

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 12, 2010 – 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Barrett, Jenkins, M. Johnson, Veitch, Wright; Wood, Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Sheriff Jim Bowen; Undersheriff Mike Woodcock; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; John Adams, Probation; Ray Otten, Community Emergency Corps; Nash Alexander, Wilton EMS; Brian Taft, Malta EMS; League of Women Voters Reps (2); Press

Chairman Wormuth called the meeting to order.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the minutes of the September 7th meeting. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.

Sheriff Bowen requested a **contract renewal with Rochester Psychiatric Center**. He stated this renewal has gone up \$15/day to \$140/day for the next four years. Mrs. Johnson asked if they go out to bid for this. Sheriff Bowen stated Marcy and Rochester are the only two places. Marcy is \$10/day cheaper, but the State tells us where to send people, he said. **Mr. Wright moved to authorize this contract renewal. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Butler distributed copies of the Animal Shelter Report for September. He said the Committee had agreed to lower the adoption fee to \$25 for September. He stated the adoptions and the returned to owners totaled 244. This is the first time we put out more animals than we took in, so it did work, he said. He mentioned two raccoons tested positive for rabies – 1 in Ballston and 1 in Galway.

Mr. Butler said everybody likes the new Shelter. He said he was told the intake will double the first six to eight months. He stated as of January 1st, the State will be getting out of the dog licensing program and passing it on to each municipality and the shelters, and the County will need a Local Law to do this. He said we will not issue licenses for those living outside the County or the State. He said some concerns with this. Once this starts, if a dog comes in after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday, we will not know any information until we call the town clerk the following Monday. Also, he said he does not know what will happen with the extra money going into the fund for the

Animal Population Program that was State funded. He said he believes the State Comptroller's office may keep that money and designate where it should go. He said the license fee will be determined, but his recommendation is to leave it the same -- \$2.50 (spayed and neutered dogs) + \$1.00 (mandated Animal Population Program); \$7.50 (unspayed and unneutered dogs) + \$3.00 (mandated Animal Population Program) and the redemption fees will remain the same. Mrs. Johnson asked if the fees have to be included in the Local Law, and Mr. Butler said he believes so. Chairman Wormuth said we will have the County Attorney look into that. Mr. Butler said he will have to order the tags. Each town is ordering their own set of tags because they have to state the municipality's name, he said. Mr. Hellwig said we will need a resolution to introduce this Local Law and to set a public hearing date to be on next month's Agenda day. **Mr. Barrett moved to authorize a resolution to introduce this Local Law on the issuance of dog licenses and setting a public hearing date. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Wormuth commended the Shelter workers, County Supervisors and employees and everybody involved in moving the Shelter animals from the old Shelter to the new Shelter. She said it was a great time, and a lot of items were moved over that morning. She congratulated Mr. Butler and said it was under his great leadership that it happened.

Mr. Butler mentioned there were over 300 people who attended last week's Friends of the Saratoga County Animal Shelter benefit. Everybody seemed happy, he stated.

Mr. Adams requested a **resolution authorizing an agreement with AutoMon for case tracking software upgrade.** He said he trained Genesee County on this two weeks before he came to Saratoga County. We may not have to fill positions due to retirement because of this program, he said. He said it requires the officers to enter all of their contacts into the system. He said the cost this year is \$15,206. The recurring cost is an annual maintenance cost of \$7,236 from 11/1/10 – 10/31/11, and a 7% increase of \$510 for the next year. He said it would put his department in a better position to reduce their labor costs. He said it is a very helpful tool with long-term benefits. He said he has customized this program, so he is well versed in it. Mr. Hellwig said this amount exceeds whatever administrative authority Mr. Adams has. We have never paid a maintenance fee, but now we are in a position to actually benefit, he said. Mr. Adams

said he will be happy to demonstrate the program once we have it up and running. We have an old server that needs to be upgraded, he said. He stated there will be expenses related to technology down the road. **Mr. Jenkins moved to authorize this agreement with AutoMon at a cost of \$15,206. Mr. Barrett seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Adams said the Parsons Child & Family Center is applying for State funding to operate a Mental Health Juvenile Justice Program in Saratoga County, and they have requested a letter of support from the County for an MHJJ grant. This does not require any funding from the County, he stated. He said last year, we placed 30 youths. He said some youths do have to be placed for public safety reasons, but we need to look at enhancing them in ways to help keep the kids in the community. We have to do things differently, but this is a program, if approved by the State, they are approved for a five-year period and have to qualify every year to focus on mentally ill kids. **It was the consensus of the Committee to support this program.**

Mr. Lent distributed copies of the Saratoga County Public Safety Radio Project Report #8. In reviewing this, he said the most significant milestone accomplished this month was the successful completion of the system coverage test of the southern zone of the system. Our permit with the APA has been renewed by that agency. This will allow us ample time to complete work items at the sites within the Park. The tower and shelter have not been delivered to Lake Luzerne. Problems with our vendor's production cycles and materials delivery have slowed down the expected delivery. We are working with the vendors in an attempt to get us moved up in the schedule to have these items delivered as soon as possible.

Mr. Jenkins asked if highway departments can purchase radios at our discount. Mr. Lent stated only if they use our new 800 system.

Mr. Lent stated for the tower site in Clifton Park area, we contemplated going on the existing towers, however, it became evident that those costs would be very significant, and it would be better to strike out on our own. He said an amendment to the contract with Chazen Engineering is needed to provide for additional engineering services to finish our Clifton Park site and to add Lakeview to their scope of work to complete the necessary engineering for construction. The total amount of the amendment is \$13,600, he said. **Mr. Barrett moved to authorize the contract**

amendment with Chazen Engineering. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent distributed copies of the Emergency Services Monthly Departmental Report.

Mr. Lent stated Sheriff Bowen was gracious in having his personnel heavily involved through this radio project which has been very helpful to us in keeping it moving forward. We are looking for complete turn on for the users probably the first quarter of 2011, he said.

Mr. Tremblay distributed copies of the Fire Services Report for September, and he briefly reviewed the Training Center's usage and State Fire Training courses that were held. He mentioned the County Hazardous Materials Response Team participated in a Multi-County training session with Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer County teams. There were about 100 personnel. We may have another one in the spring, and we would like to invite all chiefs from the county departments, he said.

Mr. Taft said they wanted to come forward and give the Committee a quick overview of where EMS stands in 2010. We have several agencies that are Paramedic level, he said. We respond to about 30,000 calls per year and provide a significant high level of service including the recent addition of bio medic technology training. We have done something unique in Saratoga County, he said. He stated they had a Quality Assurance Committee that used to meet for an hour once a month. It was decided two years ago we should create and refocus. We now have a Saratoga County EMS Administrators Committee that meets once a month at a different location to discuss issues and to create a think tank for Saratoga County, he said. We started renegotiating our contracts together, he said. We started to purchase as a consortium, and we held the vendors' feet to the fire to save our agencies collectively well over \$100,000 in the last two years, he said. He stated they work very closely in writing human resource policies. We find a way to discuss issues amongst ourselves, he said.

Mr. Taft said we are all facing the GlobalFoundries project. A large-scale event will impact our agencies, and we worked to create a mutual aid plan. We have been working closely with the response team from GlobalFoundries, and we are very familiar with their response protocols, he stated. Recently, we faced a medication shortage. We came up with a

solution, and we were on Channel 6 news on Health Beat. It is being accepted in seven counties as a protocol which originated here, he stated. We are setting the pace for the EMS world, he added.

Mr. Alexander said most of you are aware you had to add career staff to your EMS base. The majority are part-time positions, and there are 60 full-time positions, he said. Almost every employee works two or more agencies within the County, and 36 employees work in three or more locations. Most volunteers are in the 1 – 5 year range. There are 300 Countywide volunteers, he stated. It is a \$6,000,000 payroll amongst the agencies within the County, he said.

Mr. Otten stated they do other things besides answering 9-1-1 calls. We try to get out and educate. Last year, we touched base with over 700 students to inform them what EMS is about. He said he goes to grade school levels similar to what the fire departments do. We try to promote the higher grade levels. We work as intern facilities. We also provide numerous public CPR training classes. He said Clifton Park and Halfmoon have been designated as point of inoculation for all responders. We also use the facilities for blood drives and blood pressure clinics, he said. We go to various community events to cut down on our response times. We also help the Red Cross in providing shelters for catastrophic events. All of our agencies are NIMS (National Incidents Management System) compliant, and all of our responders are trained in that system. We are on the road within 2 to 4 minutes in our response times, he stated.

Copies of informational sheets on Saratoga County EMS were distributed, and Mr. Taft said included in this are some major hurdles that will be coming up.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann