

Public Safety Committee Minutes
May 8, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Paul Lent; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Jack Lawler, Scott Ostrander, Bill Peck, Dan Pemrick, Tim Szczepaniak, Kevin Tollisen and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Rick Castle, Richard Emery, Sheriff; Steve Bayle, Probation; 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 March 13, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize the Sheriff to establish work release programs for incarcerated inmates at the Saratoga County Jail. Motion Passed. Mr. Lawler opposed.

Mr. Emery said that in the past they had a work detail program whereby the inmates would be sent into the community either with a staff member or released to the municipality they would be doing the work for. This is a Work Release program whereby the inmates would be sent out into the community to work for an established employer, they will be paid the same rate as the other employees, receive benefits and would be picked up at the end of the day and brought back to the jail. The understanding is that they will remain in the worksite, they will be monitored periodically, will be drug tested at least once a week including random drug tests. Mr. Zurlo said that the inmates are sentenced and would be checked on during the day and said that the inmates would be vetted prior to participation in the program.

Mr. Lawler said that he does not have a problem with what they are trying to do with this program, getting inmates in a better position when they leave incarceration. However, Mr. Lawler expressed his concern over a potential liability issue, if anything happened as a cause of that inmate being in the workplace, the county could potentially be liable for the inmate's actions. Mr. Lawler said that he would be a lot more comfortable if a hold harmless was in place with the employer to protect the County from any potential liability. Mr. Lawler said that at a minimum the County's insurance carrier should be notified and something in writing from the insurance carrier in place to show that the County is covered in case of an incident. Mr. Emery said that there are several counties in NYS that have work release programs and he can reach out to them for additional information. Mr. Castle said that this agreement is authorizing the program, not specific work place agreements.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to authorize acceptance of a NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services grant in the amount of \$127,221 for the purpose of offsetting operating expenses associated with the Sheriff Department's Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) system. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that this is an annual grant.

Mr. Lent distributed a handout prioritizing proposed renovations at the Saratoga County Correctional facility as discussed at a prior meeting. Mr. Zurlo said that the plan is to retrofit additional space at the jail to provide an additional 20 cells. Mr. Zurlo said that there is currently \$73,000 in the Sheriff's budget that can be used towards the renovations. Some of the work can be done with in house workforce. Mr. Lent said that a conversation should take place with the Building Department to ensure they can take care of the renovations needed. Mr. Emery said that the plans will need to be approved by the NYS Department of Corrections, once the plans are approved, work can commence. Mr. Szczepaniak said that he would like to see this moved forward quickly.

Mr. Zurlo gave a brief update on the storm over the weekend. There were 8 people working in the communications center and from 8 to midnight they took in 820 calls, 322 were 911 calls, calls came in at 3.2 per minute and the communications center staff did an outstanding job. Mr. Zurlo also thanked Mr. Tremblay and Mr. Stanley from the Emergency Services Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to approve the County's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Performance-Based Services Plan and Authorizing Acceptance of State Grants for the Community Work Order and Pre-Trial Services Program. Unanimous.

Mr. Bayle said that the plan is the same as the past number of years. The amount of the grant is \$26,224 of which \$16,370 goes to Probation and \$9,853 to Employment and Training. Mr. Lent said that he met earlier today with the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and as a result of this grant the County is saving roughly 183 days at \$160 per day, so approximately \$30K of savings as a result of this program.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to rescind Resolution 69-2018 and authorizing an agreement with Hagerty Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$74,794 for services associated with updating the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that resolution 69-2018 authorized an agreement with Tetra Tech for approximately \$160K. The procurement process for this item was piggybacking off a contract that Warren County had recently done and awarded. After the award, the County Attorney's office discovered a comptroller's opinion that discouraged those types of piggy backing opportunities for services that were obtained through an RFP process. Once this was discovered, Emergency Services went out to bid and Hagerty Consulting Inc. was the low bidder. Mr. Dorsey said that most piggy back agreements are for the purchase of goods. Mr. Lawler confirmed with Mr. Cooke and Mr. Dorsey that a contract with Tetra Tech was never signed.

Mr. Tremblay previously distributed his report via email. Mr. Peck and Mr. Lawler thanked the Emergency Services department on a job well done regarding the weekend storm.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler seconded by Mr. Peck, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for a discussion regarding contract negotiation. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, the meeting was reopened to Regular Session. Unanimous.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board