

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 13, 2009 – 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Grattidge, Jenkins, Rowland, Wright; Wood; Thompson; Spencer Hellwig, Mgt. Analyst; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Jim Murphy, District Attorney; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; John Ciulla, Public Defender; Martin Glastetter, Milton; Press

Chairman Wormuth called the meeting to order.

Mr. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2008 meeting. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Wormuth appointed Mr. Wright as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Mr. J. Murphy requested **resolutions to accept the following grant money:**

Recruitment and Retention Grant - \$27,336. Mr. Murphy said this is the third year of grant money from DCJS used to assist in retaining ADA's to prevent them from leaving to go to the private sector. In exchange for this, we ask for a three year commitment. He said it is divided evenly between the full-time Assistant D.A.'s. **Mr. Rowland moved to accept this grant. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.**

Crime Victims' Board Grant - \$71,200. Mr. Murphy said they have received a grant for many years. They deal with 8,600 crimes per year, and they have 2 ½ Victims' Advocates. **Mr. Grattidge moved to accept this grant. Mr. Rowland seconded. Unanimous.**

Operations Impact Grant - \$45,000. Mr. Murphy said we do not qualify for level 1 operational impact, but we do qualify for level 2 money. We are in a second tier of counties that border operational level 1 counties. We use that to off set prosecution of gun cases, predicate felons, serious injuries or death cases. **Mr. Grattidge moved to accept this grant. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.**

Legislative Grant - \$17,000. Mr. Murphy said this was from the Senate Majority Leader prior to his departure. He said the funds will be used for a vehicle, as the DPW Commissioner indicated their current vehicle should be turned in, and we can purchase a new one with their current funds. He said all of his investigators have access to the vehicle because they serve subpoenas, etc. He stated none of the attorneys are authorized to take a vehicle without permission of the County Administrator's office. **Mr. Jenkins moved to accept this grant. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.**

Violence Against Women Grant - \$34,812. Mr. Murphy stated this was started 11 years ago. We were told it would be a three year grant, and it has gone down over time.

It is used to offset a portion of the ADA salary for domestic violence prosecution. **Mr. Rowland moved to accept this grant. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Butler distributed copies of his December report, and he said it was the slowest month he remembers at the Shelter. He said a raccoon from Charlton was tested positive for rabies. He mentioned they received a call that by the Maple Avenue Firehouse, there were four pigs running around Route 9 that came out of a trailer park. The owners were told they could not keep them at their house, so they were turned into the Shelter, and a home was found for them in Galway.

Mr. Butler said there will be an event at the Wilton Mall on January 16-18 at Regal Cinema. We will be there with cats for adoption to promote a new movie "Hotel For Dogs." There will also be carnival games and raffle baskets. In the windows of the Cinema will be photos of our cats and dogs for adoption. He said on the January 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., FROGGY 107 will be broadcasting live there to promote us. At 6:00 p.m., we will be presented with a check for the proceeds they raised over the past month, he said. He stated anyone is welcome to be at this event outside of the Cinema. As of December 1, 2008, photos of the animals from the Shelter will be collected, and they will be sent to Paramount Pictures.

Mr. Ciulla said to complete the 2008 spending for a psychiatrist they use in Family Court, \$250 is left in the budget, and they have \$1,125 in expenses. He said he needs that minor contract expanded by \$875. He suggested that the amount of the \$10,000 minor contracts be increased, as he had to come back to Committee twice. **Mr. Grattidge moved to authorize the \$875 increase. Mr. Rowland seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent distributed copies of his Monthly Departmental Report.

Mr. Lent stated the bids were received for the personal pagers for the fire service in the County, and the low bid was from Motorola, Inc., but he said they are not ready today to move on anything. We are under the budgeted amount for the purchase price of 1700 pagers, he said. If we wanted to add two additional years of maintenance, there would be a charge for that, but that is an alternate, he said. I will be back with more information in February, he stated.

Mr. Lent distributed copies of an Interim Report on the Ice Storm of 12/12 – 12/14/08. He stated FEMA has denied New York State's request for a disaster declaration that was for \$26 million worth of damages. He said he received a copy of a letter from the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) to FEMA asking them to expand the Category B category. We met with FEMA before the new year, and we came away with an estimate of \$6.4 million of County projected costs relative to the ice storm, he said. That could be covered, to some degree, based on an emergency declaration from the President, he stated. He said he could automatically give the State up to \$5 million, but we do not know how much of that we will be getting. We have to share with 11 counties, but we were one of the higher counties with damages, he added.

Mr. Thompson asked why there wasn't a vote today for the pagers. Mr. Lent said he needs to do some clarification with Motorola first. Mr. Thompson asked who would be responsible for them once the warranty is off, and Mr. Lent stated the fire companies. He said if people want to buy pagers off of this contract, they can get the County price, and that includes EMS agencies.

Mr. Thompson asked where we stand with Luzerne. Mr. Lent said we are starting an eminent domain case in the Town of Lake Luzerne on a tower there. This procedure is to acquire easements we need, he said. The respondents in this have requested a meeting to have a negotiation session prior to it going to the judge, he stated. We need to understand their position and what it is they are actually looking for, he said. Mr. Thompson requested Mr. Lent to keep him updated on this.

Mr. Tremblay distributed copies for the Fire Services Report for December, 2008.

Mr. Tremblay requested a **resolution to amend the 2009 budget to increase expenses and revenues for Homeland Security Grant funds in the amount of \$206,983.52**. He said it was for the grants received for FY 2005 (\$1,086.35); FY 2006 (\$47,897.17); and FY 2007 (\$158,000.00). **Mr. Grattidge moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Rowland seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Grattidge requested Chairman Wormuth to keep the Committee updated on the Public Safety building. This Committee was very involved over the last three years in the concept of doing a Public Safety Building, he said. Chairman Wormuth stated Mr. Thompson and she will be working closely on that, and once the subcommittee starts up on that, she will have monthly updates. Mr. Grattidge said he encourages anyone who hasn't toured some of the facilities to look at Mr. Lent's area and the Sheriff's dispatch area.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann