

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MAY 6, 2015**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

**Committee Members Present:** P. Curran, S. Burt, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, C. Crandall (Absent: D. Healy)

**Others Present:** M. Alger, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, D. Decker, L. Edwards, D. Fanton, K. Graves, S. Grusendorf, D. Hanchett, R. Hollis, C. Ivers, B. Kelley, J. Luckey, T. Miner, K. Monroe, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, K. Slep, R. Starks, R. Swarthout, S. Taylor, R. Whitney

**Media Present:** D. Donohue, *Olean Times Herald*

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Public Safety Committee Chairman Phil Curran.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were opened for discussion on a motion made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Curran. Legislator Burt suggested the following addition to the minutes:

On page 3, under:

**Funding Transfer**

The Sheriff's Office requested a transfer of \$300,000 from the Contingency Account to establish a Jail Capital Project Account....Legislator Burt was concerned that this was a large amount of money to use from Contingency when repairs (or replacement) of the sewer system at the Jail will also soon become an expensive issue. He wasn't comfortable with two major projects being "active" at the same time. County Administrator Mitch Alger responded by saying that, first, when Ways & Means reviews the Sheriff's request, it might consider using Fund Balance as well as Contingency funds since we are still "early" in the Budget year. He went on to say, as regards the sewer issue, that some upgrades have been made, and that the cost of \$15,000 for pumping the system twice a year, have, so far, been sufficient to keep the major replacement issue at bay, particularly as it is a \$500,000 project. Additionally, the last proposal the County received from the Village adds a recurring cost of \$150,000 per year. Satisfied by this response, Legislator Burt indicated his willingness to support this request **[ADD:] as long as before funding, all large expenditures like water to the Jail and the closing of the Landfill were first considered.**

Subsequently, the Public Safety Committee meeting minutes of April 1, 2015, were approved, as amended, on a motion by Legislator McGraw, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

**Public Defender  
Monthly Report**

Public Defender Barbara Kelley said that her office is "on pace" for its regular caseload with 100 new files opened during the past month. Hearing no other comments regarding her pre-filed monthly report, Ms. Kelley went on to her action items.

**Accept & Appropriate ILS Grant Distribution #5 & Request to Create Second Position of Secretary to the Public Defender**

Ms. Kelley requested approval to accept and appropriate ILS Grant Distribution #5 funding of \$70,434 (per year for three years) as follows:

## Appropriations (\$70,434/year)

	Half Salary/Benefits Full-Time Secretary	\$ 8,831
	Half Salary of Second Assistant	\$ 35,000
	Raise for Full-Time Secretary	\$ 6,779
	Additional Personnel Expenses	\$ 3,912
A 1170.101	subtotal	\$ 54,522
A 1170.802 *	Retirement	\$ 5,935
A 1170.803 *	FICA	\$ 2,445
A 1170.804 *	Workers Comp	\$ 495
A 1170.805 *	Disability	\$ 80
A 1170.806 *	Health Ins	\$ 6,957
	<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 70,434</b>

## Revenues (\$70,434.00/year)

A 1170.3025.ILS5 *	ILS Grant Distribution #5	<b>Total Revenue \$ 70,434</b>
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Additionally, Ms. Kelley requested permission to abolish the part-time Secretary position and, in its place, create the second position of Secretary to the Public Defender (Grade 2, Step 2). The proposed salary is \$32,958. Approval of these requests was granted on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. **Prepare Resolution and Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Emergency Management and Fire Monthly Report**

Emergency Management and Fire Services Director Jeffrey Luckey was asked if the three responses Mr. Luckey noted in his monthly report were the total for the month. Mr. Luckey responded in the affirmative. Receiving no other comments, Mr. Luckey moved on to his action item.

### **Permission to Apply for SHSP-FY 2015 (State Homeland Security Program) Grant**

Mr. Luckey requested approval to apply for \$52,500 from SHSP-FY 2015 (State Homeland Security Program); the funds will be used as follows:

Public Safety Contract (Assist w/ Trailer-mounted generator to assist with power outages at Communication Towers and other government agencies in an emergency)	\$25,500
Public Safety Contract (Personal Protective Gear for District Coordinators)	\$10,000
Public Safety Contract (Assist w/ Medical Gear Bags for the Sheriff's Tactical Team on Trailer)	\$ 1,500
Public Safety Contract (Support Pictometry—Aerial Photography Images)	\$14,500
Public Safety Contract (Sustain the Director's Cell Phone)	\$ 1,000

Mr. Luckey indicated when/if he is notified of the award, he will return to the Committee with the appropriate MOE. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **STOP-DWI Monthly Report**

STOP-DWI Coordinator Linda Edwards, drawing from her pre-filed monthly report, gave an update on the two projects her interns were working on during the spring semester. The first,

the “What Does .08 Feel Like?” study generated positive comments from the participants. College students were provided with beer and/or mixed drinks to the point at which their blood alcohol would measure .08 percent. The participants drank between two and seven legal beverages during the event. Nine of the involved 13 students claim they are now drinking less than before the study. The students all found the test to be beneficial, helping them know their alcohol intake limits. Legislator Burt complimented Ms. Edwards, saying there is no one better suited for the job than she; however, he wanted to go on record echoing Legislator Decker’s previously stated reservations about the study’s methodology. As a parent and educator, he said, he would choose videos and written material over actual alcohol. Ms. Edwards responded that her Department does videos and printed information, but nothing makes an impact like experience. Ms. Edwards also updated the Committee on the “Fine Collection Project.” Ms. Edwards said that Intern Lexi Cooper had obtained lists from the Probation Department and the Justice Courts, totaling 86 names of people owing fines. Of the \$55,000 owed, the project collected \$3,100. They were not overly happy with the amount, but it was a beginning. She says the next step is to issue warrants to hold those people accountable.

### **District Attorney** **Monthly Report**

District Attorney Keith Slep said he was happy to report that despite a lot of activities last month (Hot Dog Day, Trout Derby, Maple Fest) there were no serious crimes that went through his office. Receiving no comments/questions from the Committee, Mr. Slep went on to say that he supported Ms. Edwards’ statement that experience has the biggest impact on underage or “new” drinkers. He added that since the legal drinking age was raised to 21, students who have not had experience with alcohol frequently binge drink in their dorm rooms. He said there is no supervision of this drinking, so students need to know for themselves just where the limit is. Secondly, he said, as regards the fines collection, that the project was an “opening salvo” and that using the bench warrants will be an important factor in continuing the effort. He added that some of the addresses of the delinquent account holders are out of date. However, this is a good start and will be an ongoing process. When asked if it was likely that NYS would legalize medical marijuana, Mr. Slep said it was highly likely.

### **Probation** **Monthly Report**

Probation Director Robert Starks entertained questions/comments on his pre-filed monthly report. Mr. Starks went on to say that his Department has launched a Facebook page and wanted to give the Committee a heads-up so members weren’t surprised if they received questions about it. As there was no discussion of his monthly report, Mr. Starks went on to his action item.

### **Budget Transfer**

Mr. Starks requested a transfer of \$900 from A3140.413 (Rentals) to A3140.201 (Equipment) to cover the cost of a new laptop for a Probation Officer. This amount of the transfer is based on recommendations made by the IT Department. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried. (One opposed: Legislator Burt) **Prepare Resolution**

### **Weights & Measures** **Monthly Report**

Weights & Measures Director Gilbert Green was unable to attend the meeting.

## **Sheriff's Office** **Monthly Report**

Sheriff Rick Whitney entertained comments/questions on his pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, he went on to highlight some items on the report: During April, the working inmates spent four days picking up trash along County Road 20 in Angelica, Friendship, and Cuba. He added that CR 20 looks much better. There was also a brief discussion of the overtime figures. However, it was noted that 55.7 percent of all overtime for the year is a result of contractual items. Sheriff Whitney then addressed his action items.

### **Request to Fill One Full-time E-911 Dispatcher**

Sheriff Whitney requested approval to fill one full-time E-911 Dispatcher position (AFSCME Council 66 Bargaining Unit, Step BASE). The full-time vacancy is due to a resignation. The request to fill was granted on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Request to Fill One Part-time E-911 Dispatcher**

Sheriff Whitney also requested approval to fill one part-time E-911 Dispatcher position (Non-union, Step BASE) position. The part-time vacancy is due to the anticipated promotion of a part-time individual to the vacant full-time position. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Request Authorization to Apply for FY2015 State Homeland Security Program**

Sheriff Whitney also requested that the Allegany Sheriff's Office be authorized to apply for its share of the tentatively awarded funds (\$17,500) under the FY2015 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). This is the Sheriff's portion of the grant referenced by Mr. Luckey above. Because the information arrived late, and because the application was due May 1, like Mr. Luckey, Sheriff Whitney submitted the application prior to the deadline. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### **Request Approval to Spend \$13,560 for Helmets with Night Vision using 2014 LETPP Grant Funds**

Sheriff Whitney requested approval to spend \$13,560 for helmets with night vision using 2014 LETPP (Law Enforcement Terrorist Prevention Program) Grant Funds. (Note: these funds can only be used on certain equipment listed by the program.) These helmets, he said, were purchased off state bid. When questioned, Sheriff Whitney noted that at this time, the Department does not have night vision helmets, and although his hope is that they never need to be used, having them is insurance for any future need. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

## **Old Business**

### **911 Radio Project Update**

There was nothing to report at this time.

## **New Business**

Legislator David Decker submitted a draft resolution requiring all employees and visitors to the County Courthouse and County Office Building to be fully screened when entering the building. There was some discussion about employees who work "off" or extra hours, at times when the deputies are not on duty at the main entrances. Other possible "glitches" to the proposal in its current form were also mentioned. The Sheriff concurred with this proposal that

everyone be screened. However, it was noted that the Sheriff's Office is currently working on a policies and procedures document. It was suggested that Legislator Decker work with the Sheriff's Office to incorporate his suggestions into the Sheriff's document. The new document will be presented at the June Public Safety meeting for further discussion.

**Good of the Order**

Legislator Burt informed the Committee that Tokyo Disney will be in Belfast the next day (Thursday, May 7) to film an educational "short" at the Bare Knuckle Boxing Hall of Fame. He invited all interested parties to attend.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board  
Allegany County Board of Legislators