

Public Safety Committee Minutes
June 11, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Vice Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Jenkins, Lawler, Lucia, Southworth, Veitch, Collyer, and Sausville; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; James Bowen, Sheriff; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Michael Woodcock, Sheriff's Office; Jim Murphy, District Attorney.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mrs. Southworth the minutes of the May 14, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Murphy requested a resolution to accept an Aid to Prosecution Grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$41,300. The grant is used for the prosecution of criminal cases that target violent crimes.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Jenkins to accept an Aid to Prosecution Grant through the Department of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$41,300. Unanimous.

Mr. Bowen said the Sheriff's office has been notified that the Explosive Detection Canine Team Grant for \$14,187.25 has been approved. The money is for the two canine lab dogs and the necessary training equipment. A list of all the expenses covered under this grant was distributed to all committee members for their review.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Lucia to approve an Explosive Detection Canine Team Grant in the amount of \$14,187.25. Unanimous.

Mr. Schreiber said he has contacted the State with regard to a Conflict Defender Office. He said it is a three tier process requiring permission from the State, Bar Association and the County. Mr. Schreiber requested the formation of a subcommittee so that he could have an answer for the State by the July 15th deadline. He said he has had discussions with the County Attorney and District Attorney about the program. In addition, he said that a grant was received in the amount of \$141,000 that will fund the position.

Mr. Schreiber said that the Conflict Defender will not be a part of the Public Defender's office; it will be a separate department.

Mr. Schreiber said that Rensselaer, Albany and Washington Counties have already created a Conflict Defender's office. Mr. Schreiber said he is proposing that the position be part time, 17 hours weekly with no benefits and half the starting salary of the Public Defender. There would be two positions, one for family court and one for criminal court to do the conflicts. He said most of the conflicts come out of local court and they get resolved in local court.

Mr. Lawler asked what was spent last year on outside council. Mr. Schreiber said \$152,500 was spent in family court.

Mr. Lawler said that if we are going to target this to just misdemeanor court cases he would like to know what is spent on misdemeanor representations.

Mr. Moore said there is a revenue side to the equation where the state has traditionally reimbursed the county partially for the expenses on the 18B Lawyers (assigned council). The amount is approximately \$282,000, which was what was received in 2010. The standard was a maintenance of efforts standard, so as long as we carried along the same effort year to year we were eligible for that base amount. The state has now drawn down each year's allocation for maintenance and effort, and the only way that we are able to make ourselves whole is by expanding the services. The goal, on the expense side, is to keep overall expenses either within the existing parameters or try to shrink them and at the same time recover revenue that we will no longer get by doing it the same way.

Mr. Schreiber said it has to be something to enhance the office; something that we didn't have before, and then it is maintenance of that.

A subcommittee was formed consisting of Mr. Moore, Mr. Schreiber, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Veitch.

On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Lucia the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom