

Public Safety Committee Minutes  
February 13, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Paul Lent; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Alan Grattidge, Jack Lawler, Scott Ostrander, Bill Peck, Dan Pemrick and Tim Szczepaniak; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Mike Zurlo, Rick Castle, Richard Emery, Sheriff; Carl Zeilman, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Keith Manz, Tom Speziale, Public Works; J. Wes Carr, STOP DWI; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; Jason Hayes, Animal Shelter; Press.

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

Mr. Lent announced the appointment of Mr. Peck as Committee Vice Chair.

**On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, the minutes of the December 12, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to amend the 2018 Budget to accept \$11,300 in State Aid for Police Traffic Services to increase seat belt usage and reduce dangerous driving behaviors. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zurlo said that the funds will be used for traffic enforcement including seat belt, distracted driver and impaired driver mobilization throughout the County. This is an annual grant.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to authorize a cooperative agreement between the Sheriff and the Department of the Navy for the use of thermal imaging and night vision equipment. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zurlo said that this equipment lease agreement is for one year and the amount is \$4,500. If the department was to purchase this equipment it would these items separately it would cost close to \$49,000. The cost of the agreement will be covered by grant funds.

**A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize an inter-municipal agreement between Saratoga County and Rensselaer County for the sharing of tactical team personnel services and equipment . Unanimous.**

Mr. Zurlo said that this agreement is for instances when additional assistance is needed for tactical operations. Mr. Lawler confirmed with Mr. Dorsey that there is reciprocal hold harmless in place with the agreement. There are no funds involved.

Mr. Lent said that he reviewed the statistical information previously emailed by Mr. Zurlo to the committee. Mr. Lent noted that there was a 56% increase in traffic tickets. Mr. Zurlo said that they can attribute most of this to now utilizing transport teams and keeping officers on the road. Mr. Zurlo said that the transport teams are working out very well. Mr. Grattidge questioned if the County is looking into electronic arraigning. Mr. Zurlo said they have had discussions about it and it would be welcomed.

A discussion took place regarding centralized arraignments. Mrs. Heggen said that this is something Mr. Schreiber has been working on for years now. Washington County was a consent county and it took them 4-5 years before they got their plan in place. They have been contacted by the Magistrates Association and there needs to be a home rule message in Albany passed to allow for some centralized arraignments. The judges having jurisdiction over the entire county rather than just adjoining municipalities. Mr. Schreiber said that Judges would be \$250/night for arraignments. Mr. Schreiber said that the plan would not have to be implemented until April 2023. Mr. Schreiber said that his plan would entail having a northern and southern zone in the county for arraignments.

**A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to authorize the acceptance of a domestic violence prosecution grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$35,600. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Heggen said that this is the 21<sup>st</sup> year of this grant. Mrs. Heggen said that there are two people in her office dedicated to domestic violence cases. The grant supports the salary of one of the two domestic violence prosecutors. Funding is the same as last year.

**A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to authorize participation in 2018 state STOP-DWI program and contracts with local agency participants and amending the county budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mr. Carr said that there are three parts to the STOP DWI program; Enforcement, which involves the Sheriff's office and municipal police departments throughout the County; Intercounty, involves Probation, District Attorney and Mental Health; and Education – Prevention, which provides funding for SADD programs and fund after prom parties with the School Districts throughout the County. The plan was submitted to the State in September and approval was granted in December. A budget amendment is needed as an additional \$10K was applied for and approved after the plan approval. Total amount of the plan is \$394,796 which is based on revenue estimates.

Mr. Zeilman said that his monthly report was previously distributed via email.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize the reappropriation of unspent grant funds totaling \$2,534,316.80 for Office of Emergency Services projects and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zeilman said that these are grant funds from rounds 3,4,5 and part of the hazard mitigation grant.

**A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Peck, to authorize an agreement with Tetra Tech in the amount of \$163,610 for services associated with updating the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zeilman said that this plan must be updated every five years. The plan will take approximately 1.5 years to complete. The agreement is 100% grant funded. The plan is a requirement of homeland security to be eligible for aid.

Mr. Zeilman said that they will be reaching out to all of the municipalities and work with their stakeholders to identify issues and how they can be mitigated in the future. Issues such as hazardous weather, natural and manmade disasters. Mr. Zeilman said that there will be meetings held which will be open to the public for input. Mr. Zeilman said that Tetra Tech is also being used by Warren County, and Saratoga County was able to piggy back off the RFP that was put out by Warren County.

Mr. Lent said that reports were received from Ed Tremblay and the Animal Shelter.

Mr. Lent said that last year an agreement was entered into with LaBella Associates for an assessment and jail study. The study has been completed. Colonel Emery distributed copies of the report for committee members to review. Mr. Lent said that once reviewed they can discuss at a future meeting. Mr. Zurlo said that there are a lot of recommendations on the last three pages. Mr. Zurlo said that he has applied to the commission for another variance to allow the jail to continue to double bunk for another 6-month period. No action is needed at this time. Colonel Emery said that jail population as of today is 188 and the variance capacity is 255. Non variance standard is 205. Mr. Lent said that the alternatives to incarceration program runs very well and the study confirms this.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board