

General Services Committee Minutes

June 16, 2026

Members Present: Committee Chair James Nabywaniec, Legislators Daniel McBride, Philip Reed, Robert Ferris, Corey Grant

Others Present: Legislator Patrick Jareo, Francee Calarco, Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Anthony Doldo, Michael Montigelli, County Attorney John Sabik, Planning and Community Development Director Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer, Recycling and Solid Waste Director Kyle Rutigliano, Director of Aviation Grant Sussey, Confidential Secretary Jaimie Lee

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 May meeting.

Jefferson County Department of Planning and Community Development Director Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer presented a proposal to update the New York State General Municipal Law (GML) §239-m referral framework by exempting routine local actions, such as minor area variances and small commercial expansions, from mandatory county review. High-impact projects, including comprehensive plans, major rezonings, and new highway access points will continue to require county-level oversight. This update is expected to reduce total referral volume by approximately 35%, cutting local review delays by as much as 30 days and significantly easing administrative burden on municipalities.

Upon opening the floor up for questions, Legislator Jareo requested additional information on who determines whether an action is exempt. Director Bonisteel Schweitzer clarified that the projects are still reviewed by the Planning Department, so whether they are referred to the full County Planning Board would be determined at that time. Legislator Reed thanked Director Bonisteel Schweitzer for the presentation and initiative and inquired further about what would be required from the municipalities in order to implement this and asked whether much pushback was expected. Director Bonisteel Schweitzer explained that following the passage of the county resolution, standardized agreement templates will be sent to local towns, villages, and the city to adopt individually so the exemptions can take effect along with letter detailing the framework update. Legislator Doldo inquired about the effects of the update on 911 towers operated by the County, upon which Director Bonisteel Schweitzer offered to flag these particular projects, but did not anticipate there would be many instances of interference.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing Agreements and Amending the 2026 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Watertown International Airport Runway 10-28 Rehabilitation – Phase 2 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 Amending Fee Schedule in Relation to the Jefferson County Rules and Regulations for Administration and Enforcement of the Uniform Code and Adoption of Local Law No. 2 of 2026 Providing for Permitting of Commercial Renewable Energy Conversion Systems 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Adopting Revised General Municipal Law 239-M Referral Exemption Framework and Authorizing Agreements in Relation Thereto 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 Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing a Grant Application with the New York State Department of State for a Brownfield Opportunity Area Program Pre-Planning Grant 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 Grant Application to the New York State Department of State Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 for Resilience and Drainage Improvements on County Route 123 in the Town of Henderson 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 a Grant Application with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the 2026 Jefferson County Natural Resources Inventory 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.

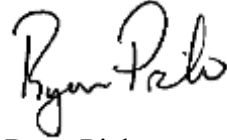
Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement and Amending the 2026 County Budget and Capital Plan in Relation to Site Paving at the Recycling and Waste Management Facility and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed, seconded by Legislator McBride, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Nabywaniec introduced a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Grant 2025-2026 Relative to the Sheriff's Office and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto 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 Authorizing the Amendment of the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services 2024 Operation Stonegarden Grant Relative to the Sheriff's Office and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator McBride, seconded by Legislator Ferris, and there being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

There being no further business of the Committee, on a motion by Legislator Ferris, seconded by Legislator Grant, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 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