

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 12, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Thompson; Supervisors Grattidge, Veitch, Wormuth, Yepsen, Hargrave; Rowland; Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; John DeMartino, Tom Salvadore, County Coroners; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Shawn Pepe, M/ACOM; Ann Marie French, The Saratogian

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Grattidge moved to approve the October 14th minutes. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Butler briefed the Committee on his monthly report stating 245 animals were turned in – 190 by County residents and 49 by animal control; 38 were returned back to owner; 203 adopted out; 36 euthanised; 8 submitted to the rabies lab with 1 skunk from Stillwater testing positive; 38 male cats were neutered at the Shelter. As of today, 710 animals were vaccinated at the rabies clinic and 1230 were done at the Shelter. The last rabies clinic for this year will be held on Tuesday, November 18th. Next year, they are scheduled from March through November, he said.

Mr. Salvadore requested a raise for the two pathologists they contract with. He said Dr. Jack Paston's fee is \$500 for each autopsy, and he hasn't had a raise since 2000. We are requesting that he be raised to \$650 per autopsy, and he also gets fees for signing a death certificate and scene investigations. He said Dr. Mike Sikirica is a forensic pathologist who is also a medical examiner for Albany and Rensselaer Counties. His fee was changed to \$600 in 2005 with a request it be raised to \$675 for this year, but it was not acted on. He is requesting he be raised to \$800 per autopsy. He is also an expert on testimony, he said.

Mr. DeMartino stated Susan Hayes receives \$100 in assisting per autopsy, and she will be going over the minor contract limit for this year. We will need a permanent contract for her, he said. Mr. Hellwig said what is happening this year is the numbers are up. **Mr. Veitch moved to extend the cap on the contract for Susan Hayes to \$15,000. Mrs. Wormuth seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Grattidge moved to authorize raising the fee for Jack Paston from \$500 to \$650 per autopsy effective 1/1/09. Ms. Yepsen seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Grattidge moved to authorize raising the fee for Mike Sikirica from \$600 to \$800 per autopsy effective 1/1/09. Ms. Yepsen seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent reviewed his November Monthly Departmental Report. He said bids were received for the construction of the roadway to our new communications site on Fraker Mt. in Edinburg. The low bid was received from Bombard Excavating of Middle Grove at \$191,000, and six other bids were received. He mentioned this is \$10,000 below the engineer's estimate. **Mr. Grattidge moved to accept the bid of Bombard Excavating for \$191,000. Ms. Wormuth seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent said bids were received for radio maintenance services for our existing public safety communications system. The last time the maintenance contract was bid was in 2005. The new contract will cover our current equipment, and as we deploy new radio equipment, there are provisions for this contract to be reduced. There are portions of our current radio system that will continue to operate even after the full deployment of the new radio system. There was only one bidder, Capital Digitronics, our current maintenance provider, at a cost of \$71,550. He said he expects that by the end of November, we will be able to reduce it by \$6,000 per year with the removal of our old microwave system, and, therefore, the initial contract price will be \$65,550. **Mr. Grattidge moved to accept the bid of Capital Digitronics for the radio maintenance contract at \$71,550. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent reported on the beaver dam emergency in the Town of Greenfield, November 3 – 10. Mr. Rowland reported they still have a week + of drainage to go. We had 24 agencies working on this project for three days almost around the clock. The recommendation is Upper Hudson will look at ways of correcting that situation. Chairman Thompson said when he got turned away from the area, he called the Sheriff's Department, and they didn't know what was going on. We have to get all of these departments together with these issues, he said.

Chairman Thompson said he went to a meeting this morning regarding Dispatchers. He said it is his understanding the County is buying base stations only for the County, but what about the Village of Ballston Spa? The Community Emergency Corps is planning on leaving the Village dispatch and going with County dispatch because the Village won't have the base station for these calls. Mr. Lent said he does not believe that will be affected. Chairman Thompson said how many base station will we be getting? We will have them for the County, but what about the other 2 – 3 other organizations that do their own dispatching? Mr. Tremblay said that would be municipal equipment, and we have never done anything for them. Chairman Thompson said he believes the Village dispatchers will be off and won't receive any calls. Mr. Lent said they shouldn't be affected. Chairman Thompson asked why is Community Emergency Corps going to County dispatch? Mr. Lent said he doesn't know. Mr. Tremblay said due to the volume of the calls they get, 70% or so of their calls are outside of the Village. Those calls go into County dispatch and then get transferred to Village dispatch. Mr. Lent stated the Village should be able to continue doing what they do. Chairman Thompson said Community feels they will not be able to dispatch their calls after the first of the year. Mr. Lent said nothing will change after the first of the year. They will be able to continue to dispatch if they choose to on the frequency they use now. If Community chooses to go to County dispatch, that is their choice, he said. Chairman Thompson said he needs more information on this. When the new system goes into effect, I do not know where the Ballston Spa F.D. and P.D. will stand, he stated. Will this also affect Saratoga Springs, Mechanicville and Waterford, he asked. Mr. Lent said we will not be diminishing anybody's capability. We have stated that time and time again, he said. Chairman Thompson said he does not want to see anything hampered. He suggested that Mr. Lent talk to the Village of Ballston Spa about this. This Committee does not understand radio frequencies, and we want to know all of the calls will be able to be taken, he said.

Mr. Tremblay reviewed the October Fire Services Report.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann