several county forest properties. These areas support a variety of recreational activities such as hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling, and feature unique landmarks like the Totman Gulf Falls and a covered bridge on the Van Camp and Shelmidine trail. Future ambitions include expanding the trail network, building a new bridge in Felts Mills, and cutting a new trail at the Williams and Parks location.

County Administrator Ryan Piche presented on the eight strategic priorities for the General Services Committee in 2026, designed to guide the legislative calendar with measurable outcomes. Key infrastructure goals include airport capital projects, such as terminal renovations and restaurant openings, alongside physical plant upgrades for the Human Services Building. Policy-focused initiatives target clean energy development, brownfield redevelopment in partnership with the City of Watertown, and new state standards for dog control. Additionally, the plan prioritizes operational modernization through the launch of a bus transportation system, a new fleet management plan, and county-wide GIS infrastructure upgrades.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Adopting the 2026 Strategic Priorities for the General Services Committee 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Terminal Gateway Project, SEQR Determination, and Amending the 2026 County Budget and Capital Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris, seconded by Legislator Grant, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing a Software Agreement in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Safety Management System Manual and Implementation Plan 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement in Relation to the Acquisition of Snow Removal Equipment at the Watertown International Airport and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris, seconded by Legislator Grant, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Division of Homeland Security and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation to the State Fiscal Year 2025 Next Generation 911 Grant Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris, seconded by Legislator Reed, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Inter-Municipal Agreement with Jefferson-Lewis BOCES for Provision of Winter Roadway Services 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State “Marchiselli” Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project (Noble Street over West Creek) and Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter, seconded by Legislator Grant, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation to Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative Funding and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris, seconded by Legislator Reed, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending Resolution 195 of 2023 Authorizing 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Agreements Between Jefferson County and Its Towns Relative to Road and Bridge Maintenance Services; Construction and Reconstruction of Roads; and Sanding, Snow and Ice Removal to include Villages and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris, seconded by Legislator Grant, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation for the 2024-2025 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program and with the ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence for Management, Operation, and Maintenance of the Coordinated Public Transportation System and Amending the 2026 Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed, seconded by Legislator Potter, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Grant Agreement, State Environmental Quality Review Act Determination, and Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation to a 2025 Community Development Block Grant Award from the New York State Office of Community Renewal 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation to the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed, seconded by Legislator Grant, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2026 County Budget to Reappropriate New York State Septic System Replacement Program Funds 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements in Connection with New York State Snowmobile Trails Grant-in-Aid Program and Amending the 2026 Budget in Relation Thereto 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Amending the 2025 Budget in Relation to an Agreement with Volunteer Transportation for Mobility Management Services and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed, seconded by Legislator Ferris, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in Relation to the Ignition Interlock Device Monitoring Program Grant Funding 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Division of Criminal Justice to Provide Funding for Certified Pretrial Services and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for Quality Improvement for Family Court Representation and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris, seconded by Legislator Grant, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec complimented the Watertown International Airport for increased ridership in 2025 with a total of 51,612 people, which was up from the 47,000 sum from 2024.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Ferris, seconded by Legislator Potter, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 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