

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JUNE 3, 2015**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Francisco, K. Graves, G. Green, S. Grusendorf, R. Hollis, C. Ivers, B. Kelley, J. Luckey, T. Miner, K. Monroe, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Starks, R. Swarthout, R. Whitney (Guest: Commissioner of New York State Commission of Correction Thomas Loughren)

Media Present: D. Donohue, *Olean Times Herald*; B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried to approve the Public Safety Committee minutes of May 6, 2015.

Public Defender

Monthly Report

Public Defender Barbara Kelley entertained questions/comments on her pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, she went on to say that it was a typical month in her office, with 100 new case files being opened.

Chief Defender Advisory Committee Meeting

Ms. Kelley went on to recap the most salient issues that arose at a meeting of the Chief Defender Advisory Committee that she attended last week. She said that as a result of a class action suit that occurred because Hurrell-Harring, five counties in NYS are now required to have legal counsel at every arraignment. She added that this will probably be a requirement for all counties in the state in the future. She added that this is not a viable practice for Allegany County because of the way our Justice Courts are set up. Other issues that arose at the meeting, she said include eligibility determinations (that is who is eligible for free counsel) as well as caseload limit standards which will determine a limit per attorney per year (court cases have to be tracked and reported to the State; however, there are variable beliefs as to what constitutes a "case"), among other issues. Ms. Kelley said that studies and surveys are being conducted, but she believes these requirements will be necessary for all counties in the future. She also indicated that there might be some question about how counties will pay for these changes. Ms. Kelley did say, however, that attendees were told that at this time, as far as can be determined, the ILS grants will continue at current levels. Finally, Ms. Kelley said that new RFPs will be issued to help counties fund assigned counsel.

Emergency Management and Fire Services

Monthly Report

Emergency Management and Fire Services Director Jeffrey Luckey, regarding his pre-filed monthly report, highlighted his participation in SADD/MADD activities over the course of the month. Mr. Luckey added that he will be attending the NYS Fire Chiefs' Convention and will report next month on the classes that he attended.

Authorization to Apply for LEMPG Grant

Mr. Luckey then presented an MOE requesting authorization to apply for a Homeland Security and Emergency Services LEMPG FY 2015 Grant. The explanation on the MOE read:

- “Labor cost for the three employees on a 50/50 split for work on the EOP (Emergency Operations Plan);
- Training used to enhance the capabilities of state and local emergency management personnel;
- Training related cost such as materials, supplies, and equipment;
- Travel and travel costs for attendance at FEMA or approved training courses and allowable programs;
- Conducting all hazards emergency management training, attending EMI training, and delivering train the trainer courses.

“Exercises—

- Funds used to design, develop, conduct, and evaluate an exercise, including planning, meeting space, and other facilitation costs;
- Developing and enhancing the Continuity of Operation (COOPP) and Continuity of Government (COG);
- Development and enhancement of emergency operations plans in integrating citizen/volunteer and other non-governmental organization resources and participation;
- Developing and enhancing logistics and resource management plans (to develop and enhance evacuation plans including plans for alerts/warning, crisis communications, pre-positioning of equipment for areas potentially impacted by mass evacuations, sheltering and re-entry).

“Allowable equipment through the EMPG program through categories-information: cyber security, interoperable communication, detection equipment, power equipment, CBRNE incident response vehicles, and physical Security Enhancement Equipment.

“Any remaining grant money will be used to purchase equipment for the Emergency Management Operations.”

The County share of grant will be \$23,417.

Authorization to apply for the grant was given on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

STOP-DWI

STOP-DWI Coordinator Linda Edwards was unable to attend the meeting.

District Attorney

Monthly Report

District Attorney Keith Slep was unable to attend the meeting.

Probation Department

Monthly Report

Probation Director Robert Starks indicated that his office had seen a rise in the juvenile population in the past few weeks. He said he did not know if this is a new trend or not. He added that summer is usually slow for Probation in this regard, but if this trend keeps up, it won't be this year.

Request to Fill Probation Officer Trainee Position

Mr. Starks requested permission to fill a Probation Officer Trainee (AFSCME, Grade 16, Step MIN.) position. Because a current Probation Officer will be resigning effective August 7, 2015, there is a need to fill the position. The incumbent currently has a caseload of high-risk youth (PINS Reform), conducts investigations, and has intake duties. Not filling this position would cause burdens upon other employees to have to absorb these work duties. Also, it will be difficult to continue to provide the level of service that we currently do if we are down an officer for too long a period of time. The Allegany County DSS reimburses the Probation Department for the full salary of this position. Currently it is funded at \$47,189. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator McGraw, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Weights & Measures**Monthly Report**

Weights & Measures Director Gilbert Green entertained comments/questions on his pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, he went on to say that the Tops Supermarket in Wellsville has installed four new self-check-out stations.

Sheriff's Office**Monthly Report**

Sheriff Rick Whitney also entertained questions/comments on his pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, he went on to introduce Thomas J. Loughren, Commissioner of New York State Commission of Correction who had just come from inspecting the Jail. He told the Committee that the Jail is clean (and he is a self-proclaimed stickler for cleanliness) and well-run, and that the attitudes of the Deputies as well as the operation overall was pretty impressive. He added, "I like what I see," when referring to the Jail. Mr. Loughren went on to thank the Committee (and all the Legislators) for what they do, saying he realizes the issues they are faced with on a daily basis.

Request to Fill Deputy Sergeant Position

The Sheriff's Office requested permission to fill one Deputy Sergeant position (ACDSA Local 3989 Council 82, Step BASE). This is the same position that was requested to fill in an MOE at the January 7, 2015, Public Safety meeting that was approved. The Deputy who filled that position has decided not to accept it and has returned to his previous Deputy status. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Budget Transfer for Equipment Room Renovation Project

The Sheriff's Office presented an MOE for a transfer of \$43,425 from the Contingency Account to establish a 911 Equipment Room Renovation Capital Project Account. These funds will be used in the design, bid package and clerk of the works for the 911 Equipment Room Renovation Project. This, said Lt. Shawn Grusendorf, is simply an FYI for this Committee as County Administrator noted that this issue actually falls under the jurisdiction of the Facilities and Communications Committee which will be presented with this information later this afternoon. There was some discussion of what the needs for all the new equipment are and the deadline for installing the equipment so that we don't lose the grant funds. There was also some discussion regarding the number of outstanding and expensive projects facing the County at this time and whether the Board, per Legislator Burt, should make some hard decisions and not keep putting things off. The original MOE presented to the Committee contained the following information/request:

(Renovations to 911 Center Equipment Room)

From Account No.

To Account No.

A 1990.429 (Contingency) \$43,425

H 3200.200 (911 Equipment Room Project) \$43,425

FISCAL IMPACT: \$ 43,425.00

New Business

Legislator Graves initiated a discussion about Rushford Lake, saying that the DEC is concerned about invasive species in the Lake and to that end, seems to be limiting access to the public boat launch. His concern is if the Lake is becoming a “private” lake, is it necessary for the County to pay for patrols by the Sheriff’s Office. He felt it isn’t right to have taxpayers support the patrols if the general public were being denied lake access. There was some discussion that perhaps some County representatives should meet with the Lake Association to discuss this. Chairman Crandall noted that the Towns of Rushford and Caneadea should also be involved if this, in fact, takes place. The Sheriff noted that his office is responsible to enforce order on public waterways; this is done mostly on weekends (Friday – Sunday) and on “off” day to mix it up.

Good of the Order

Legislator Healy congratulated the Sheriff and his entire Team on the report from Mr. Loughren.

Legislator Burt requested that when there is a dignitary who plans to speak to a Committee, we let him/her go first.

Board of Elections Commissioner Rick Hollis thanked the Sheriff for donating his facility for Election Inspectors’ training.

Legislator Decker requested a show of support for Senator Cathy Young in Olean on Saturday as he said Carl Palladino and Russ Thompson are planning a rally in an attempt to unseat her.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 following a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

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