

Finance & Rules Committee Minutes

August 25, 2026

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

Others Present: Legislators Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Karen Freeman, James Nabywaniec, Patrick Jareo, Christopher Boulio, Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Ryan Piche, Deputy Administrator Dylan Soper, County Attorney John Sabik, County Auditor Stefanie LaPier, Human Resources Director Valerie Nugent, H.R. Associate Alesa Maguire, H.R. Specialist Valerie Vallone, H.R. Assistants Karrie Countryman and Jacqueline Gallar, Information Technology Director Sean Vincent, Insurance Director Matt Roy, DSS Commissioner Karen Marcum, Public Health Director Steve Jennings, Confidential Secretary Jill Jones

Chairman Montigelli called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m. and offered Privilege of the Floor however no-one present wished to speak. The Committee approved the minutes of the July meeting, as written.

Human Resources Director Val Nugent provided an update of the NY HELPS (Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide) Program and an overview of the NYS Civil Service testing transformation. She said the NYS HELPS Program is a NYS initiative that temporarily waives Civil Service exam requirements, allowing non-competitive appointments based on training and experience. The Program started in the Spring of 2023 for state positions, then expanded to local governments in Spring 2024 for titles without eligible lists, and was further expanded in Fall of 2024 to allow hiring even if an eligible list exists. In February 2026 NYS paused all non-Police/Fire/promotion exams to transition to new applicant and testing software, and in June 2026 an Omnibus rule was introduced to streamline administrative approval processes for local participation. Jefferson County currently has approval through NY HELPs to hire in the titles of Caseworker, Social Welfare Examiner, and Community Services Worker, and 29 additional titles are awaiting approval from NYS. A public hearing is scheduled for September 4th to adopt the Omnibus rule change, facilitating faster processing for future titles. The NY HELPs program is not a permanent solution, and will be effective through June 2028.

Ms. Nugent advised that NYS Civil Service is currently transitioning from local paper/pencil exams to online Training & Experience (T&E) exams or State-proctored exams at regional testing centers (the nearest center for Jefferson County is in Syracuse) and said it is a vacancy-based system. The most notable impact of this change is the turnaround for eligible lists with scores will be reduced from 4–6 months down to within 2 weeks. She said there will be a learning curve for people to understand that they will not be able to apply for positions through the County Human Resources Department. She said minimum qualifications and an individual's eligibility for positions will also be determined at the State level. Ms. Nugent answered questions of legislators regarding these significant changes.

Chairman Montigelli introduced Local Law Intro No 3 of 2026, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 2 of 1968 Providing That the Members of the Board Shall Meet to Organize and Select a Chairman in Each Odd Numbered Year and entertained a motion for consideration. A

motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the local law as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Setting the Time and Place for a Public Hearing on Local Law Intro Number 3 of 2026 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Quantify Consulting LLC for FOIL Request Manager Build and Optional Migration Management and Amending the 2026 County Budget and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter 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 New York State Office of Information Technology Services and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in Relation to Combined FY2022 and FY2023 Cybersecurity Grant Multi-Factor Authentication Tokens and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Potter seconded by Legislator Calarco and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreement with MedBill Management, LLC. for Dependent Eligibility Audit Services 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 Reappointing Member to Jefferson Community College Board of Trustees and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Systems East, Inc for Total Collection Solution Web Support and Maintenance and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Approving Appointments to the Sports Fishery Advisory Board 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 Authorizing Amended Agreements with the New York State Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Terminal Gateway Project and Amending the 2026 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration.

A motion was duly made by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli introduced a resolution Establishing Time and Place for Public Hearing Related to the 2026 Community Development Block Grant Process and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride seconded by Legislator Potter and there being no debate, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Montigelli advised that if there were no objections, the resolutions referred from other jurisdictional committees would each be dealt with as a block and legislators could pull out any resolution to discuss or vote on separately if desired. Legislators did not express objections to approving those resolutions in that manner.

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

- ✓ Accepting Donations on Behalf of the Watertown International Airport and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto
- ✓ Amending the 2026 County Budget and Capital Plan Relative to Highway Department Equipment
- ✓ Authorizing an Agreement with the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Police Traffic Services Program Grant Award Relative to the Sheriff's Office and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto

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

- ✓ Authorizing Agreement with TipCo Automated Systems, LLC for Implementation of EVA AI-Powered Caseworker Assistant for the Office for the Aging and Amending 2026 County Budget
- ✓ Amending the 2026 County Budget to Allocate Additional State Aid for Community Services Programs

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Calarco seconded by Legislator Potter and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Piche
Clerk of the Board