

Public Safety Committee Minutes

December 11, 2006 – 4:45 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lawler; Supervisors Barrett, Grattidge, Janik, Trottier, Thompson, and Gutheil; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter; Jim Bowen, Sheriff; Michael Woodcock, Sheriff's Office; Bob Murphy, STOP DWI; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Barrett the minutes of the November 18, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Bowen said the monthly report on the revenue for the collect calls at the jail are \$55,675.79, down from last years \$73,164.53.

The commercial vehicle report stated there were 39 commercial vehicles inspected, with 7 taken out of service and 57 tickets issued.

The total number of tickets issued for the month were 386 with one criminal misdemeanor.

Mr. Bowen said a new license plate reader was put into effect in November. After going through all the towns, no hits were found in the town of Hadley, Saratoga Corinth and Northumberland.

Mr. Bowen said he has four renewal contracts that will need to be brought to the Chairman for signature. Three of them are renewal contracts, two with Clifton Park and the third a renewal for Clifton and Halfmoon. These contracts are in effect now and will expire at the end of 2006.

The fourth contract is new and will require a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. This is a contract with the Town of Wilton and Halfmoon for three deputies and one fully equipped deputy car to patrol the town of Wilton from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and in the town of Halfmoon 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The deputies will be housed at the Malta substation, split equally between the two towns.

Mr. Lawler said this is a one-year contract at a cost of \$181,440.

Mr. Barrett thanked the Sheriff and his staff. Clifton Park has had these contracts for a few years, and the Sheriff has worked well in conjunction with the State Police and the Town Security Police, he said.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Barrett to amend the compensation plan to include three new Deputy Sheriff Positions that will be fully funded by the revenue from the contracts that will be generated for a total amount of \$181,440. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Trottier, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to accept and authorize the Chairman to execute four contracts. Unanimous.

Mr. Butler said there were 235 animals received at the shelter for the month of November. Another link has been added to the website, which includes pets that are in foster care. Three animals were submitted to the lab for rabies testing resulting in one positive result of a skunk from the Town of Charlton.

A total of 76 animals were vaccinated for rabies at the Shelter.

Mr. Butler requested the committee's approval to send out RFP's with regard to the Animal Shelter.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Trottier authorizing Mr. Butler to move forward in his request for proposals for the Animal Shelter. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent said on December 1st there was a storm that damaged the fire radio at the Halfmoon site. The radio has been temporarily fixed, but will need to be permanently replaced.

Last month the committee authorized a contract with Crawford Electric to start electrical work on Spruce Mountain, the contract has been executed and work is commencing on Spruce Mountain.

Negotiations have been completed with National Grid. Currently, National Grid pays Saratoga County \$2,000 a year to rent space in the emergency services building on Spruce Mountain. The agreement is that the County will use National Grid's tower and waive the rent. The cost will be shared for maintaining the tower and the National Grid generator, which they are allowing emergency services to use.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Trottier to approve emergency services to move forward to prepare documents with regard to the agreement with National Grid, subject to the approval of the County Attorney. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent said a permit will have to be applied for to remove the towers and antenna over to the National Grid tower pursuant to the APA permit.

Mr. Lent said as it relates to the APA permit, emergency services now has the permit and can now begin to formulate a plan for full deployment to the system. Mr. Lent has asked the current team of engineers and consultants to provide cost estimates to move the project forward with the team in tact. This would be for the formal engineering of the sites in the APA and also sites outside the APA.

Mr. Grattidge said some of the radio system was going to include equipment for the fire department and ambulances. He asked Mr. Lent to give the new committee an update of what people are looking at. He said budget wise his town may hold off buying equipment for the constable cars in anticipation of the new system. The fire departments will want to know where they stand with the radio equipment as well.

Mr. Lent said there is a count of what the equipment was in 2000-2001, as we go forward we will have to update that to be more current with additions to fire apparatus, EMS, and Sheriff.

Mr. Lawler suggested forming a users group among the Sheriff's Department, EMS, Highway Department, etc.

Mr. Lent said the 911 charges are being watched as they have gone up and down. Last year there was good news, this year it is 19,000 behind last year. A lot of the other providers of landline service, i.e. Time Warner and Vonnage, we are having difficulty in obtaining the surcharge money from the companies.

Mr. Lent requested an amendment to the contract with Chazen Engineering for tower site work required by the APA and the State Historic Preservation Office in the amount of \$6,700.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to authorize the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with Chazen Engineering to authorize an additional \$6,700 for tower site work required by the APA and the State Historic Preservation Office. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay distributed the Fire Services report for November. There was a firefighter 1 course that included new training curriculum for interior structural firefighters. The 26 unit, 78-hour course started at the Halfmoon Fire Station #1 with 23 firefighters attending, and continued at the Union Fire Station in Ballston Spa with 21 in attendance.

There was an Apparatus Operator Pump course, which was an 8 unit, 24-hour course that was held at the Eagle Matt Lee Station in Ballston Spa with 15 firefighters attending.

A Highway Safety for Emergency Responder's Course was held instructing students on the serious nature of highway incidents and the hazards associated with them. This was a 4 unit, 16-hour course taught over a weekend and was held at the West Crescent Fire Station with 20 personnel completing it.

A Responding to a Line of Duty Death Workshop was held at the Round Lake Fire Station with 31 in attendance.

Mr. Tremblay said Public Works does maintenance on the radio system at Spruce Mountain approximately once a month. According to DPW, when the power generator did not start on 10/28 and 29 it was due to a bad battery. According the maintenance logs, the generator was last checked on Friday, October 13, 2006, two weeks prior to the failure. When asked how often the generator was checked, it was stated as once or twice a month, depending on the work schedule.

The preventive maintenance visit includes checking the fuel, and oil level. The Battery check includes voltage meter reading and operation of the trickle charger. The generator is run during the visits and there were no problems noted on the October 13th visit. After the last problem, a hydrometer reading was added to the check sheet, to try and catch potential battery problems before they occur.

Mr. Lawler asked, how often should a radio system have a maintenance check?

Mr. Lent said the generator runs on low once a week to make sure that it is working.

Mr. Lawler said this is an issue that should be pursued through buildings and grounds or the public works departments. Someone should be accountable and responsible. If someone gets hurt because the generator is down, whether it is an emergency services provider who is getting bad information or no information from the radio system or the county doesn't respond to an incident as timely as we should because the radio system is malfunctioning, we haven't done what we should have done. The people who are responsible for the care of the emergency radio system should be thinking of how to fix this.

Mr. Grattidge said now that we are going over to the National Grid system, we are going to have to see what their policy is because we are now depending on an outside vendor to provide the emergency power if the power goes down.

Mr. Trottier said he had the opportunity to listen to three vendors with regard to the notification system for the county. All were impressive, he said. After looking at the system itself, and how the county would utilize it, how it would affect the county from a public safety standpoint and price, it was recommended that the county move forward with American Emergency Notification, at a one time cost of \$7,500 and an annual maintenance fee of \$12,500. American Emergency Notification typically updates the system twice a year; however, it is recommended that it be done quarterly.

Mr. Grattidge said, we want to make sure the database is updated on a regular basis without the county having to update it.

Mr. Trottier said, the system will be for unlimited emergency use and each municipality would be able to use the system, as well, at no additional charge. Each municipality or village would have the opportunity to have a password and define its district, whether it's a water district, sewer district, riverbanks, etc.

Mr. Trottier said the time frame to get the system up and running would be approximately two weeks.

Mr. Grattidge said American Emergency Notification has guaranteed the price for five years including all the software updates.

A motion was made by Mr. Trottier, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to authorize the Chairman to enter into a contract with American Emergency Notification to provide an Emergency Notification System at a cost of \$7,500 for setup and \$12,500 annually for maintenance. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to move to Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiations. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Janik the meeting reopened the public session. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to recommend to the Law and Finance Committee that the date of employment of Mr. Lent, Emergency Services Director, be bridged to his original date of January 1974 for the purpose of providing employee benefits. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Trottier, seconded by Mr. Connors the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom