

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 9, 2010 – 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Daly, Jenkins, M. Johnson, Veitch, Wright; Wood; Collyer, Sausville, Southworth, Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Dan Miller, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Sheriff Jim Bowen; Undersheriff Mike Woodcock; Jim Murphy, D.A.; LWV Reps (2); Press

Chairman Wormuth called the meeting to order.

Mr. Veitch moved to approve the minutes of the October 12th meeting. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.

Sheriff Bowen stated four of their contracts will be up for renewal – 2 with Clifton Park; 1 with Clifton Park/Halfmoon; and 1 with Halfmoon/Wilton for a total of \$821,000. This is for additional police protection that we have been giving these areas, he said. I am asking for a one year renewal because we are in negotiations with our unions, he said. Chairman Wormuth asked if there was a percentage increase, and Sheriff Bowen stated there are no increases. **Mr. Wright moved to approve these contracts for one year. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Murphy requested the acceptance of an Aid to Prosecution Grant in the amount of \$45,000 from DCJS. He said the State is cutting a lot of these grants by 1%. This is for prosecution of violent crimes targeted for burglaries, robberies, etc., he said. This amount is about the same as last year, he said. **Mr. Wright moved to accept this grant. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.** Chairman Wormuth said we appreciate all of Mr. Murphy's efforts and are proud to be in a County with one of the lowest crime rates.

Mr. Butler distributed copies of the Animal Shelter Report for October. He said they have been in the new shelter for over a month. We had a grand opening last Saturday, and 15 animals were adopted out that day, he said. He stated people are not as reluctant to bring their animals in, as 300 animals were brought in during October. He said the annex in Clifton Park is also doing well.

Mr. Butler mentioned he has another bequest in the amount of \$25,000 from Katherine McCormick of Troy. Chairman Wormuth said we recognize the work that Mr. Butler does. We are very happy the new shelter is open, and we look forward to continuing to adopt animals out of there, she said.

Mr. Miller requested approval for a contract with the Asher Group for providing the Reverse 9-1-1 mass notification system for a five-year term up to \$19,000. Brochures on the company were distributed to the Committee. Chairman Wormuth said we put this out for bid twice, and the subcommittee has done a wonderful job in researching this. The support and technology with this will allow us more options, she said. Mr. Veitch stated

the difference between the old system and the new system is that the new system deals with modern technology. We wanted a company that could do what the current contract does and can also do e-mails, texting, etc. The company has a website link where people can register their cell phone numbers, he stated. This is very good for the public and for the municipal employees who will use it. Chairman Wormuth asked what they will be using as a base point. Mr. Miller stated all of the landlines. It will be us to us and the community outreach to get people to register their cell phone numbers, he added. Chairman Wormuth said once the Board ratifies this, we could set it up within the next 30 days. Mr. Miller stated the company said that December shouldn't be a problem. Mr. Hellwig stated we may be better served holding off until January 1 for the new budget. Chairman Wormuth said she would like to see a roll out from Emergency Services on what we will do to encourage people for public interaction and a budget that goes along with it. Mr. Miller said he will sit down with Mr. Lent next week.

Mr. Sausville asked about the old cost vs. new cost. Chairman Wormuth said it is an increase from the old contract but a large decrease from what the proposal from the old company came in with for the next five years -- \$50,000. It is about \$7,000 more than what we have done in the previous years, she said. Mr. Veitch, the subcommittee chair, thanked Mr. Wright and Mr. Jenkins for their work on the subcommittee. **Mr. Veitch moved to authorize this five-year contract with the Asher Group at a cost not to exceed \$19,000. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Tremblay distributed copies of his monthly report for October on the Fire Training Center usage, State Fire Training Courses and Incidents, and he briefly reviewed it. He said for the structure fire in Mechanicville, a patient was saved with the help of a Cyanide Antidote kit, and these kits were well worth the money.

Mr. Veitch mentioned in the City of Saratoga Springs, in their 2011 budget, is putting up a potential of relieving their dispatchers and having it taken over by the County. I do not know where this is going to go, as the Commissioners will make the decision. It may or may not be coming our way, he said. Chairman Wormuth stated Commissioner Ivins let her know that this is something under their consideration. Our Sheriff's Communications department does a wonderful job, but they are limited to what they can do with what they have, she said. We will have to move through that very carefully. We have to make sure everyone in the County is safe at all times, which is our no. 1 priority, she said.

Mr. Sausville said he spoke with Mr. Tremblay today who said the next step is to have the equipment installed in the emergency departments. I am of the understanding this is all being done by the end of the year, he said. He said his Town Highway Department asked if they could put the same equipment in the highway vehicles, and Mr. Tremblay stated it is premature at this time to make this request because they wanted to test what was being rolled out first. He said he is requesting that the County authorize the installation of this equipment in those highway vehicles that want them. The unit cost for each of the radios lapses at the end of the year, he said. It is my goal to have the same unit cost extended without an increase, he stated. Chairman Wormuth said Motorola has offered price incentives as we go through this. This will be an expense each town will

have to bear, she said. Mr. Jenkins stated that Mr. Lent had said we would probably be eligible to buy with the discount when the time came. Chairman Wormuth said we are looking at what the best options are, and Motorola has been considerate in the past. Mr. Tremblay said he believes the pager price runs out at the end of the year. We have a contract price for the radios, but there is also a State contract. The difference is there are a couple of options in the State contract pricing not included in our pricing, he said. Chairman Wormuth said next year, the Chairman of this Committee will have to take into consideration the highway people and emergency people being on the same frequency. We have to step into this in a very thought-out process, she said. She stated all players need to be invited to the table in order to do this. We need an understanding of what their needs are. There are ramifications beyond what we are thinking about, and we need to look into this before we commit to it, she stated.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann