

Public Safety Committee Minutes  
September 5, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Paul Lent; Supervisors Preston Allen, Vince DeLucia, Peter Martin, Dan Pemrick, Tim Szczepaniak, Kevin Tollisen and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Richard Castle, Sheriff; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Carl Zeilman, 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. Allen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the minutes of the August 8, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, to proclaim September 17th through the 23rd, 2017 as Sheriff's week in Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zurlo said that this is a statewide initiative to recognize the men and women of the Sheriffs' Departments throughout the State.

Mr. Lent said that the Sheriff's monthly report was previously distributed via email. Mr. Zurlo said that the numbers in all categories are all increasing. Categories include calls, blotters, arrests and traffic tickets.

**A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, to proclaim October 2017 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Heggen said that this is an annual request and it shines a light on the victims of crimes. Mrs. Heggen said that during this month they ramp up their efforts with the Mechanicville Community Center and Well Spring in Saratoga Springs, both organizations work with domestic violence victims.

Mr. Tremblay said that his monthly report was previously distributed via email and gave a brief overview of the report.

**A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize the Chair to accept a \$217,437 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant to cover Emergency Services departmental expenses for emergency notification network, equipment, training, related services and amending the 2017 budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mr. Tremblay said that some of the funds will help fund payments towards I Am Responding, purchase of scuba equipment for the Fire Department Dive teams and funds to support previous grants maintenance of equipment.

Mr. Tremblay said that they recently had an incident where the paging system went down due to a lightning strike and I Am Responding was the primary notification. Mr. Tremblay commended the Sheriff's Department Communication team on their handling of the situation.

**A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize the acceptance of a Corporate Donation from Canadian Pacific of a surplus rail car and approving the Asset Donation Agreement for same. Unanimous.**

Mr. Tremblay said that CP Rail has offered this rail car that is being put out of service. The car will be transported up to the rail which runs along Route 50 however the cost of transportation and set up from there will not be included. Mr. Tremblay said that they will work with CP Rail on what steps need to be taken, this portion of the project may have to go out to bid. The railcar will be used for training purposes and fire simulators.

Mr. DeLucia said that they received a letter from the NYS DOT regarding the recent tanker rollover in the Town of Malta highly commending Emergency Services and all agencies involved on their handling of the matter.

Mr. Lent said that the Office of Emergency Services monthly newsletter was previously distributed via email.

**A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize a rate increase from \$45 per call plus mileage to \$90 per call plus mileage for Animal Shelter calls that require staff to respond to animal control issues. The motion passed. Mr. Lent was opposed.**

Mr. Hayes said that the increase is being requested due to the personnel costs for the calls. He said that the cost of each call averages \$87. Calls are generally after hours and are take around 3 hours which is booked as overtime. Mr. Lent expressed concern over the impact of such a large increase on smaller towns with smaller budgets, for example two calls will double the animal control budget in the Town of Galway. Mr. Lent informed the committee that prior to 2015 there was no fee for this service. Mr. Cooke said that this rate increase will impact the 2017 budget. Mr. Hayes said that in 2016 there were 16 calls in 12 towns. Mr. Hayes said that the budget impact will increase the fees collected by approximately \$800 per year.

**A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to reduce adoption fee for cats and kittens through November of 2017. Unanimous.**

Mr. Hayes said that they would like to reduce the fee to \$27. There are currently over 200 cats in care at the shelter, the increased number is also due to the recent quarantine.

Mr. Hayes distributed his monthly report, there was one positive test for rabies in August. Mr. Allen requested that for future monthly reports, a comparison of numbers from the prior year be included.

Mr. Lent said that as a result of the considerable discussion on use of the Trust Fund at the last meeting, he has discussed with the Chairman and it was decided to appoint a special sub-committee to examine and perhaps strengthen the language in the policy to reflect of a channeled use of the Trust Fund. He would like to have the language focused on the care of the animals

over and above the standard operating budget expenses. Mr. Lent has asked Kevin Tollisen, Dan Pemrick and Preston Allen to serve on the committee with Kevin Tollisen as Chair. Mr. Lent said that he will also be speaking with the County Administrators office to discuss the operating budget. Mr. Kinowski said that the Town of Stillwater recently passed a resolution to change animal control to canine control only.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board