

# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

**May 9, 2006 – 1:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Lawler; Supervisors Barrett, Janik, M. Johnson, Trottier; Sausville; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; John Ciulla, Public Defender; Sheriff Bowen; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Art Hunsinger, Fire Advisory Board; Mark Schachner, Special Legal Counsel; John Bergeron, Taxpayer; Press

Chairman Lawler called the meeting to order.

Mr. Trottier moved to approve the minutes of the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mrs. Johnson seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Butler distributed copies of the Animal Shelter's April report, and he reviewed it. He stated they had 9 specimens test positive for rabies so far this year – mostly raccoons, and some bats, skunk and a cat. He mentioned 191 animals were vaccinated at last month's rabies clinic. He said a rabies clinic will be held tonight in the Town of Day, and one will be held May 16<sup>th</sup> at the 4-H Training Center. We do not charge for the rabies shots at these clinics, he said.

Mr. Butler stated that the rabies clinics began in 1992. The clerical people receive \$25; \$75 for the Technician; and \$150 for the Vet. He said he would like to see the fee raised for the clerical people to \$40 per clinic which would compensate them for their time. **Mrs. Johnson moved to authorize raising the fee for the Rabies Clinic clerical staff from \$25 to \$40 per rabies clinic. Mr. Barrett seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Butler stated the Shelter has two crematoriums. The first one was purchased in 1988, and has been relined three times. The steel is now twisted and cracked. The other one was purchased in 1995. They currently run from 5 – 6 days per week. We have 19 different veterinarians that we provide service to, he said. These machines burn 75 lbs. per hour. Both of them have been worked on by our Maintenance Department. He said they need a machine large enough and capable of handling deer that is brought in to them. He distributed copies of information on a new random load crematory. He stated the building that currently houses them is not wide enough to house a new one, so the piping would have to come off of the side of the machine. He said the burn load rate on a new crematorium is 175 lbs. per hour. He said his two smaller machines could continue doing private cremations. He said there is a fee schedule for the vets. He stated the roof to the building would have to be raised, and that would be done in-house. He said the fee for the new machine with moving the piping and electrical to the side would be \$63,000, and raising the building roof would be about \$42,000. He mentioned he would have to go out to bid for the new machine. Chairman Lawler said he would like information on the efficiency of the machines in terms of energy once the bids come back. Mr. Trottier asked if there would be need for additional personnel, and Mr. Butler said no.

Mrs. Johnson asked what the age of the Shelter is and if it is big enough to handle the volume of animals. Mr. Butler stated the first part was renovated in 1977, and an addition was put on in 1987 with 14 additional kennels. He said the building is in need of repair. He stated 30 years is a long time to house animals. Mrs. Johnson asked if replacement would be at the same location. Mr. Butler said that would be up to a consultant. He stated the building has outlived its useful purpose. He pointed out back then, it was state-of-the-art. Chairman Lawler said after the crematory issue is off the table, he requested Mr. Butler to bring other issues forward.

**Mr. Barrett moved to authorize Mr. Butler to go out to bid for a new crematory. Mr. Trotter seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Lawler said that takes us into the euthanasia issue. We had a speaker at a County Board Meeting, and a petition was presented. He said he asked Mr. Butler to look into this for an intelligent response.

Mr. Butler said in the past, they stayed within the guidelines set by the Humane Society of the U.S. and the American Veterinary Association. Our euthanasia procedure of an intercardiac injection to euthanise a sedated animal was recommended years ago, but this is no longer an acceptable means of euthanasia. He said it will be changed to an intravenous injection in a vein. Chairman Lawler said Dan's arrival was the perfect chance to look at this procedure. We want to make sure we do the compassionate and right thing, he said. Mrs. Johnson thanked Mr. Butler for a better way of doing this.

Sheriff Bowen distributed and reviewed his March report on Commission On Inmates' Collect Calls and April's report on various checkpoints with a total of 471 tickets issued.

Sheriff Bowen requested the following **amendment for the Intelistaf Nurses Contract:**  
**Weekdays – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. from \$50/hr. to \$55/hr.**  
**Weekdays – 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. from \$54/hr. to \$59/hr.**  
**Weekends – all shifts – from \$54/hr. to \$59/hr.**

Sheriff Bowen said they have quarterly meetings now with their three nurses and Dr. Strader to make sure we are in compliance. Any nurses that are sent to us must have experience in a correctional facility or E.R.

**Mr. Barrett moved to authorize the amended contract with Intelistaf. Mr. Trotter seconded. Unanimous.**

Sheriff Bowen requested the **renewal of three contracts with the Town of Clifton Park for a total of \$420,592 and for the contract for the Town of Halfmoon w/Clifton Park for \$81,000 for a total of \$501,592 to be renewable for one year.** He stated these contracts have been expired since the first of the year. We hoped to have the contract settled by the end of the year, he said. These numbers are the same as they were, he

added. **Mr. Trottier moved to authorize renewal of these contracts. Mrs. Johnson seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Ciulla said they received a grant in the amount of \$21,164 from DCJS that was re-funded in the State budget this year. He said it has been fully budgeted because it was anticipated and is for the work they regularly do. **Mr. Trottier moved to authorize acceptance of this grant. Mr. Janik seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Tremblay distributed copies of his Fire Services Report for April.

Mr. Tremblay stated they received bids for the County burn building. Three bids were received for the General Contract from \$811,000 to \$871,000 and for the Electrical Contract from \$14,000 to \$21,000. He stated \$530,000 was budgeted and \$30,000 was spent on the architect engineer. He said the price of steel is astronomical as is the cost of fuel to transport the material. He said there were several add alternates. Mr. Lent stated the contractors are very reluctant to hold their price. It would be an additional \$48,500 by waiting one year for the add alternates, he said. He said the cost for 2006 is \$708,500 plus the additional costs of the add alternates (Total of \$814,500).

Mr. Tremblay said this type of building is basically shipping containers that are bolted together to look like a building. The block building we have now was built in 1971 or '72 and is failing with age. The building we anticipate will last a lot longer because of its type of construction, he said. Chairman Lawler asked if the Fire Advisory Board had input in this, and Mr. Tremblay said yes. Mrs. Johnson asked when the money was put into the budget. Mr. Hellwig stated last year, one-half million was budgeted for construction costs and \$35,000 for engineering. Mr. Tremblay stated the bids are good for 45 days, and we received them on April 20<sup>th</sup>. **Mr. Lawler moved to authorize awarding the contract for \$814,500 for the County burn building. Mr. Barrett seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Lawler stated it is in this County's interest to provide our fire companies with the best ways to keep them safe. Mr. Barrett said we committed to do this, and the use is there. Waiting longer and paying more is putting off the inevitable, he added.

Mr. Trottier asked if there were any grants available for this. Mr. Hellwig said some of the money received was Homeland Security money. Mr. Tremblay pointed out that cannot be used on buildings. Some of the other larger grants are basically for fire departments and are not available to governmental municipalities.

Mr. Lent distributed copies of and briefly reviewed the Office of Emergency Services' May report. He stated the County is now compliant with NIMS (National Incident Management System). He said he is required to do a briefing to all Supervisors, and he hopes he can do this at the July Agenda meeting.

In discussing the communications system maintenance, Mr. Lent stated one antenna was found to be defective. That antenna was at the Providence tower, and served the County

fire system. An order has been placed for a new antenna. On Spruce Mountain, the oldest tower (circa 1969) was found to be a questionable condition. He said this is an urgent situation that needs to be looked at, and he solicited proposals from construction engineers who actually climb towers. When we are put on notice of a potential issue, we should look at this in depth, he said. He stated hopefully, we will have the proposals by next week. He said he will come back in June with additional information. He said he checked with the APA about our requirements for repair and replacement of the tower, because the tower is within the Park, and we are in good stead. He mentioned the tower is 120'.

Chairman Lawler said we will see what Mr. Lent's sense will be next month of what should be done. He asked how the system was performing. Mr. Lent stated we have had two months with no major failures. This system has served us well, but in June, one thing we will outline will be some of the concerns we have of the longevity of the existing system as we prepare to go forward, he said.

On a motion by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Trottier, the meeting adjourned to executive session to discuss litigation with the APA.

The meeting returned to open session.

Mr. Trottier moved to authorize the Chairman to enter into a contract with NYSTEC to identify radio system frequencies operable under the new design changes in an amount not to exceed \$19,780. Mr. Barrett seconded. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann