

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
JULY 1, 2015**

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

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

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

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

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m. by Public Safety Committee Chairman Phil Curran.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to approve the Public Safety Committee minutes of June 3, 2015.

**Public Defender**

**Monthly Report**

Public Defender Barbara Kelley entertained questions/comments on her pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, she responded to Legislator Healy's inquiry regarding the progress on the resolution of her space needs. She said she hadn't heard anything as yet, but as the need in her office remains dire, she was hoping some progress was being made. County Administrator Mitch Alger said that the money had been appropriated to start basic renovations, creating a "shell" on the third floor of the County Office Building, but that is where the project stands at this time.

**Emergency Management and Fire Services**

**Monthly Report**

Emergency Management and Fire Services Director Jeffrey Luckey also entertained questions/comments on his pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, he went on to highlight the following items from the report: On June 15, EOM staff attended a Pre-CEPA meeting led by Mr. Luckey and Michelle Haggstrom in the Legislative Chambers. CEPA is the County Emergency Preparedness Assessment provided by the NYS DHSES. CEPA is a framework and tool to help State and local stakeholders assess risk, capabilities, and the potential need for support and resources during emergencies or disasters. The CEPA workshop was held on Wednesday, June 24, in the Situation Room in the Public Safety Building. Also, June 20-21, Mr. Luckey reported to the Prisoner Escape Search Incident Command center set up at the Friendship Bingo Hall where he was tasked with the job of Logistics Section Chief. From the perspective of IC this search was very well managed with many different agencies working very well together. Legislator Healy noted that comments he had heard confirmed Mr. Luckey's assessment of various agencies working cooperatively.

## **STOP-DWI**

### **Monthly Report**

STOP-DWI Coordinator Linda Edwards also entertained questions/comments on her pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, she went on to highlight the following items: she attended the STOP-DWI Mid-Year Meeting in Syracuse, June 3-4; she provided Bicycle Safety Presentations to nine schools (Wellsville, Belfast, Friendship, Whitesville, Scio, Genesee Valley, Bolivar-Richburg, Fillmore and Cuba-Rushford) from June 5-19; she participated in Genesee Valley CS PTO Family Picnic with bicycle safety info on June 22; and she attended the Traffic Safety Board monthly meeting on June 23.

## **District Attorney**

### **Monthly Report**

District Attorney Keith Slep told the Committee there was nothing new to report other than what appeared on his pre-filed monthly report. He added that he was glad there was no excitement to rival that of the Dannemora prison break. Legislator Burt told Mr. Slep that he appreciated the PSAs he's heard on the local radio. Mr. Slep responded that they are sponsored by the Bar Association and that it is his pleasure to provide the "voice." When asked, Mr. Slep said the State Legislature did not pass the proposed legislation which will raise the age of adult offenders to age 18. He did say that the Attorney General would be in charge of all civilian fatalities by police officers from now on.

### **Monthly Report**

Probation Director Robert Starks was unable to attend the meeting, but his pre-filed monthly report was distributed to Committee members.

### **Accept Probation State Aid Block Grant**

Mr. Alger, on behalf of Mr. Starks, distributed an MOE requesting the acceptance of a Probation State Aid Block Grant in the amount of \$151,101 for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year. Mr. Alger noted that the money has already been budgeted for 2015 under account A3140.101 (Personnel) and revenue account A3140.3310.00 (Probation Block Grant). During the discussion, it was noted that this is a grant that is received annually for services mandated by the State. Acceptance of the grant was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

## **Weights & Measures**

### **Monthly Report**

Weights & Measures Director Gilbert Green was unable to attend the meeting, but his pre-filed monthly report was distributed to Committee members.

## Sheriff

### Monthly Report

Sheriff Rick Whitney entertained questions/comments on his pre-filed monthly report. Receiving none, he went on to respond to Legislator Hopkins' question regarding the cost to the County for its participation in the search for the escaped Dannemora prisoners who had allegedly been sighted in Allegany County. He said that they are working on determining an exact figure, but at this time he estimates somewhere between 10 and \$15,000. When asked if there was any chance the State would reimburse the County for that expense, Sheriff Whitney responded that he has heard rumors regarding the possibility of reimbursement, so he was keeping his ears open for something definite. Legislator Healy again noted that all the comments he had heard regarding this event indicated that mutual aid was rapid and well done.

### Local Law for Project Lifesaver Program

The Sheriff's Office has joined Project Lifesaver and requested the adoption of a local law to collect the associated fees. The local law has been reviewed by the County Attorney and has his approval. Project Lifesaver International provides lifesaving equipment and training to 50 NYS law enforcement agencies, providing transmitters for adults with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia as well as children with cognitive impairment to be potentially be more easily located.

### *A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES COLLECTED BY THE ALLEGANY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE*

Be it enacted by the Allegany County Legislature as follows:

**Section 1.** The Allegany County Sheriff's Office is hereby empowered to collect fees for various services under the Project Lifesaver Program.

**Section 2.** The fees to be charged are as follows:

Initial Startup/Entry into the program	\$ 350
Monthly Battery Maintenance Fee	\$ 10

**Section 3.** The procedures for the collection of such fees shall be as prescribed by the appropriate laws of the State of New York and any amendments thereto, or as determined by the Allegany County Sheriff where the state has not enacted procedures.

**Section 4.** Any prior resolution or local law pertaining to the collection of fees by the Allegany County Sheriff's Office is hereby amended to the extent necessary to comply with the intent of this law.

**Section 5.** This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law.

There was much discussion regarding how this program is projected to operate as regards law enforcement agencies. Sheriff Whitney indicated that via a grant, he had received 13 free kits/bracelets. If a citizen wished to participate after the original 13 kits have been distributed to people with a certified medical statement attesting to a condition which caused a loved one to wander, the Sheriff's Office would be able to charge those participants the cost of the kit and the monthly battery fee. He also noted that participants need to adhere to all conditions or the Sheriff's Office had the authority to take the kit/bracelet back. There was also discussion regarding who would be trained as "locators" for this program. Legislator Graves suggested that the State Police be included in this program as the Sheriff's Office has no road

patrol. Despite some unknowns regarding the project, approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

#### **Permission to Fill PT Confidential Secretary Position**

Sheriff Whitney requested permission to fill the PT Confidential Secretary position that became vacant in his office. The Confidential Secretary position is authorized by the County Law and serves at the pleasure of the Sheriff. This person, along with a current part-time Confidential Secretary will allow full coverage for the position. The secretaries process Pistol Permit transactions, bail transactions, and respond to initial inquiries of customers or other personnel seeking information from the Sheriff's Office. The Office would be unable to maintain the current operations without this staff member. Permission to fill the position was granted on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m. following a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

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