

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 8, 2007 – 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Trottier; Supervisors Callanan, Connors, Grattidge, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Lawler; Wood, Thompson; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; John Ciulla, Public Defender; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Mark Rider, Co. Attorney; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Sheriff Jim Bowen; Undersheriff Mike Woodcock; Jim Murphy, D.A.; Paul Parker, Malta; Press

Chairman Trottier called the meeting to order.

Mr. Connors moved to approve the minutes of the April 10th meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Rider said last month or so, a resolution was adopted asking for legislation to impose a wireless 911 charge. He said this requires a Home Rule request. It has been introduced in the Senate and is proposed to be introduced in the Assembly. A resolution will be needed to request this, he said. **Mr. Callanan moved to request this Home Rule legislation. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.**

Sheriff Bowen distributed copies of his monthly report. He said they are up over \$3,000 more than last year on the commission on inmates' collect calls. He said over 1,000 tickets were issued in April. He said they have hit every town with their Plate Hunter. The second Plate Hunter will be operational next week, he said. He stated a contract will be needed with the Village of Corinth to provide 24 hour a day/7days per week coverage at a cost of \$298,800. It will require a resolution of the Board. He mentioned they will have to create four new positions, and there will be no budget impact. This contract will take effect June 1st. **Mr. Connors moved to authorize a contract between the Village of Corinth and the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement services at a cost of \$298,800. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.**

Sheriff Bowen said they had a problem with InterAct, the people who were supposed to put the CAD system in. They had a 90-day delay, and they wanted another 30 days, he said. We had to break the contract, and then we hired Impact, he said. We had paid InterAct \$203,272. He said the County Attorney has looked at the Settlement Agreement, and this will require a resolution to get back \$91,003.30 from InterAct. **Mr. Callanan moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Johnson seconded. Unanimous.**

Sheriff Bowen said three years ago, they applied for a \$1.8 million grant, and we are up and running on this wireless 911 system. We are waiting for the wireless companies to transfer their 9-1-1 calls to the Sheriff's Department, he said. We have spent a total of \$1,577,104.03 to bring in this wireless 911 system, he said. On April 6th, we deposited that full amount. We got back every penny we spent, he stated.

Mr. J. Murphy requested a **resolution accepting \$36,000 Violence Against Women Grant**. He said this grant is from DCJS. He said they are in their 10th year of this. We began in 1997, and are still getting the money. It assists in prosecuting over 1,100 cases we have per year, he stated. **Mr. Grattidge moved to accept this grant. Mrs. Johnson seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. J. Murphy requested a **resolution accepting \$35,000 Road To Recovery Grant**. He said this will offset expenditures for misdemeanor and felony drug court. We use this for addicts, not drug dealers, and we have had a high success rate, he said. **Mrs. Johnson moved to accept this grant. Mr. Callanan seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. J. Murphy requested a **resolution accepting \$70,000 Auto Theft/Insurance Fraud Grant**. He said this is from DCJS to prosecute grand larceny and insurance fraud cases. **Mr. Connors moved to accept this grant. Mr. Lawler seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. J. Murphy requested a **resolution accepting \$56,972 aid to Prosecution Grant**. This allows us to target certain violent crimes and take those cases to trial, he said. **Mr. Callanan moved to accept this grant. Mr. Johnson seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Butler distributed copies of the Shelter's April report, and he briefly reviewed it. He pointed out nine animals were submitted to the lab to be tested for rabies, and three came back positive. That puts us at 11 so far for the year, he said. He mentioned that they conduct free rabies vaccination clinics once a month at the 4-H Training Center.

Regarding the conceptual design for a new animal shelter, Mr. Butler said final contracts were signed on April 30th. On May 3rd, Steve Rowland and his associate visited the Shelter. We are waiting for Butler, Rowland & Mays (architects) to hold a charette, which is a brainstorming session, that will be held at the Fire Training Center, he said. He stated he will invite the Shelter employees, Supervisors, animal control officers, veterinarians, vet techs, Presidents of the Saratoga County Kennel Club and some County residents to this event.

Mr. Butler said on Saturday, May 12th, there will be a Busy Bones 500 Dog Walk, at the County Fairgrounds, that was set up by Carol Lang, a Ballston Spa resident. This event is to raise money for the Shelter, he said. Registration is at 9:30 a.m., and the walk starts at 11:00 a.m. We are looking for someone to wear the dog costume and stand out front, he said. After the walk, the D-Line Pub will be offering hot dogs to those who bring their dogs, he said.

Mr. Butler said every Monday, they pick photos of dogs and cats off of their website and e-mail them to the media. The Times Union set up a link off of their website, and we can download all of the animals we have at the Shelter into their website, he said. They will rotate our photos in the paper with other rescue groups' photos, he said.

Mr. Ciulla requested a **resolution to accept an Aide to Defense Grant in the amount of \$21,164.** He said this grant is from the State to enhance defense services. **Mr. Trottier moved to accept this grant. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent distributed copies of his monthly report, and reviewed its contents. He said regarding the Reverse 9-1-1, he would like to have a designated contact person at the town level. He said he will send the Supervisors an updated copy of the Policy & Procedures. He said he is interested in a single point of contact. Mr. Lawler asked how will overlapping emergency responders between communities be dealt with. Mr. Lent said this is keyed toward the resident. Mr. Lawler asked if fire companies have access to this system. How will you deal with organizations that may want to get a message out to their area, he asked. Mr. Lent said he does not envision agencies having access to this. It will be controlled at the municipal level, he said. He stated in an emergency situation, the Sheriff's Communications people would be the ones activating the Reverse 9-1-1 system. Mr. Lawler asked if the Sheriff's Department would be the point of contact. Mr. Lent said sometimes, we may need to use the system in a defined municipal area, i.e., a boil water advisory. The more catastrophic events would be funneled through us, he said. Mr. Lawler said he does not want to see any friction created between organizations.

Mr. Lawler mentioned a scenario whereby Momentum (formerly G.E. Silicones) has a spill that creates a toxic cloud. Does my Public Safety Officer call it in? Does Halfmoon/Waterford have an obligation to get involved? Do I make the call, he asked. Mr. Lent said his comfort level is the first call there would be to Waterford's public safety group. Mr. Lawler said we should have a sample resolution to give to each municipality. Mr. Connors said his town has one in draft form, and they have a designated coordinator. He said he will fax it up here for each Supervisor's mailbox.

Mr. Lent said today, Chairman Trottier, and Supervisors Grattidge and A. Johnson attended a meeting with the leadership of the Statewide Wireless Network (SWN) to discuss, among many topics, a partnering agreement with them. As an outcome of that meeting, there was a consensus that the County should move forward with a preliminary partnering agreement (PPA) for purposes of allowing the vendor to expend resources on our system's design and also to allow for time to work through and negotiate specific points to be included in any full partnering agreement with SWN. This PPA does not commit the County to anything; no funds will be expended, no County resources committed, and the PPA can be terminated at any time. He said the agreement's main benefit to us is we want a site by site comparison of what SWN wants to do and what we want to do. **Mr. Connors moved to approve a preliminary partnering agreement with SWN. Mr. Grattidge seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent said our consultant, Mark Hoppe, is working on a M/a Comm radio project in Lancaster, PA. He has encouraged me to make a visit to Lancaster to observe and talk with personnel from Lancaster concerning parts of the project that are going well and to discuss parts of it that are not, he said. He requested permission from the Committee to visit Lancaster for that purpose. It was the consensus of the Committee to grant Mr. Lent approval to go to Lancaster, PA.

Mr. Lent requested a **resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Verizon for 911 System Equipment Maintenance and a 5-year maintenance agreement at a cost of \$306,889. Mr. Lawler moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Callanan seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent said Saratoga County was canvassed to see if we had enough damage to qualify for FEMA assistance due to damages from the April 15th storm. He said most of the severe damage occurred in the Sacandaga area of the County. An inspection team from FEMA and SEMO toured the area on May 1st. He said he presented them with an estimate of just over \$800,000 in damages, but based on their assessment of the damage, we were only allotted about \$200,000 in damages. In order to obtain any of that money, we needed to exceed \$617,000 in allowable FEMA damage, he said. He said based on the total and the fact we did not meet the FEMA threshold, no FEMA money will be available. He stated that FEMA said the damaged bridge in Day only needed minor repair. Chairman Trottier asked if each municipality can revisit their expenses. Mr. Lent said they should. Mrs. Johnson said they can tell Congresswoman Gillibrand and the State representatives that the bridge in Day will continue to be closed.

Mr. Lent requested a **resolution to accept a NYS SEMO grant in the amount of \$48,728 to offset administrative costs of the emergency management office. Mr. Lawler moved to accept this grant. Mr. Callanan seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Tremblay distributed copies of the Fire Services Report for April, and he briefly reviewed it.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann