

“Unofficial”
Public Safety Committee Minutes
December 13, 2011 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Barrett, Grattidge, Hargrave, Jenkins, Kinowski, Veitch, Southworth, Wood and Collyer; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; John Ciulla, Public Defender; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter.

Chairman Wormuth called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the November 9, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Tremblay said there were five fire training classes scheduled in the last couple of months with a total of 307 people attending those classes in various locations in the county.

Mr. Tremblay said the steelwork for the fire training center is still in the works. It is anticipated that the steel will be delivered by week’s end. The electrical work is still in question as to whether it will be done by the end of the year.

With regard to the Hazardous Materials Response Team there was a training exercise conducted by the Capital Region Haz Mat Committee at the Watervliet Arsenal with ten members in attendance.

Mr. Tremblay said the 2011 Hazardous Materials Target Grant is administered through the Office of Homeland Security. This is a regional grant that is specifically for groups of at least two Haz Mat Teams. In this particular case there have been four Haz Mat Teams that have applied for the grant. In the last two years every county has applied for the grant and received it, and this year it is Saratoga County’s turn to apply. The grant amount is for up to \$125,000 with the total grant funds of \$1 million statewide. Mr. Tremblay said the money would be used for equipment and software licenses.

Mr. Tremblay requested a resolution to apply for and accept a Hazardous Materials Target Grant in the amount of \$125,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Jenkins to authorize Emergency Services to apply for and accept a Hazardous Materials Target Grant in the amount of \$125,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay thanked the committee for their support through the year.

Mr. Butler gave a brief update on the Animal Shelter report for November as follows: There were 215 animals brought to the shelter in the month of November. There was a very extensive foster program over the summer months for kittens that came to the shelter that didn't weigh at least 2 ½ pounds, which is the weight that they have to be in order to be spayed or neutered. The euthanasia was high for the month due to an outbreak of feline distemper, which is 99.9% fatal to the animal. The outbreak lasted approximately two weeks at the shelter.

Mrs. Wormuth asked how the new air handling system worked with that? Mr. Butler said distemper is not an airborne virus, but cleaning procedures are up to par.

Mr. Butler said 124 animals were spayed or neutered with 186 adopted. There were no rabid animals for the month of November.

The adoption trailer was very popular at Wilton Mall with six animals adopted in one afternoon

Mr. Butler said five dogs from the shelter tried out for the play "Annie" at the Ballston Spa High School to be "Sandy". They all did well and "Molly" was in the paper.

Mr. Ciulla requested approval to accept a new grant from the Office of Indigent Legal Services in the amount of \$31,007. In 2004 the rate that was paid for assigned council went from \$25 out of court to \$40 in court to a straight \$60 for misdemeanors and \$75 for felonies. At that time the State created an Indigent Legal Services Fund generated from a variety of sources and the counties were able to access those funds based on costs year over year at the percentage cost of the total of all the counties. Mr. Ciulla said they did very well from 2004 through 2010 receiving in excess of \$1 million for reimbursements. In the later years 2008, 2009 and 2010 it was not enough to cover the increased costs for assigned counsels. In 2010 the law changed and the legislature created the Office of Indigent Legal Services and froze the counties reimbursements at its 2010 level, which was \$282,000. They enacted in the 2011 legislation that the counties would receive 10% less and in 2012 there would be an additional 15% less and for each year through 2015 it would be 25% less. This money was offered back to the counties in the form of a grant. This grant request represents 10% of the \$282,000 plus some extra money that the State had in one of the funds for an additional \$3,000. The one stipulation is that the money has to be spent in the Public Defender's Office. Mr. Ciulla said in the spring he will be back for a request for \$70,500. He said this grant came late in the year. It actually runs from June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012.

Mr. Ciulla said last year the Board changed all part time Attorney's to full time and the Public Defenders Office is now crowded. He said they put in a request, after speaking with Building and Grounds, for some money for renovations. Mr. Ciulla said he has \$7,730 in his budget for renovations if they can find additional office space. He said that he would like to have three new offices created. He said if space can't be found he is intending to build partitions internally to give the Attorney's more privacy when dealing with their clients. In addition, there is \$820 for additional training for the Attorney's.

With the Technology Committee it was thought that it would be appropriate at this time and a good use of the money to update all the computers in the office. Mr. Ciulla said he has put all these expenses into the grant for a total of \$18,173. With the additional Attorney's there is a need to license more agreements with the Public Defenders office in Albany. The Public Defenders office runs a case management system that they support. All monies will be paid by reimbursement, he said. He said he would not need a budget adjustment, as there is money in the Public Defenders budget to cover the expenses until they are reimbursed.

Mr. Ciulla requested a resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with the State to accept a \$31,007 Indigent Legal Services Grant.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to approve a resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the State to accept a Indigent Legal Services Grant in the amount of \$31,007. Unanimous.

Mr. Veitch requested that Mr. Ciulla attend the Technology Committee meeting in January to talk about what he would like to do in the Public Defender's office with the computer system.

Mr. Hargrave thanked Mrs. Wormuth for a job well done in chairing the Public Safety Committee throughout the year.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom