

Public Safety Committee Minutes
June 10, 2014 - 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors Johnson, Lent, Veitch, Wood, Wright, Grattidge, Martin and Sausville; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Steven Bayle, Probation; Lisa Scaccia, Employment and Training; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Deborah Oligny, Animal Shelter; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the May 13, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Bayle requested a resolution to accept the Alternative to Incarceration application to receive a grant in the amount of \$26,955. He said the grant is broken down with \$16,827 for Probation to run the Pre-Trial Services Program, and \$10,128 for Employment and Training to run their Community Work Order Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the County's Alternatives to Incarceration Performance Based Services Plan and authorizing acceptance of state grants in the amounts of \$10,128 for the Community work Order Program \$16,827 for the Pre-trial Services Program for the period beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015. Unanimous.

The Office of Emergency Services made a purchase of 16 UPS Batteries for the Providence Tower site. The batteries were found to be past their expiration date and failing. After conducting a thorough review of the USP Batteries at other tower locations, these too were found to be past their expiration date and will soon have to be replaced. OES is currently working with consultants to work out details of a maintenance contract that would include the replacement of batteries.

The Office of Emergency Services will be hosting a June 12th Emergency Management Certification and Training at the Fire Training Center. To date, more than 35 individuals comprised of public officials and emergency responders and CERT volunteers are scheduled to be in attendance. This free training is being offered by the Department of Homeland Security in conjunction with Saratoga County OES.

Mr. Tremblay said the firefighter 1 class was completed with 22 firefighters in the class. He said an informational meeting for, I Am Responding, was held on May 29th with most of the agencies involved in attendance.

Mrs. Oligny stated that she wanted to continue discussions with regard to the behavior assessment/modification program that she would like to put into place at the animal shelter.

She said she feels it would be a benefit to the county and the shelter by saving the county money. Behavior assessments help to identify behavior issues more quickly. Animals with behavior problems that are not viable can be euthanized in a timely manner. Animals with more modifiable issues can be put directly into the behavior/medication program more quickly and therefore can get help and become adoptable more quickly. She said she would hope that it would help with the return to shelter rate, as the person that would be helping with the program would also help to transition the dogs into the home.

Mrs. Oligny said the money used for the program would strictly be taken from the Animal Shelter Trust Fund and would not affect the county budget.

Mrs. Oligny said a question that asked at the last committee meeting was why existing staff can't be trained. She said staff could be trained but the current staff does not have the ability to do thorough assessments of the animals at this time. She said it is really important for a professional evaluator to assess dogs that they are unsure about. She said it would not be appropriate to do an assessment if you had a bond with the dog, and the ideal time to do an assessment is after the dog has made the adjustment to their new surroundings at the shelter.

Mr. Moore asked for those dogs that are not strays, is there a process for obtaining their history. Mrs. Oligny said, no, but she is currently working on a more thorough questionnaire.

Mr. Wright said he thought that the county was losing sight as to what the shelter was built for. It was built to help towns deal with stray animals and not for individuals who don't want their pets anymore to put the burden on the taxpayers of Saratoga County. He said he would not be in favor of creating any positions at the Animal Shelter for this service.

Mr. Barrett said one of the concerns is that this would be a recurring funding request from the trust fund.

Mr. Lent expressed his concerns with the current \$10 surrendering fee, and proposed that the committee consider raising the fee.

Mr. Veitch said the City of Saratoga Springs Police Department has made a request to the county to join the radio system. He said the City is prepared to pay for the cost of their radios from their own budget. He said since Mr. Zeilman did a good job explaining the benefits of being on the system, both the DPW and fire department would like to be a part of the county radio system.

Mr. Barrett said at the Clifton Park Town Board meeting the Youth Court was established. He said training will begin in the fall and they will begin hearing cases in January 2015. Mr. Barrett thanked Mr. Bayle, Mr. Carr, Mr. Dorsey, Sheriff Zurlo, and Jim Murphy for their support.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom