

Public Safety Committee Minutes
November 14, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Paul Lent; Supervisors Preston Allen, Vince DeLucia, Dan Pemrick, Tim Szczepaniak, Kevin Tollisen and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Carl Zeilman, Ed Trembley, Emergency Services; Susan Hayes-Masa, Coroner; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; Jason Hayes, Animal Shelter; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; 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 October 10, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize acceptance of a \$25,000 grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that grant is from Senator Tedisco and the funds will be used to purchase a speed monitoring trailer with an integrated license plate reader.

Mr. Lent asked Mr. Zurlo to extend their condolences to Deputy Brown's family.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, to authorize acceptance of a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant in the amount of \$225,000 to update the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and amend the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that there is currently a hazard mitigation plan in place, the process takes a little over a year to update.

A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize a contract with Sky Climber Telecom in the amount of \$49,703 for the County's Monopole Extension project at the emergency radio communication site in the Town of Edinburg. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that the height of the monopole will be extended by 15'. This will allow the County to have better connectivity via microwave and alleviate the need for a T1. The project is fully grant funded.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize a 3-year renewal contract with a 1-year extension option with Pittsfield Communications in an amount not to exceed \$20,200 per year for radio removal, installation and related services associated with the County's emergency services communications equipment. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that Pittsfield Communications is the vendor that is currently used by the County. Mr. Lent said that it's a very little price increase.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, to authorize a 2-year renewal agreement with NMS Labs for routine postmortem toxicology testing services. Unanimous.

Mrs. Hayes-Masa said that the pricing for regular testing will remain consistent with 2017 pricing. Special testing pricing will increase by 4%.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize a renewal agreement with Saratoga Hospital for the use of laboratory and morgue facilities needed by the County Coroners when performing autopsies and other post-mortem activities. Unanimous.

Mrs. Hayes-Masa said that the agreement will run from 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2019 and represents a 5% increase. The agreement is not to exceed \$25K per year.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, to authorize a 2-year renewal agreement with Jeffrey Bagnoli, retained as a part-time Assistant Public Defender at Salary Grade 18 for 35 hours per pay period. The motion passed. Mr. Tollisen recused himself from the vote.

Mr. Schreiber said that effective April they will have case load limits. Mr. Schreiber said that he recently had an interview in Albany for the legal services bill, he was accompanied by Supervisor Veitch. There will be a lot of funds spread out among the Public Defenders' offices, \$250M over 5 ½ years until April 2023. The part timers hired are pursuant to this bill which takes effect in April. Mr. Schreiber said that he is also in the process of hiring an additional part time Public Defender.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize a 2-year renewal agreement with Kyran Nigro, retained as a part-time Chief Conflict Defender at Salary Grade 20 for 35 hours per pay period . The motion passed. Mr. Tollisen recused himself from the vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize 2-year renewal agreements with Andrew DeLuca and Neil Weiner, retained as part-time Assistant Conflict Defenders at Salary Grade 18 for 35 hours per pay period. The motion passed. Mr. Tollisen recused himself from the vote.

Mr. Schreiber said that the Conflict defender program has been very successful. The above resolutions will be two year agreements.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize a renewal agreement with Jody O'Neill for Social Worker related services in the Public Defender's Office. The motion passed. Mr. Tollisen recused himself from the vote.

Mr. Schreiber said that this is 100% grant funded. Mr. Schreiber said that Ms. O'Neill has been very successful. This is a one-year renewal agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, to authorize an amendment to the Saratoga County Animal Shelter Trust and Agency Fund. Unanimous.

Mr. Tollisen distributed a memorandum regarding the summary of subcommittee recommendations for the Animal Shelter Trust Fund. Mr. Tollisen said that at the direction of Chairman Lent, the subcommittee looked at the current trust fund, they also had discussions with Spencer Hellwig and Jason Hayes. The subcommittee found that the resolution creating the trust fund is general in nature and recommended the following changes.

1. The current general language of the trust fund be amended to state the Trust Fund is to be used for the specialty needs and services for the care of animals that are not ordinarily and regularly covered by the Saratoga County Budget for the Animal Shelter.
2. The goal of the animal shelter trust fund should be for long term sustainability. The trust fund has declined significantly over the years and is now on the brink of being "broke", The subcommittee therefore recommends two courses of action:
 - a. A moratorium on the use of the trust fund for a period of one budget year.
 - b. For future years, especially over the next 5 years, the use of the trust fund is limited to 80% of the prior year's donations.

Mr. Tollisen said that this path will ensure that the trust fund continues and people will continue to contribute. Mr. Tollisen said that the Trust fund has been used in the past few years to balance some of the animal shelter budget issues. This year, approximately \$90K was taken from the fund and if this continues, the fund would be depleted next year. Mr. Lent said that if a moratorium is put in place he does not see any change in the level of care currently provided. Mr. Lent said that he will address the animal shelter budget request at the Law & Finance meeting. Mr. Lent thanked the subcommittee for their time and effort put forth on this issue.

Mr. Tremblay previously distributed his report via email.

Mr. Szczepaniak said that he reviewed the Sheriff's monthly report which was distributed via email. Mr. Szczepaniak noted that felony and misdemeanor arrests for juveniles have increased significantly from the past year. Mr. Zurlo said that the heroin epidemic is a big problem and unfortunately people are using any means possible in order to purchase it. Mr. Szczepaniak said that the report is a good tool to justify additional staffing requests.

Mr. Lent said that he recently heard on the news that Waterford is one of the top 10 safest towns in the State.

On a motion made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board