

## Public Safety Committee Minutes

February 3, 2011 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Barrett, Grattidge, Hargrave, Jenkins, Kinowski, Veitch, Wright, M. Johnson, Wood, Southworth, Collyer, and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; John Adams, Probation; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Jim Murphy, District Attorney; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Murphy said the District Attorney's Office has applied for a grant from DCJS in the amount of \$25,000 for the purchase of video recording equipment to be used by all the law enforcement agencies in Saratoga County. This is part of a statewide initiative to require law enforcement agencies to video tape statements of defendants during interviews, and forty Seven or forty eight of the District Attorney's are now in the process of getting this on line.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Jenkins to approve a resolution to accept a \$25,000 DCJS grant for the purpose of purchasing video-recording equipment to be used by all the law enforcement agencies in Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Wormuth asked if the video recording equipment would be going into all of the substations where people are interviewed? Mr. Murphy said, no it will go into the Sheriff's department, local municipal police departments and the State Police stations, not including the substations. There are pages of crimes that will be required to be video taped if a suspect is being investigated for one of those particular crimes. If that crime fits the list then the officer will bring the person to the station and the video equipment is turned on and statements recorded and then provided to the District Attorney's office. In a number of years, as we work this out, the goal will be to have one in the Sheriff's substation in Halfmoon. Initially, the Sheriff's equipment will be in the Milton Station, which is the main station. The Sheriff, State Police and all of the local municipal police departments have entered into a sharing agreement.

Mr. Murphy requested a resolution to allow the county to enter into an agreement between Saratoga County and Office Data Systems Inc. for \$115,000. This is for the purchase of the iRecord System, which is on State contract, and has been used by a number of District Attorney's offices across the State already. The contract price will pay for all of the installations, equipment, maintenance and training. The money is

coming from a \$75,000 appropriation from the Capital Appropriations Budget, a \$25,000 DCJS grant, and an additional \$15,000 from the District Attorney's office.

Mr. Murphy said he hasn't allowed law enforcement to have any ability to redact, shorten, cut or modify the DVD's or tapes. The videotapes will come to the District Attorney's office where the decision will be made with a court order to modify them.

**A motion was made by Barrett, seconded by Mr. Veitch to approve a resolution to enter into a contract with Office Data Systems and to amend the budget for \$15,000 for the purchase of an iRecord System to be used in the District Attorney's office. Unanimous.**

Mr. Murphy requested a resolution proclaiming Crime Victims Rights Week for April 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. All Supervisors are invited to participate on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00p.m., at the Presbyterian New England Congregational Church in Saratoga Springs. This year's theme is "Shaping the Future, Honoring the Past".

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to approve a resolution proclaiming April 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> as Crime Victims Rights Week. Unanimous.**

Mr. Adams requested a resolution to accept \$109,888 from the Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services has already received approval from the Board of Supervisors to receive the money from the Office of Family and Children Services, Resolution 65-10. A portion of the money will be used to contract with Berkshire Farms for Detention/Prevention in the amount of \$85,000. The remaining \$24,000 will be used to offset probation officers salaries in the juvenile justice unit for Detention/Prevention. The current contract with Berkshire Farms expires June 30, 2011.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Jenkins to approve a resolution to accept a Detention/Prevention Grant in the amount of \$109,888 and authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Berkshire Farms to provide the services. Unanimous. (No budget impact)**

Mr. Grattidge asked if the contract with Berkshire Farms depends on how many clients are sent to them? Mr. Adams said it is an annual contract and they accept whoever is sent, up to a certain number at a time. Social Services also provides two Berkshire workers for a total of three, but only one is funded through this. They take up to a total of seven clients at any one time, with the clients at highest risk of being placed out of the home, targeted using the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument System

Mr. Adams said there is a Juvenile Justice Reform component to the Governor's budget, and it looks like they are going to eliminate this funding stream in the future, and establish a Supervision and Treatment Service for juvenile programs. It is hopeful that some of the savings will translate into more money coming into the local area to help support keeping kids in the community.

Mr. Adams said there was federal money that was sought by the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives to help offset the costs of Ignition Interlock monitoring. A one year grant was approved and is based upon the 2008 numbers of \$114.66 per offender; the cap for Saratoga County is \$46,781.44. A voucher has been submitted for 128 DWI offenders, conditional discharges and probation cases where the court ordered the installation of the ignition interlock system.

**A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to approve a resolution to authorize the Chairman to contract with the Department of Criminal Justice Services and to accept funding up to \$46,781.44. Unanimous.**

Mr. Grattidge asked if it was the responsibility of the offender to pay for the interlock system? Mr. Adams said, yes, this money is specifically for probation, monitoring, and labor.

Mr. Lent said much of the outside construction activity slowed down this period due to weather related issues. Installation of all the new radios in the Sheriff Patrol units has been completed.

Mr. Lent said the big milestone they are working on is the conversion of the EMS community, but all and all things are going along fairly well.

Mrs. Wormuth said the reason this was brought forward to the Public Safety Committee was for the county to develop a protocol or a use policy for sharing our towers for people who want to co-locate, which is not only allowed, but recommended under the FCC communications regulations. One of the suggestions that has been brought forward on several occasions is to look at encouraging carriers to go to areas where there is not as well of a coverage, and if they are not going to utilize one tower, that they look at utilizing another. Those are some of the things, along with the safety requirements and different things that the Public Safety Office is recommending. As we get into the northern end of the county the coverage isn't as wide range as we would like it to be. One of the goals of the Public Safety Committee is to look at ways in which to encourage that.

Mr. Grattidge said it is very important that we do try to get good coverage throughout the county whenever possible.

Mr. Tremblay highlighted the following Structure Fires that took place between January 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup> in the county.

Galway Fire Department: Structure Fire on Hermance Road

Ballston Spa Fire Department: Structure Fire on Sherman Road

Gansevoort Fire Department: Structure Fire on Mott Road

## Halfmoon Fire Department: Structure Fire at LaBella Pizza Shop

He said the county Fire Investigation Unit responded to 12 calls for investigations for the month of January, which was the highest numbers of calls in his memory for one month.

Mr. Tremblay said he is still in the process of investigating options for the Mobile Storage Building.

Mrs. Wormuth said renting versus purchasing the Mobile Storage Building was looked at, and considering that the purchase price was approximately \$5,000, she suggested that path be continued.

Mr. Tremblay said the monthly rental fee for a storage unit would be approximately \$120 a month. Keeping it on site is preferred as 75% of the things that are going to be stored is training equipment and all of the training would be conducted on site.

Mrs. Wormuth said the storage unit would be portable and could be moved and used at another location in the county if necessary.

Mrs. Wormuth thanked Mr. Veitch, and Mr. Kinowski, as members of the subcommittee, for their help in looking at options for a new Storage Facility.

Mrs. Wormuth said she received correspondence from a county resident with regard to a concern about the security in the Social Services building.

Mrs. Wormuth appointed Mr. Hargrave, Mr. Kinowski and herself to a subcommittee that would go to the Social Services Building to look at security issues. This may become an issue that will go beyond the Social Services Building, and looking at security in other county buildings as well, she said.

Mrs. Wormuth said Mr. Hellwig would deal with the one issue from the Sheriff's Department, which no one is here to represent.

Mr. Hellwig said last year there were three separate resolutions to accept Homeland Security grant money for various items in the Sheriff's department. There was a fourth one that was approved in 2009. The 2009 grant was for \$105,000, which was wireless 911 funding to purchase equipment in the dispatch area of the Sheriff's Department. The other Homeland Security grants were \$33,000 for Vehicle Canine and training expenses, \$119,000 for another canine, which specializes in explosive detection, vehicles and submersible video equipment, and a iRobot, which was a robot purchase. None of the items have been purchased as yet, but are covered by 100% State Aid. The Sheriff would like to amend this year's budget to put those items back into his budget for a total of \$288,890.

Mrs. Wormuth asked what the reason was for the delay on following through on some of the items that the committee has already approved? Mr. Hellwig said over the past

several years the Sheriff has spent approximately \$2 million upgrading the dispatch center. This is just a matter of incrementally making the changes to the equipment that has been purchased.

Mrs. Wormuth asked if that included the radio system equipment or beyond that? Mr. Hellwig said, beyond that. Mr. Lent said this is in compliance with phase two wireless 911 where they had to bring the dispatch center in. That was pre the radio system and it has taken a long time to get through.

Mr. Grattidge asked if these were different grants than the ones that were done last month?

Mr. Tremblay said the Homeland Security grants are classified as the law enforcement which the sheriff oversees, state homeland security and the site program, which Emergency Services oversees, and then there is the Public Health part of it also.

Mrs. Wormuth clarified that these grants were proposed by the Sheriff and approved by this committee last year. Some of them were done in 2009. The committee has already approved this to move it forward into the 2011 budget. This is a separate Homeland Security Grant, but they are things you would have seen and read about in the past because they have come up before this committee previously.

Mr. Kinowski said most grants have expiration dates on them. If these don't expire until further on, why are we reapportioning each year? Mr. Hellwig said once the 2010 budget is closed, the Sheriff would lose access to that money. The money cannot be brought forward without the committee's authorization.

Mrs. Wormuth said with most of the grants, the money is expended first.

Mr. Hellwig said with capital budgets we have separate funds setup, where at the end of the year those funds do not shut down.

Mrs. Wormuth said she would have liked to have had someone from the Sheriff's department attending the meeting to explain what and why these things are happening.

Mr. Tremblay said just because it is a 2009 grant, it doesn't necessarily mean that it was received in 2009. It could have been received in 2010.

Mr. Kinowski asked if it would be worth a proposal at some point to look at putting these into a category in the budget that flows until expiration? If this committee did not approve it, it would be instantly lost money, plus a report has to be sent in to close out the grants, he said.

Mr. Hellwig said, to a certain extent we are at the mercy of the Comptroller's office. We have had discussions at times where things were budgeted to be spent in a given year and it has dragged on for a couple of years, where they say you should be setting up a

separate Capital Fund for that. Mr. Hellwig said he agreed that it is redundant to get into this year after year, but he isn't sure if there is a reasonable explanation or solution.

Mrs. Wormuth said if it is something that can be anticipated in the future, perhaps it could be the committee's recommendation to look at that, especially, if we know it is going to be a multi-year type of grant or it is going to carry on based on the technology or not having the full equipment.

Mr. Tremblay said some of the things are monthly expenses, which are approved as a lump sum, so it could carry on for the entire three years. In some cases it could be four or five years by the time you factor in the extensions.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to reappropriate Homeland Security Grant money in the amount of \$390,730, and to amend the 2011 budget thereto. Unanimous.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom