

Public Safety Committee Minutes  
March 8, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lent; Supervisors Allen, Johnson, Lawler, Lucia, and Wright; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Chad Cooke, Deputy Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Carl Zeilman, Ed Tremblay, Paul Parker, Emergency Services; Wes Carr, STOP-DWI; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Steven Gordon, Richard Castle, Sheriff; Jason Hayes, Animal Shelter; Frank McClement, Veterans; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes of the February 9, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Carr requested authorization to participate in the 2016 State STOP-DWI Program and contracts with local agency participants. This program appropriates money to the police agencies for DWI enforcement. There is also some intercounty funding for Probation, Mental Health, District Attorney and the Prevention Council for their Safe Spring, and “It is Okay to Say No” Program. He said this plan was submitted to the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee in September and was approved on December 15, 2015.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Lawler to approve a resolution authorizing participation in the 2016 State STOP-DWI Program and contracts with local agency participants. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zurlo requested a resolution proclaiming April 11<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. This is in support of the men and women in the Sheriff’s Department for the hard work that they do every day over the course of the year.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Lucia to approve a resolution proclaiming April 11<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zurlo announced the appointment of Undersheriff Castle to Deputy Sheriff. Sheriff Zurlo said there will be a swearing in ceremony in the Board Room on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Board Room.

Mr. Castle requested a resolution to accept a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$148,969.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Allen to approve a resolution to accept a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$148,969. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Heggen requested a resolution proclaiming April 10<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. She said this year's theme is Serving Victims, Building Trust and Restoring Hope. There will be a candlelight vigil on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, at St. Peter Lutheran church in Malta, as a kickoff to the capital district National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

**A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Lawler to approve a resolution proclaiming April 10<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Heggen requested a resolution to accept a Domestic Violence Grant in the amount of \$35,600. The grant will go to funding two full time Domestic Violence Attorney's in the District Attorney's office who handle all of the felonies, the majority of the misdemeanor's, and domestic violence cases around the county.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve a resolution to accept a Domestic Violence Grant in the amount of \$35,600. Unanimous.**

Mr. Schreiber said the Public Defender's office has received a grant to hire a Social Worker. The social worker will be working with social services, probation department and district attorney's office. Social Workers are to find programs and rehabilitation for individuals, to keep them out of jail and back in society. Mr. Schreiber said he would like to hire Jody O'Neill for this position.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Allen to authorize a contract with Jody O'Neill to provide social work and case management for Criminal and Family Court cases through the Public Defender's office. Unanimous.**

Mr. Schreiber said last year the Public Defender's office spent \$63,051.37 on 44 appeals. He said he would like to hire Brian Quinn, Esq. as an Appellate Attorney. He said Mr. Quinn worked at both the Appellate Division and the Court of Appeals. Mr. Schreiber said both the Social Worker and Appellate Attorney services are funded by a grant from the Office of Indigent Legal Services; therefore, there is no budget impact to the county.

Mr. Schreiber said the salary for Ms. O'Neill will be up to \$25,000/yr. or \$23.70/hr. He said this is a part-time position of 35 hours bi-weekly, with no benefits. Mr. Quinn's salary is \$42.30/hr., or up to \$42,000/yr. This is a part-time position of 35 hours bi-weekly, with no benefits.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Lucia to authorize a contract with Mr. Brian Quinn, Esq. to provide appellate attorney services for Criminal and Family Court cases handled through the Public Defender's office. Unanimous.**

Mr. Hayes gave a brief outline of the Animal Shelter report for February. He said 98 animals were received by the shelter during the month of February, representing a 20% decrease from last year. Animals returned to their owners was up by 1% at 22, and 64 animals were adopted. The number of animals that were euthanized was down 50% at 12 for the month. He said the length of time animals spend at the shelter has not increased, but the shelter has been

successful in forging relationships with rescue groups that are fit to deal with specialized cases. There were 10 animals submitted to the lab for rabies testing, which was double from the same time last year, with two testing positive. Twenty five licenses were issued. Twenty four animals were spayed/neutered.

Mr. Zeilman presented a Patriot Award from the Employer Support Guard Reserve. He said as a Naval Officer of the Guard and being with the county for the past couple of years, he said he has found it very helpful that the County Board of Supervisors are so supportive of military reservists.

Mrs. Stanton from the office of the Employer Support Guard Reserve said that Mr. Zeilman has nominated Mr. Hellwig to receive the Patriot Award, which was presented at the meeting.

Mr. Zeilman requested a resolution to re-appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$80,565.01 from 2015 to 2016 to cover three contractual expenses.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve a resolution to re-appropriate unspent grant funds in the amount of \$80,565.01 and to amend the budget thereto. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zeilman emailed the monthly Emergency Services Report to all supervisors for their review.

**On a motion made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Lawler the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom