

Public Safety Committee Minutes
March 15, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Paul Lent; Supervisors Preston Allen, Jack Lawler, Dan Pemrick, Tim Szczepaniak and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Wes Carr, STOP DWI; Michael Zurlo, Rick Castle, Sheriff; Susan Hayes-Masa, Coroner; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Jason Hayes, Animal Shelter; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Allen, proclaiming April 2-8, 2017 as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" in Saratoga County. Unanimous.

Mrs. Heggen said that the theme for this year is Strength, Resilience and Justice. Mrs. Heggen said that Crime Victims' Rights Week draws attention and shines a light on all of the issues and concerns that victims of crime deal with. Mrs. Heggen said that a candlelight vigil is set for Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 2pm at the St. Peter Lutheran Church in Malta. All are welcome. Mr. Lent said that it is a worthwhile and quite moving event to attend.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Lawler, to authorize the acceptance of a Domestic Violence grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$35,600 to offset salaries in the DA's office. Unanimous.

Mrs. Heggen said that the grant amount is the same amount as last year. The funds are used to offset the salary of one of the Domestic Violence prosecutors.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize the acceptance of an Aid to Prosecution grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$41,300 to offset salaries in the DA's office. Unanimous.

Mrs. Heggen said that the grant amount is the same amount as last year. The funds support the prosecution of violent felony offenses including murder, assault, burglary and robbery. The funds are used to offset the salaries of an Assistant District Attorney and an Investigator.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize the acceptance of a Crimes Against Revenue Program grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$125,238 to offset salaries in the DA's office. Unanimous.

Mrs. Heggen said that the funds support the prosecution of crimes concerning payment of non-taxes such as Medicaid fraud, welfare fraud, unemployment fraud and workers compensation fraud. The funds are used to offset the salary and benefits of an Assistant District Attorney.

They are working collaboratively with several State agencies including Tax and Finance and the Department of Labor.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize participation in 2017 State STOP-DWI Program and contracts with local agency participants. Unanimous.

Mr. Carr distributed a handout detailing the 2017 STOP-DWI program budget. This is an annual resolution. There are three components to the STOP-DWI program, Enforcement – involving funding for the County Sheriffs office and local Police Departments for DWI enforcement, Intercounty – offsets the costs of Probation Department, Office of Mental Health and Addiction and District Attorney’s office for their work with the DWI population and Education & Prevention – provides funding for the Prevention Council in Saratoga Springs for their Safe Spring Program as well as other school and youth based education programs. This year \$4,000 has been included in the Prevention Council funding to update the victim impact panel presentation. STOP-DWI program also helps fund after Prom activities and events throughout the County. The plan was submitted to the Governors Traffic Safety committee in September 2016 and approval was received in January 2017. Funding for the STOP DWI program is 100% State Aid. Mr. Carr said that the STOP DWI program reserve fund currently has approximately \$47,000.

A discussion took place regarding the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Council in Saratoga Springs and the programs they provide which include the Safe Spring Program, Better Decision programs and monthly victim impact panels. Mr. Lawler said that the County may want to look at opening up a new role for the Prevention Council in conjunction with the Sheriff’s Department and STOP DWI office in the fight against the opioid epidemic.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize agreements for specialized law enforcement services to the Town of Halfmoon in the amount of \$209,100 and the Town of Clifton Park in the amount of \$540,006.09, for the period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that the rates include a 2% raise from 2016.

Mr. Zurlo gave a brief update on the March 14, 2017 snow storm. Extra communications staff was brought in. 88 calls were taken between noon and 4pm. At 2pm two structure fire calls were received.

Mr. Lawler commended Mr. Zeilman on his updates throughout the storm.

Mr. Zurlo said that the Amy Stock trailer was brought to the Department over the weekend. The family spent \$30,000 on creating the trailer and it is available throughout the State. Mr. Zurlo has put in a request to have the display brought to the Saratoga County Fair this year.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize an amendment to the contract with NMS Laboratories for testing services as deemed necessary by the Coroner's Physician. Unanimous.

Mrs. Hayes-Masa said that the amendment will cover all of the new tests that are continually added to the NMS Fee schedule. Many new tests are being created based on what is found at the scene. Mr. Pemrick requested that the Coroner give a report to the committee regarding the specific tests needed that are not on the fee schedule.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to authorize an amendment to the contract with RS Telecom to include hourly rates for FCC Licensed Technician at a rate of \$90 per hour and an FCC Licensed Senior Engineer at a rate of \$135 per hour for the period between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2018. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay said that the company omitted the hourly rates on the most recent agreement and the amendment will correct that.

Mr. Tremblay gave a brief update on the 3/14/2017 storm.

Mr. Hayes gave a brief update on the animal shelter.

Mr. Kinowski discussed the most recent storm and said that since the Governor declared a state of emergency for all New York Counties, the County of Saratoga did not need to declare an emergency. He said that he will check further into the possibility of getting any funds for infrastructure damage.

On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board