

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 8, 2009 – 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Barrett, Connelly, Grattidge, Jenkins, Wright; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; John Ciulla, Public Defender; Mark Rider, Co. Attorney; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Britta Deggenshein, Motorola; Margo Ammon, Helen Crawshaw, League of Women Voters; Press

Chairman Wormuth called the meeting to order.

Mr. Grattidge moved to approve the minutes of the July 14th meeting. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Ciulla said last year, their \$10,000 contract with Dr. Feldman was used up before the end of the year. In keeping what has been going on in Family Court, we have used the money up already, he said. We are proposing instead of doing a limited contract, we will do a general contract with him, he said. He said they currently have three psychologists under contract to provide evaluations, and he asked them to update their current fees. Dr. Feldman is the least expensive and the preferred choice, he said. To prevent me coming back here year after year to expand this contract, it was suggested we just have a regular contract, he stated. Mr. Hellwig said the rates will dictate the cost. As long as he does not go above the rate for the evaluations, it will be indefinite, he said. For a higher rate, he will have to come back, he added. Mr. Rider said the Board approves the contract at a certain rate, and the budget will set how much money he has to spend each year. If the Dr. wants more money, the Board will have to approve that. Mr. Ciulla said he does have minor contracts with two other vendors, but their prices are more, and that is why we prefer to use Dr. Feldman. **Mr. Grattidge moved to authorize an on-going contract with Dr. Feldman. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Butler distributed copies of his monthly report for August, and he briefly reviewed it. He said there was a high number of specimens submitted to the rabies lab for this time of year. He said 27 bats were submitted, and two were positive. He mentioned there will be a Rabies Clinic held tonight.

Mr. Butler stated he has been approached by Mr. Townsend and Mr. Greene of the Clifton Park Center. He said periodically, they bring animals down to that mall for adoption clinics. They have offered us a store front with a lease agreement for 0 dollars with 10 days to vacate if they needed that store front for something else, he said. He stated he wrote up a set of rules with Mr. Rider for the volunteers who will be at these cat adoption clinics. He said the clinics would be open from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and the weekend hours would be expanded. We may bring dogs down on the weekends, but they will not be left there, he said. Someone will be there every morning to clean and take care of the animals. He said he will go there periodically to oversee this.

Mr. Grattidge asked how many volunteers are there to do this, and Mr. Butler said about a half dozen. Someone has to be there every day, and the volunteers understand that, he said. He said there would be about 10 – 12 cats on a regular basis, and the store has an air exchange system and heating. The cats are brought there in dog crates, and there is enough room for one cat, a litter box, food and water, he said. Mr. Grattidge asked if they will be in a window. Mr. Butler said you can look through the window in Store #96. Mr. Grattidge asked if the volunteers were able to do the proper paperwork for adopting out the animals. Mr. Butler said yes, they will have the people sign the contract, collect their money and then bring everything back to the Shelter. Mr. Barrett requested Mr. Butler to send him a generic request for volunteers form and to put it up on the website. Mr. Grattidge asked if there would be any décor in that store, and Mr. Butler said he is sure the volunteers would do something in there. Mr. Barrett suggested having a rendering of the new Animal Shelter in there. Chairman Wormuth asked Mr. Butler to have some applications for volunteers there also. Mr. Barrett stated this is mainly for the cats and to market the new Shelter, volunteer programs, and the role residents can play in the new Shelter. Mr. Rider pointed out the Agreement is very good and covers both the County and Clifton Park Center. Chairman Wormuth said it would be nice to have some press there the day this opens.

Mr. Grattidge moved to authorize the Board Chairman to sign the appropriate paperwork to enact this animal adoption program at the Clifton Park Center Store Front. Mr. Barrett seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Butler stated the second annual Meow Luau will be held at the County Fairgrounds on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He said this was well attended last year. He said he believes 16 cats found homes, as this is an all cat event.

Mr. Lent distributed copies of his monthly report. In discussing the progress on the new radio system, he said we have broken ground on our first site under the APA permit for Fraker Mt. in Edinburg. We anticipate the tower will be in the air by the first week of October. He said the bids for construction of the site at Mt. McGregor have been released and proposals are due back to the County 10/1. Next month, I will bring forward the results of that bid, he said. All of our site work has been completed in Stillwater. The next step there will be to install the microwave equipment, he said.

Mr. Lent said in 2007, Saratoga County was the recipient of three Plug Power hydrogen auxiliary power units. These units were free to the County, as they were being distributed through a technology demonstration grant through NYSERDA. He said the County does not have a nickel in them, and they take over before the generator kicks in. If our generator fails to start, we still wouldn't lose power, he said. We have been told that grant is over, and those units have just been given to us. The problem for us is they are now at the wrong site, he stated. He said in order for them to still be valuable pieces of equipment and remain in Providence and Halfmoon, he would like approval to put a bid out to get an electrical contractor to give us prices on moving these units to our new communications shelters for the new radio system. He said the cost of the fuel for the hydrogen cylinders is between \$16 and \$20. He said the units are about \$40,000 each.

He said they would have to be moved to about the length of this room. Chairman Wormuth said we have the right to reject the bids if they come in too high. **Mr. Wright moved to authorize putting this out to bid. Mr. Connelly seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent requested an amendment to the Chazen Companies contract (\$49,400) to cover an unanticipated costs that they did not expect with eminent domain proceedings, extra engineering required by the Department of Corrections at the Mt. McGregor site, and work associated with the US Army corps of Engineers to relieve the County of the requirement to obtain wetland permits from them at the Fraker site. These were unanticipated, time-sensitive costs, he stated. He said he has budgeted engineering money in the Capital account that has not been spent. We shouldn't have to come back for anything after this, he said. Chairman Wormuth asked if there was anything not included in the contract as we go forward. Mr. Lent said he believes we are fine. Chairman Wormuth said if we see anything coming up not included in the contract as we go forward, she will need to be updated so that the Committee can know ahead of time. **Mr. Wright moved to authorize this contract amendment. Mr. Connelly seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent reported they are over 50% complete (18 fire companies) with the distribution of new pagers to fire departments throughout the County. It appears as though we might exceed the 1,700 estimate of pagers by 50 to 100, but we are well within budget. We will be receiving at least \$89,340 in rebates from Motorola for the purchases we made through 8/31, he said. He stated his office is pretty much overrun with old pagers that will soon probably be put on e-bay. Chairman Wormuth said since the rebate was through 8/31, what about pagers not yet ordered? Mr. Lent said a lot of the departments are gaining new members, and they are on their own with purchasing the pagers under our contract cost.

Mr. Grattidge moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss pending litigation. Mr. Barrett seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Jenkins moved to return to open session. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann