

Public Safety Committee Minutes
February 11, 2014 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors Johnson, Lent, Peck, Veitch, Wood, Sausville, and Martin; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Deputy Administrator; Dan Miller, Ed Tremblay, Paul Parker, Emergency Services; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; Michael Zurlo, Kevin Mullaney, Richard Castle, Sheriff's Office; Susan Hayes-Masa, Coroner; Brian O'Connor, Auditor; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Deb Oligny, Animal Shelter; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Peck, the minutes of the December 10, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman Barrett announced the appointment of Supervisor Lent as Committee Vice Chair.

Mr. Schreiber said the Office of Indigent Legal Services Grant is grant number three which is a continuing grant that is going to fund the newly created Public Defenders Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve an Office of Indigent Legal Services Grant in the amount of \$70,500 per year. Unanimous.

Mrs. Oligny said a total of 2,436 animals were received by the Animal Shelter in 2013, with 150 of them returned to the shelter; 184 adopted, and 901 animals spayed or neutered. Currently, the shelter has 35 dogs, 105 cats, 2 bunnies.

Mrs. Oligny requested a resolution authorizing the transfer of money from the Animal Shelter Trust Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$21,303. The money would be used for the purchase of an animal scale; doctor fees, Vet Tech fees, additional outside lighting, protective equipment to remain OSHA compliant, and medications.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to approve a resolution authorizing a transfer from the Animal Shelter Trust Fund account to the General Fund in the amount of \$21,303. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay gave a brief update on the Monthly Emergency Services Report. He said there was no use at either the Burn Building or Smoke House due to the weather conditions. He said there were two classes held with 64 in attendance.

An Accident Victim Extrication Training took place with 44 completing the class. The County Fire Investigation Unit responded to six requests, with the most notable being the Burnt Hills Bowling Alley. The Saratoga County Hazardous Materials Response Team held a training session with the Ballston Spa Fire Department, and the Office of Emergency Services monitored the Ice Jam conditions in the Village of Ballston Spa.

Mr. Tremblay said there was a severe Propane Leak in the Town of Wilton where people within a half mile radius were notified by 911 to evacuate as a precautionary measure.

Mrs. Masa said NMS Laboratory is the lab that the Coroner's office sends toxicology to. In 2013 there were a large number of cases that needed advanced toxicology done, resulting in an overage that will require an amendment to the 2013 contract in order to make payments.

Mrs. Masa requested an amendment to the 2014 contract for the new fee schedule, and for the cap of \$20,000 to be removed as there is a large unpredictability of how many cases will be done and how many of them will involve toxicology testing. She said trying to project an exact number is almost impossible.

Mr. Wright asked how much over the \$20,000 was spent. Mrs. Masa said approximately \$14,000.

Mr. Peck suggested raising the cap to \$50,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Veitch to approve an amendment to the -2014 contract fee schedule for additional testing services in the amount of \$14,000, and to increase the cap to the annual contract to \$50,000. Unanimous.

Mrs. Masa requested an amendment to the existing contract with Saratoga Hospital to include a fee schedule that was negotiated for x-ray services.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve an amendment to the existing contract with Saratoga Hospital to provide x-rays when requested by the Coroner in relation to autopsies. Unanimous.

Mrs. Masa requested an amendment to the contract with Forensic Medical Services to include a fee schedule for an assistance fee, at \$150 per case.

A motion was made by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Peck, to approve an amendment to the contract with Forensic Medical Services to include a fee schedule for an assistance fee at a cost of \$150 per case. Unanimous.

Sheriff Zurlo said the law enforcement agreements with the towns of Halfmoon and Clifton Park have no change. They will remain at the same amount for 2014 providing law enforcement protection for the time period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch to approve the continuation of a contract between the Saratoga County Sheriff's office and the towns of Halfmoon and Clifton Park to provide law enforcement for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. Unanimous.

Sheriff Zurlo requested a resolution to continue with their agreement with the Marcy Psychiatric Center where they provide psychiatric services for inmates. The contract is for three years with no changes.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lent to approve the renewal of an agreement with Marcy Psychiatric Center to provide psychiatric services to inmates at a cost of \$165/day. Unanimous.

Sheriff Zurlo said the Sheriff's office has received a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$55,000 for the purpose of crime scene mapping to be used at crime scenes and accident investigations. This grant includes a new robotic crime scene mapping device and training, as well as three desktop computers.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Johnson to accept a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$55,000 for the purpose of crime scene mapping. Unanimous.

Sheriff Zurlo requested a resolution to apply for and accept Local Enhanced Wireless 911 funding in the amount of \$103,388 from the NYS Division of Homeland Security. The funds will be used to upgrade computers in the 911 communications center.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Wood, to apply for and accept \$103,388 in Local Enhanced Wireless 911 funding. Unanimous.

Sheriff Zurlo said the Saratoga County Sheriff's vehicles have been red and white since the early 90's. He said approximately 95% of the Sheriff's offices in New York State have gone to a Black vehicle with reflective markings for better visibility at night. Sheriff Zurlo said there are over 40 vehicles, with eleven to be changed to black this year at no additional cost to the county. He said the remaining vehicles will be transitioned throughout the next three years.

Mr. Veitch said he attended the NYS Association of Counties standing committee on public safety at the NYSAC conference where he was appointed the Vice Chairman of the committee. There were three resolutions that were sent on to the State, one of which correlates with the County's legislative program this year. The first one is calling on the Governor to more equitably impose a 911 surcharge on all wireless communication devices. The second was to ask the State to enact legislation to help county jails manage increasing costs on mental health services for incarcerated individuals. The third resolution is requesting relief to the counties of the expenses associated with housing parole violators in county jails.

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom