

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
December 2, 2015
NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: M. Alger, H. Budinger, D. Decker, L. Edwards, M. Evans, D. Fanton, K. Graves, G. Green, S. Grusendorf, A. Guyot, R. Hollis, C. Ivers, C. Jessup, B. Kelley, K. LaForge, J. Luckey, T. Miner, K. Monroe, D. Pullen, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, R. Scott, K. Slep, R. Starks, R. Swarthout, R. Whitney

Media Present: No media present.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Public Safety Committee Chairman Phil Curran.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the Public Safety Committee minutes of November 4, 2015.

Public Defender

Monthly Report

Public Defender Barbara Kelley submitted her monthly report and asked if anyone had any questions. She noted things are stable, and the caseload is about the same as last year. Legislator Curran asked what ineligible means on her report. Ms. Kelley responded it is individuals who make too much money. She added most individuals who apply for services are eligible. The State is also working on standardizing the eligibility guidelines. She believes when this happens, there will be an increase in the people who will be eligible for services. Ms. Kelley asked if they could schedule a special meeting to discuss some issues regarding the Conflicts Office and Assigned Counsel. Legislator Curran replied yes, and will look at dates to have a special meeting.

Emergency Management and Fire

Monthly Report

Director Jeff Luckey stated he would like to highlight some items on his monthly report. Mr. Luckey said he added three new Fire Investigators; they are Brian Goodridge from Alfred Station Fire Department, Chris Plummer from Belmont, and Scott Kenyon, the current Deputy Coordinator. He attended the New York State Arson Seminar and Workshop at the New York State Fire Academy. Mr. Luckey also attended the Regional Fire Administrator's meeting at the Fire Academy. He also met with Senator Chuck Schumer in Alfred. Mr. Luckey noted Alfred Fire Department did a great job hosting the meeting. Many Allegany County Fire Departments have received funding for equipment and other needs since the program's inception. Senator Schumer wants to maintain funding to allow more departments access to the critical funds. Legislator Curran said it was an interesting meeting. Mr. Luckey distributed the Damages Required for Disaster Declaration. It is a guideline, and Allegany County has to have at least \$174,000 in damages, and New York State needs a total of \$27,323,124 in damages in order to have a federal declaration. Mr. Luckey said the July storm that affected the towns of Grove,

Allen, and Granger met the County threshold, but New York State fell well below their limit. So, there wasn't any federal funding for that storm. He added Senator Cathy Young was looking for the State to release some funds for that storm damage, but he hasn't heard anything.

STOP-DWI

Monthly Report

Coordinator Linda Edwards stated she did not have a lot to report. She said she was asked to speak at the 4-H Club in Pike about Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) and bicycle safety, and it was well received. As a result of that presentation, she is going to talk to the Pike Junior Firemen about DWI tonight. Ms. Edwards said the DWI Christmas tree is up, and there will be cookies and wassail on December 14, 2015.

District Attorney

Monthly Report

District Attorney Keith Slep said he did not have anything to report. He thanked the Sheriff's Office for providing a place for the Traffic Diversion Program. Legislator Curran asked if there was any big funding news for 2016. Mr. Slep said his funding is continuing, and he did not foresee any big surprises.

Probation

Monthly Report

Director Bob Starks noted he did not have anything to add to his monthly report. He reported the annual State Aid Plan was submitted in May, and approved in November.

Weights & Measures

Monthly Report

Director Gilbert Green stated he hasn't found any skimmers, and they are still looking. Legislator Burt asked about the credit card training session. Mr. Green said a skimmer is something a person puts inside a credit card reader and the rest of the pump so they can get your credit card number. They will make their own credit cards with those numbers, or sell them to someone who will. Legislator Burt asked if it was something you can see from the outside. Mr. Green said yes there is one you can see from the outside, but the rest you can only see from the inside. He said seven stations around New York State have found skimmers. Legislator Healy asked if he can do the same thing with Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs). Mr. Green replied no; he doesn't cover ATMs. He noted sometimes criminals use cameras above the ATM to get your credit card numbers. Legislator Graves commented it was an interesting training.

Legislator Curran asked if Mr. Green finds much on fuel samples. Mr. Green replied one time the truck driver dropped a load in the wrong tank. He also reported that in Andover, one place switched over from gas and gas to gas and diesel, and they had a single vent port. When they filled up the gas, it would run into the diesel. Luckily, there hasn't been any damage to vehicles. Also, Mr. Green reported he failed one scale at Giant, and they fixed it the next day.

Sheriff's Office

Monthly Report

Sheriff Rick Whitney noted he submitted his monthly report, and was willing to entertain any questions. Legislator Decker asked if there was any way to gauge the survivor rate of the pheasants in the Pheasant Program. Sheriff Whitney said there really isn't a way because they do not tag the birds. He said people have reported seeing chicks in the spring, but it is hard to tell if they are part of the program because they are not tagged. Legislator Decker asked if the pheasants were released in different areas. Sheriff Whitney said yes they are released in Fillmore, Cuba, Almond, and Bolivar. He said they released about 1,500 pheasants this year. Sheriff Whitney noted it is hard to find landowners willing to have pheasants released on their property because they have to allow open hunting all the time. Legislator Curran asked if the pheasants can be released on State or County land. Sheriff Whitney said yes, it would have to go through the Pheasant Board because they go out and look at the land to make sure it is a good habitat. Legislator Burt asked if the program has a positive effect on the inmates. Sheriff Whitney said yes, and it brings business into the County. Legislator Burt asked if there was anything negative about the program; Sheriff Whitney said no.

Legislator Burt asked about Shop with a Cop and Beard for Bucks. Sheriff Whitney said Shop with a Cop is an annual event. Officers from all over Allegany County go to Kmart and take kids referred by the Department of Social Services shopping. The Beards for Bucks started because a few years ago, the officers asked if they could grow beards for hunting season. He originally said no, but then he said they could if they donated \$25 for Shop with a Cop. The officers can grow beards from October 1 to December 31. About 40 officers participated this year, generating \$1,000 in donations. There is also a contest of who has the best beard, and the winner gets their \$25 back.

Permission to Fill Corrections Officer

The Sheriff's Office requested to fill one full-time Corrections Officer (Council 82, Local 3989 Bargaining Unit, Step 0) position due to the resignation of a Corrections Officer. Legislator Burt asked if the position was needed, or could they save money. Sheriff Whitney said the position is needed. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Accept and Renew Inter-Municipal Agreement with Monroe County

The Sheriff's office requested to renew the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Monroe County to provide jail security services for Allegany County inmates at the Rochester Psychiatric Center Forensic Unit. Allegany County will pay Monroe County \$140 per inmate per day. The term of the contract is January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2020. The contract has been reviewed by the County Attorney and County Treasurer. Sheriff Whitney stated it is a renewal of a current contract. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator McGraw, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Appointments to the Fire Advisory Board Committee

At the November 19, 2015, Fire Advisory Board meeting, the following people were nominated to serve on the Fire Advisory Board from January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016:

Kevin Gagne – Alfred
Judson Stearns, Jr. – Alfred Station
Paul Edwards – Allentown

Gerald Gayford – Fillmore
Carl Greene – Friendship
Loren Luzier – New Hudson

Emily Ormsby – Almond
Brian Ennis – Andover
Rick Abbott – Angelica
David Jennings – Belfast
Brandon LaValley – Belmont
Terry Richardson – Bolivar
Scott Kenyon – Canaseraga
John Wilson - Cuba

Sherman Gage – Richburg
Dan Metcalf – Rushford
Tim Voss – Short Tract
David Sweet – Wellsville
Dennis Graves – Whitesville
LeRoy Ives – Willing
Alan Mills – Wiscoy-Rosburg

Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle requested a resolution to appoint these people to the Fire Advisory Board for a one-year term of office commencing January 1, 2016, and expiring December 31, 2016. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Appointments to the Traffic Safety Board

The Traffic Safety Board requests the Board of Legislators to appoint/reappoint the following individuals for a three-year term on the Traffic Safety Board commencing January 1, 2016, and expiring December 31, 2018:

Jay Ballard
Kevin Demick
Guy James
Brian Perkins
Tim Walsh

The request was approved on a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Building Security

Legislator Decker said in April, the Legislators proposed a resolution regarding building security. He said Legislator Philip Curran, Lieutenant Shawn Grusendorf, Sergeant Andy Bigelow, Deputy Clark Brown, and he recently had a meeting to discuss building security. He reported there are two metal detectors, but only one x-ray machine. So, they would have to purchase one more x-ray machine. Legislator Decker asked if the current x-ray machine has a service contract or has it been upgraded. Mr. Grusendorf didn't know the status, but would find out.

Legislator Decker also said there a quite a few people who have retired or are no longer County employees, and they still have keys to the building. He noted the exterior locks have to be changed. He said there are some people who come to work early and/or stay late. These individuals would have swipe cards and would have to enter a designated door during non-business hours. This door is located on the lower floor of the Courthouse, and has a camera to monitor who is going in and out. They could also be made time sensitive. Legislator Decker said they discussed the doors near the metal detectors having the ability to magnetically lock. Legislator Decker said Mr. Brown would like to schedule a hostage/building lockdown/active shooter drill on a holiday. They feel it is necessary to conduct this drill to get everyone trained.

Legislator Decker distributed a proposed resolution requiring all visitors and County employees to be screened. Legislator Graves asked if County Attorney Tom Miner has seen the resolution. Legislator Decker said Mr. Miner prepared it as a preliminary one. Legislator

Decker said it may have to be done in steps because they need to put things in place. Legislator Curran said there will only be two entries for employees and the public. He noted everyone has to go through security when they come in the building during business hours. Legislator Healy asked about Court employees. Legislator Curran said they can use the swipe cards during non-business hours. Legislator Curran stated that their plan is for everyone to be screened when the building is open.

Legislator Healy commented that there is another building security issue; the control desk downstairs needs to be addressed. He believes the Deputies behind the desk can't get out from behind the desk if there is an incident. Legislator Curran agreed the space downstairs would have to be rearranged. Legislator Healy asked about security outside and around the County grounds. Legislator Curran said they are not going to address this issue at this point. Legislator Healy noted Legislator Graves had previously headed a subcommittee on building security, and wondered if they had talked with him. Legislator Graves said the cameras were deficient at one point. Mr. Grusendorf reported they have been upgraded. Legislator Healy suggested examining and discussing these issues some more before moving forward. Legislator Healy is not against the resolution, but believes a comprehensive plan would be better. Legislator Curran said it will need to be implemented, and there will be more research and trial and error.

Chairman Crandall talked about security at the State level. People who have swipe cards at the State have an express lane, and don't have to go through the whole screening process. He thought this may be practical for everyday employees. Legislator Decker commented yes it may be practical, but someone can come back from lunch with a weapon. He wants to protect employees and the public to the best of their ability. Chairman Crandall asked about the cost. He said at one point it was \$100,000 for cameras, and there was no action taken at the time. Legislator Curran thought that cost was for a full building security system. He said the cost would be to redo the lobby and get another x-ray machine. Legislator Jessup wondered about a higher reoccurring expense every year.

Legislator Burt commented it is unfortunate to live in these times where this is important. He believes they are ethically responsible to deter any attack, and if they don't act then they are being negligent. They need to do everything they can to slow down someone, and he will support whatever needs to be done. Sheriff Whitney commented at some point they have to make a decision whether the building is secure or not. Legislator Healy agreed with the Sheriff. Public Defender Barbara Kelley asked about County employees that work at other locations. Legislator Curran said it doesn't affect them unless they come to the County building. Legislator Decker said they are looking at the County Office Building because that is where most of the County employees work. County Treasurer Terri Ross would like them to consider the employee traffic flow. There are a lot of employees, and some of the County offices are not easy to get to. Emergency Management and Fire Director Jeff Luckey noted they should not just rely on the equipment, but educate people to look at situations before something happens. Deputy County Administrator/Personnel Officer Bobby Budinger requested the resolution be very clear cut and concrete. He noted it will have to apply to everyone. District Attorney Keith Slep was concerned about the judges and attorneys going through security. He thinks the Office of Court Administration will not be in favor of this. Commissioner Rick Hollis commented employees should wear their identification badge all the time, so you know who is a County employee. Legislator Healy asked what other counties have for building security. Mr. Grusendorf said Steuben and Cattaraugus County have everyone go through security. Legislator LaForge suggested looking into Schuyler County's building security because they had an incident about fifteen years ago.

Good of the Order

Legislator Burt stated he visited a wonderful museum in Bethel, New York. He noted on one of the walls there is a letter from the Allegany County Sheriff's Department from 1969. Legislator Burt said the letter was from Sheriff Burdick, and it said the Sheriff's Department staff was not trained in riot control, and they could not help.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 following a motion by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Scott, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators