

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

OCTOBER 4, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Lawler; Supervisors Barrett, Connors, Grattidge, Janik, Gutheil and Hargrave; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter; Jim Bowen, Sheriff; John Bergeron, Taxpayer; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Janik the minutes of the September 12, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Bowen distributed copies of the Sheriff's report to all committee members for their review. He said the commission on inmates collect calls was down a little from the 2005 August total of \$5,277.49 compared to the August 2006 total of \$5,202.52.

Mr. Bowen said, the population in the jail is down to 154 inmates. The Alternative to Incarceration Program in the county is working very well with local judges working with us to keep our population down. He commended the Probation Department and others involved in the program for a job well done.

Mr. Bowen said the money for the 911-communication room is going to require additional air conditioning. The ceiling tiles and rubber mats for the static electricity have been ordered. The \$90,000 for this project has been placed in the budget.

Mr. Janik commended the Sheriff on the increase in the number of commercial vehicles that were inspected.

Mr. Grattidge asked if the 911 system would be in place by January? Mr. Bowen said, yes, it should be up and running by the first of the Year. Training has begun, equipment is being delivered, and the wiring for the room is complete.

Mr. Butler distributed the Saratoga County Animal Shelter report for the month of September 2006 and gave a brief overview as follows:

There were 243 animals brought to the shelter for the month of September, with 42 returned to their owners. Thirteen animals were submitted to the rabies lab, which was up considerable from August, four came back positive. Two were from the town of Galway, one from the town of Milton, and one from the City of Saratoga Springs.

There were 66 licenses issued and 270 animals were vaccinated at the September rabies clinic.

Mr. Butler reported that the web site is up and running.

The permit for the crematory should have been submitted, and the modeling for the machine has been submitted to the State, he said.

Mr. Lent distributed the October 2006 monthly report from the Office of Emergency Services to all committee members for their review. He gave a brief update as follows:

Permission was received from the Adirondack Park Agency to rebuild the 140ft. tower on Spruce Mountain. Work continues with NationalGrid and after some negotiation a tentative understanding has been reached. Currently, the county collects \$2,000 in rent from NationalGrid and consideration is being given to forgive that rent in consideration for the county to install its antennas on their tower. To get this done it would require attaching new antennas and coax to the National Grid tower not moving antennas, and to do some renovations to the building. To do a relocation of the antennas and the bay station equipment over to the old Channel 13 building is approximately \$160,000. If the existing tower were to be rebuilt the cost would be approximately \$225,000. There would be approximately a \$65,000 savings by moving the equipment to the new building, even after all renovations. It will be a bigger and more substantial tower, he said.

Mr. Lent asked for committee permission to move forward to draft up the necessary documents with NationalGrid and send out proposals.

Mr. Lawler asked Mr. Lent when he thought he would have a price? Mr. Lent said, within a week.

Mr. Lent said the project price; based on the preliminary prices that he has to date would be approximately \$160,000.

Mr. Lawler said it is a great revision to the plan, providing a lot of positives and in the long run saves money.

Mr. Connors asked if there would be any disruption in emergency communication during the switchover? Mr. Lent said, yes. For each station that is taken out of the existing building and moved down to the new building it would be approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours downtime for each station. There are 12 stations on Spruce Mountain.

Mr. Connors made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to approve expenditures of up to \$160,000 based on the recommendations of Emergency Services for the emergency tower relocation project. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent said the county is doing a significant rate of E-911 verifications. The collection of surcharge revenue has been slightly behind other years; however, it picked up slightly in September.

Mr. Lent requested an amendment to the Blue Wing Contract for additional consulting work in the amount of \$8,000. Blue Wing was asked to do some regulatory work that was not anticipated at the time of the original scope of work, he said.

There are 23 FCC licenses that need to be addressed as well as FCC forms that need to be filed in a very short window of time.

Mr. Connors made a motion, seconded by Mr. Janik to approve amending the contract with Blue Wing for additional consulting work in the amount of \$8,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent gave a brief update on the New Radio System as follows:

Based on the last meeting there have been some revisions to the last application. All revisions have not been completed; however, they should be finalized by next week he said. A couple of meetings have been held with the APA staff, moving forward with the November target of meeting with the commissioners.

Mr. Lawler said he and Mr. Lent met with the Adirondack Council a few weeks ago to present the changes in the plan to them. Given what the Adirondack priorities are and what the county priorities are, it was a positive meeting.

The Fire Services Report for the month of September was distributed to all committee members for their review.

Mr. Lawler said at the meeting of September 13, 2006, this committee gave direction to the County Administrator's office to move forward with the release of an RFP for the reverse 911 system. This is a project that this committee has studied for several months. Supervisors Connors and Trottier worked with Mr. Lent on the RFP which was presented to the committee in August for consideration at the September 13th meeting. It was the direction of this group to move forward to release the RFP. It has been since learned that the RFP has not been released. The RFP was not released, according to the County Administrator, due to budget considerations. Mr. Lawler said it would make better sense to release the RFP to obtain a sense of how much the costs would be.

Mr. Lawler said that the County Administrator does not have the authority to over rule the directive of the committee. This was explained to the Administrator that it would be discussed at the October committee meeting.

Mr. Lawler read a letter from Mr. Trottier as follows:

Chairman Lawler,

At your request, I have met with representatives from Emergency Call Notification Systems. It was my recommendation at the last Public Safety meeting to move forward

with the RFP, which the committee had approved. It is my understanding that the RFP has not been released.

Since I am unable to attend the next Public Safety Committee meeting due to a grant conference, I am asking that the Public safety Committee consider bringing this RFP recommendation to a full Saratoga County Board of Supervisors vote at the next scheduled meeting on October 17, 2006.

To delay the pricing of the system only delays the county's abilities to make conscious decisions both physically and responsibly on the feasibility of the system. As elected officials we must keep safety of our residents at the forefront and look for ways to notify them in a timely and efficient manner of imminent dangers that could potentially leave them in harms way.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Janik to approve a resolution to go to the Board of Supervisors, if necessary, to direct the County Administrator to release the RFP consistent with the directive of the Public Safety Committee. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Lawler the committee adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Negotiations. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Janik, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the meeting returned to open session.

No action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom