

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 8, 2008 - 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Thompson; Supervisors Grattidge, Jenkins, Veitch; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Jim Murphy, D.A.; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Bob Palmieri, John Mazur, Fire Advisory Board; League of Women Voters Reps (2); Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the June 10th meeting. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay distributed copies of the Fire Services Report for June, and he briefly reviewed it. He stated the Fire Services Training Courses are instructed through his office and paid for by State monies by the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. He said every year, we are allotted instructional hours. He said in this year's OFPC budget, we will be getting a shortfall of hours. He stated the Fire Advisory Board has requested the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution requesting the State Government to increase the field training budget for the Office of Fire Prevention and Control by a minimum of \$800,000 to meet the needs of the State Fire Training Program. Mr. Palmieri said the Fire Advisory Board would like this to be adopted at the County level to be passed along to the Governor and State Legislature. Mr. Tremblay pointed out they received the same money as last year, but there are additional expenses involved, i.e., salaries for instructors, and in addition, we are not able to get additional instructors to replace ones we had. Mr. Hellwig said the State is not keeping up with the rising personnel costs, and the funding results in a lower number of training hours. The \$800,000 would keep up with the cost of inflation, he said. Mr. Palmieri mentioned the \$800,000 is for Statewide training. **Mr. Grattidge moved to approve a resolution Requesting the Governor and the Legislature Of The State Of New York To Increase The Funding For Firefighter Training In Order To Establish A Realistic Funding Base To Ensure The Delivery Of The Fire Service Protection Within New York State.** Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Murphy stated the NYS District Attorneys' Conference will be held in Saratoga Springs July 24 - 26, and 4,000 D.A.'s and A.D.A.'s have been invited to come experience Saratoga County. He requested a **resolution to accept Legislative grants of \$5,000 and \$35,000 to offset expenses of this conference.** He said as President, it always goes through the County where the President is,

and the next President will be from Staten Island. **Mr. Grattidge moved to accept these grants. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Murphy requested a **resolution to accept an Aid to Prosecution Grant of \$56,972 from the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services.** He said they received this every year from DCJS to be used to target violent crime and to offset costs that they incur. **Mr. Jenkins moved to accept this grant. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Butler distributed copies of the Animal Shelter Report for June. He said they had an increase in the number of animals submitted to the rabies lab due to the bat population. He stated they have 80% of the equipment bought and received to start neutering cats at the Shelter.

Mr. Butler said Sloppy Kisses had a Patriotic Pet Pooch contest on Sunday which was well attended. He said Mayor Johnson was one of the judges. He distributed copies of a photo of the winning pooch. He stated all of the proceeds went to the Animal Shelter. He said next week, they will be at the County Fair all week.

Mr. Butler said there will be a rabies clinic tonight. He stated the next major event is the Meow Luau on September 7th at the Fairground. This is an all cat event and will be held indoors in case of rain.

Mr. Lent distributed copies of his monthly report for July. He stated construction on the tower sites at Providence and Milton has begun. He distributed copies of photos of the work being done by the contractors at the Providence site. He said today, the excavation for the Milton site was started. This is absolute progress being made in the construction of the radio system, and they are important first steps, he stated. He said in talking to the County Attorney, he encouraged him to come to the Committee to seek a **resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Board to execute necessary documents relative to easements for towers on property not owned by the County at the following locations: Horsehill Road-Town of Day; Route 9N-Town of Lake Luzerne; Radar Road-Town of Stillwater; Brookwood Road-Town of Halfmoon; North Shore Road-Town of Hadley; and Fraker Mountain (Roger Scott)-Town of Edinburg.** **Mr. Jenkins moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent requested a **resolution to grant an easement to National Grid for the purpose of establishing primary electrical service at our Providence tower site and authorizing the cost for the primary service at \$8,372.50 (cost budgeted in**

the radio project capital fund). **Mr. Grattidge moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent said they had a professional go out and give us estimates of the standing timber of the landowners.

Mr. Lent said the responses to the Requests For Information from radio system vendors are due July 15th.

Mr. Grattidge displayed the 21st Century Local Government Report on Efficiency and Competitiveness that was released by the Governor's Office. It recommends that localities consolidate their dispatching to be done at the county level. He said the County handles all of the cell calls for the 911 system and does the dispatching for the whole County except for: Cities of Saratoga Springs and Mechanicville, Villages of Ballston Spa, Stillwater and Waterford. Maybe we can send this report along to those municipalities suggesting that they look for ways to consolidate this service by approaching the County, he said. Mr. Lent said from time to time, we have gone through this. Occasionally, municipalities join the County system, he added. Mr. Hellwig said these individual answering points have not been willing to give up their independence. Mr. Grattidge said this is just something to take a look at.

Chairman Thompson said he received a letter from a Trooper about gating the County Airport. Right now, there is access where anybody can go into there at night, he said. He stated he has been getting calls about kids partying there, and he has found cars underneath airplanes around 11:00 at night. He said he has also received a call from National Security. They are talking about two gates to stop people from going in where the airplanes are, he said. He stated once you break a lock off of a plane, you can get into it, and you don't need a key to start a plane. He said he would like to refer this matter to the Buildings & Grounds Committee as something that should be done, as it is the responsible thing to do. He said he spoke to the FBO at the Airport today, and they are in favor of keeping people out. Mr. Hellwig said this matter will be put on the Buildings & Grounds Committee agenda for next month.

On a motion by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann

