

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

**November 10, 2009 – 2:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Barrett, Jenkins, Rowland, Wright; Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Bill Schwerd, Cooperative Extension; LWV Reps. (2); The Saratogian

Chairman Wormuth called the meeting to order.

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

Mr. Butler distributed copies of the Shelter monthly report for October. He stated they have a lot of kittens coming in, and 0 animals were tested positive for rabies for the month. He stated 119 cats have been sent to the Annex at the Clifton Park Center Mall, and there are probably 21 down there now. A grand opening was held at the Annex, and he thanked Chairman Wormuth and Mr. Barrett for attending. We will be sending a rabbit down also, he said.

Mr. Butler said they will be receiving a Homeland Security Grant, in the amount of \$47,475, that has to do with their CART program. This is for a trailer, in case there is a man-made or natural disaster in the County, to care for the animals. **Mr. Jenkins moved to accept this grant. Mr. Rowland seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Butler stated the Ballston Spa Veterinary Clinic spays all of the Shelter's female cats. Their minor contract is for \$10,000, and we are about \$300 away from that. We will have \$6,000-\$7,000 for November/December, he said. He said he would like to extend that contract to be able to go over the \$10,000 limit. The money to pay the bills comes from the trust fund, about he cannot pay that until something has been approved. Mr. Hellwig said the only way to move forward is to have a full contract in place and by approving rates, and there is no cap on it. Chairman Wormuth said it does not impact the County budget, because it is paid out of donations. Mr. Butler said the spaying of cats will be done in-house when the new Shelter opens. He mentioned the Friends of the Saratoga County Animal Shelter helps also. He stated there is \$350,000 in the trust fund, and

a lot of that will be used towards the new building. He said spaying of cats is most critical. He stated all of the male cats are neutered at the Shelter. **Mr. Rowland moved to authorize a full contract with unit service prices set with the Ballston Spa Veterinary Clinic. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent distributed copies of his monthly report. He stated the Governor signed new legislation that allows counties to amend their local laws regarding 9-1-1 surcharges which will allow the inclusion of voice over internet protocol (VoIP) service. He said it seems appropriate to make the playing field fair for everybody to pay the \$.35. I do not see this as a big windfall dollar wise if we change the local law, he said. He stated he talked to the County Attorney about this. This will not take effect until January, 2010, but we have to do procedural things to amend our local law. He pointed out that 1991 was when we set forth our \$.35 surcharge local law. **Mr. Wright moved to pass this on to the Legislative & Research Committee. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.** Mr. Wright stated that Committee is not meeting this month. Mr. Lent said we are under no time frame.

Mr. Lent said Saratoga County has been involved in rebanding its frequencies with NEXTEL. It had to go through intensive review by the FCC. We have retained special counsel in Washington to represent us, and we now have an agreement approved by the FCC. It is a one for one deal, but we need authorization for the Chairman to sign the agreement and send it back to Washington. **Mr. Barrett moved to authorize the Chairman to enter into an agreement with NEXTEL to allow for the rebanding of 800 mhz frequencies as required by the FCC. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent said many counties belonging to the 9-1-1 Association have been concerned about the amount of money New York State collects with the surcharge. He said the State collected \$174 million to pay for a Statewide Wireless Network which is no longer being pursued. Only about \$9 million was shared with counties. Many counties in the State have asked our elected State representatives to support legislation mandating the State to share a much larger portion of the \$1.20 per month surcharge on wireless service it collects with counties to assist in paying for 9-1-1 upgrades. He said the last he heard, the fund was close to \$2 billion. The responsibility of handling wireless 9-1-1 calls has been transferred to counties, he said. **Mr. Rowland**

**moved to refer this to the Legislative & Research Committee. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent said hopefully, we will have word from the judge on our eminent domain proceeding very soon. We have erected the tower at Fraker Mt. in Edinburg which is the first tower we put up in the APA. He stated that it looks good.

Mr. Lent said our last fire department (Quaker Springs) will get their pagers Thursday night, and that project will be all wrapped up.

Mr. Lent said for the Hazard Mitigation Grant, we are on the cusp of submitting a draft document to the State. We will be waiting for comments back from FEMA, he said.

Mr. Tremblay distributed copies of the Fire Services Report for October, and he reviewed the fire training courses that were held.

Chairman Wormuth said we will have to move the Sheriff's contract renewals for the towns to next month because he is tied up in an investigation. She said they do not expire until the end of the year. If there are any questions, I will be happy to get them to the Sheriff, she said.

On a motion by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann