

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

**March 12, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Thompson; Supervisors Grattidge, Jenkins, Veitch, Wormuth, Yepsen; Sausville; Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Sheriff Jim Bowen; Undersheriff Mike Woodcock; Jim Petrone, Motorola; Robert Palmieri, Fire Advisory Board; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Mark Rider, Co. Attorney; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Press

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Veitch moved to approve the minutes of the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.

Sheriff Bowen distributed copies of his February report on Commission on Inmates' Collect Calls; # of tickets issued for various checkpoints; and Plate Hunter Results. He mentioned last month, one of their vehicles that had the plate hunter was involved in an accident, and it took about a month to install it in another car.

Sheriff Bowen stated they applied for a Homeland Security grant for \$117,000, and we need to accept this to be spent on mobile radios for the patrol cars and some portable radios that will be usable when the State gets their 911 lines up, and this will be state-of-the-art equipment. **Mr. Grattidge moved to accept this grant. Mrs. Wormuth seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Thompson stated there are some wooden lockers at the Sheriff's Dept., and he would like to see these replaced with metal lockers that would be moveable into a new building. Sheriff Bowen stated a few years ago, he requested certain equipment, and his submission request for lockers was taken out. He said Bob Curtis, of Curtis Lumber, donated plywood, and his St. Joseph's Workshop built the wooden lockers. Chairman Thompson stated money will be found to purchase the metal lockers. Sheriff Bowen said he will give the information to Mr. Hellwig on what will be needed.

Sheriff Bowen thanked the Committee for the door that was repaired and the beautiful lock on it, and also for repairing the floor.

Mr. Carr requested a **resolution approving the 2008 Pre-Trial & Community Work Order Service Plans and accepting \$37,500 in State aid.** We do have a 5-year contract with the NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, but each year, they require us to approve the Annual Plan, he said. We are in the third year of this, he added. **Mr. Grattidge moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Rider discussed a property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. He said this would remove the ambulance and fire district tax from their tax bills because they are being taxed for what they are doing. He said the Town of Malta requested Home Rule legislation through Assemblyman McDonald. He said this exemption would allow any town to pass its own local law. He said he gave the draft legislation to the Chairman, and this gives an idea how the law would work. He said the Legislative & Research Committee figured because these people come under this Committee's jurisdiction, they wanted this Committee's reaction to it. **Mr. Jenkins moved this for discussion. Mrs. Wormuth seconded.**

Chairman Thompson said he is not sure this is what we want to do. This does not cover a lot of volunteers who are in my town, just those who are in districts, he said. He said he is not against this, but he would like to appoint a subcommittee to look at this to see what would be the best thing to do for all volunteers. There are other exemptions that these people get, he said. They get 10% off their property tax, IRS gives them a deduction, and this would give them a third one, he added. He said he is a veteran, but he does not take the veteran exemption to have other people have to pay for it. We cannot keep pushing these taxes onto people who do not volunteer or haven't been in service, he said. He said he has contracts in his town with two fire departments, and none of the volunteers will get this benefit. He appointed a subcommittee consisting of: Mrs. Wormuth as chair; Supervisor Jack Lawler; Supervisor Joanne Yepsen; John Frolish, Tn. of Milton; Ed Tremblay; and he requested Mrs. Wormuth to pick a firefighter and ambulance worker to also be members.

Mr. Butler distributed copies of the February report for the Animal Shelter, and he briefly reviewed it. In discussing upcoming events, he stated on March 27<sup>th</sup>, Image of Saratoga is doing a Cutest Canine, and 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the Shelter. On May 3, the Shelter along with

Dogs In Need Everywhere (DINE) will be having coloring and photo contests for Pet Appreciation Week on Broadway in Saratoga Springs. He said for Pet Appreciation Week, you can lick your dog's face; bring your cat a dead bird or mouse; bury a bone for your dog; learn to purr; eat on the floor with your pet; and find something awful and roll in it with your pet. May 10<sup>th</sup> will be the second annual Busy Bone 500 Dog Walk at the Fairground which is organized by Carol Lang along with Friends of the Saratoga County Animal Shelter helping out. He said they will be at the County Fair in July. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the second annual fundraiser will be held at the Saratoga National Golf Club.

Mr. Butler requested a **resolution amending Resolution 83-07 to increase feline diagnostic fees.** He mentioned the kit costs \$12.38, and he would like to have the fee raised to \$13.00. He also requested that he be authorized to make all future changes to shelter diagnostic fees without having to amend the resolution each time. **Mrs. Wormuth moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Butler reported that five proposals were received for the design of a new Animal Shelter, and these were whittled down to three. A subcommittee of the Buildings & Grounds Committee will be meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> to interview these consultants, he said.

Mr. Lent distributed copies of his March Monthly Departmental Report, and he briefly reviewed its contents pertaining to the new radio system and a hazard mitigation grant.

Mr. Tremblay distributed copies of his Fire Services Report for February, and he reviewed its contents pertaining to Fire Training Center Classroom Use; Burn Building and Smoke House Use; State Fire Training courses that were conducted, and Fire Activities. He mentioned that the furnace was not the cause of the fire on February 11<sup>th</sup> in the Village of Corinth.

Mr. Tremblay requested **approval for an extension of the State Homeland Security Grant from 6/30/08 to 6/30/09.** **Mr. Grattidge moved to approve this grant extension. Chairman Thompson seconded. Unanimous.** Mr. Tremblay stated a spectrometer, protective clothing, a laptop and projector have been purchased, and they are in the process of purchasing HazMat software and communications equipment.

Mr. Palmieri stated he is the new Chairman of the County Fire Advisory Board. He said the Fire Advisory Board is very active, and he is here to pledge any service they can offer. He said his contact information is on the letter that he distributed to the Committee members.

Mr. Veitch stated the State is removing Troopers who were assigned to the Gaming and Raceway. Currently, there are nine, and they are being taken away without any funding. He said he has been in touch with the City of Saratoga Springs' Police Chief, and he is evaluating what the City needs to do. Mr. Grattidge stated the VLT money and the removal of the State Police have significant impacts to both the City and the County. He said the Governor's budget called to maintain that money, and that is all the more reason it should be maintained. The State needs to step up and shoulder those impacts, he said. Ms. Yepsen said Assemblyman Tedisco asked the City to look at their costs, and it might behoove us to have the County figures as well. She mentioned the Finance Commissioner wants the costs and expenses of what this costs the City, she added.

Chairman Thompson announced that the new date and time for these Committee meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m., he stated.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann