

Public Safety Committee Minutes
August 14, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Supervisors Preston Allen, Phil Barrett, Tara Gaston, Alan Grattidge, Jack Lawler, Scott Ostrander, Dan Pemrick, Michael Smith, Tim Szczepaniak, Kevin Tollisen and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Richard Emery, Richard Castle, Sheriff; Steve Bayle, Probation; Jason Hayes, Animal Shelter; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Carl Zeilman, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Keith Manz, Department of Public Works; Press.

Chairman Peck called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Mr. Peck took a moment to commend the late Paul Lent and what a phenomenal resource he was for Public Safety and Emergency Management. A moment of silence was held for Mr. Lent.

Mr. Peck said that at the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting earlier today, the bids for the public safety building were approved. The bids came in \$1.7M below what was estimated and with soft costs included, the budget is currently \$2M below what was originally estimated.

Mr. Peck appointed Mr. Allen as committee vice chair.

On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, the minutes of the June 21, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to authorize a contract with Clark, Paterson, Lee of Latham in the amount of \$32,500 for engineering and construction related services associated with renovations at the County's Correctional Facility. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that the contract will cover services related to the planned renovation of space currently not being used at the jail to accommodate an additional 26 beds. Mr. Hellwig said that a needs study was done a few months ago and the needs study ultimately led to this planned renovation.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, to authorize amendments to the use agreement and lease agreement with Capital District Youth Center, Inc. for the period from October 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 in response to Raise the Age legislation. The motion passed. Mr. Lawler was opposed.

Mr. Bayle said that the original lease was entered into by 4 counties, Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer and Schenectady in 1997. The lease went for 20 years until the bond was paid off. An extension was entered into in 2017 which allowed for one bed to be used exclusively for Saratoga County. The change in this lease is increasing the number of beds in the facility from 16-24. There are currently 16 beds for the juvenile delinquent population and 8 beds are being added for the adolescent offender population. Saratoga County exclusive use of beds goes from 1 to 2.

The County Use agreement outlines the terms of the use of the facility. Language changes are updated mostly for the new language in the new law to include adolescent offender, possibly change the name of the facility to a regional secure detention facility which have special rules and regulations for that type of facility. A paragraph is added regarding insurances. There is a clause added due to the fact that the State is not going to allow the secure detention facility to set its own per diem rate. After this year, reimbursement will be based on actual costs from an Audit done by the State. A paragraph is added asking each of the four counties for an initial deposit to help with cash flow as the year gets started while they wait for reimbursement from the state. The deposit amount has not been set yet, a meeting is scheduled for next week among the four counties to discuss the terms of the deposit. The reimbursement rate is currently 49% for juvenile delinquents, currently the rate for adolescent offenders is 100%. Mr. Lawler asked if the cash flow requirements will be allocated proportionately based on the number of beds used by each county. Mr. Bayle said that he believes so, the discussion has begun but not fully decided at this point. Mr. Bayle said that the per diem is currently \$798 per day for juvenile delinquents. The per diem for adolescent offenders has not been set yet but is expected to be approximately \$2,000 per day. Mr. Hellwig said that up until now, Saratoga County has only paid for a bed if they use it. Mr. Bayle said that Albany County is the biggest user with 8-9 beds and Schenectady with 4-5 beds per day. Saratoga County only used approximately 3 months last year. Mr. Bayle said that this amendment covers October 1 – December 31, 2018, the 2019 agreement is yet to be negotiated. Mr. Dorsey said that the agreement provides for automatic renewal. Mr. Lawler expressed concern over the deposit amount being requested from Saratoga County due to the fact that the exact dollar figure is not clearly expressed in the agreement. Mr. Dorsey said that this is the only option available at this point, State Law requires the construction of specialized secure detention facilities with massive regulations on what needs to be included in the facilities to make them specialized. The Capital District Youth Center is making the required changes. Mr. Peck requested that Mr. Bayle and the County Administrators office come back to the committee with new information on the costs as soon as they become available.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Allen to reduce adoption fee for cats and kittens through December of 2018. Unanimous.

Mr. Hayes said that this is an annual item. The rates will be reduced from \$77 to \$27, which is essentially waiving the adoption fee, the \$27 will cover costs including rabies and vaccinations.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to accept an Aid to Defense grant in the amount of \$15,500 for the Public Defender's Office. The motion passed. Mr. Tollisen recused himself from the vote.

Mr. Blumenberg said that the grant is provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and will offset a portion the cost of salaries in the Public Defenders office.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to accept an Aid to Prosecution Grant for the District Attorney's Office. Unanimous.

Mrs. Heggen said that the dollar amount is \$57,820 and will be used to offset the cost of salaries in the District Attorney's office.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize the acceptance of a Crimes Against Revenue Program grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$118,400 to offset salaries in the DA's office. Unanimous.

Ms. Heggen said that this is a competitive grant and funds the salary and benefits of one full time Assistant District Attorney. The grant returns tax dollars from crimes related to Medicaid fraud, Workers Compensation fraud and other assistance programs fraudulently applied for and received.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, to authorize the acceptance of a District Attorney Salary Aid Program grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$72,189. Unanimous.

Ms. Heggen said that the salary of the District Attorney is set statutorily by New York State and is a rate of 90% of the salary of a county level judge. The State provides financing of a portion of the salary.

Ms. Heggen said that they have seen an uptick in animal abuse cases in recent times. Ms. Heggen said that one of the tools she has seen used in other Counties is an Animal Abuse Registry which would preclude someone from owning a domestic animal after being convicted of abuse of an animal. Currently those placed on probation for this crime, are not allowed to own an animal during their probation however once probation is over, that provision is no longer in existence. Ms. Heggen said that she has worked with County Attorney Dorsey on language to begin discussions regarding starting a registry that would require those selling animals for pecuniary gains such as Petsmart etc. to be required to check a registry prior to the sale of an animal. Mr. Peck said that a draft local law has been prepared that will be distributed to the committee and the Sheriff's department for review and bring the item back at a later meeting.

Mr. Zeilman said that he previously distributed the Emergency Services agreement via email.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, to authorize a 1-year renewal agreement with Tritech Software Systems for 911 support and maintenance services in the amount of \$55,503.25. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that the funds are in the budget to cover the costs of this agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, to authorize a Memorandum of Agreement with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the Temporary Loan of Interoperable Communications Resources through January 31, 2021. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that this agreement renews the agreement to be able to use the Mutualink system. This allows the county's dispatch communications division to connect with other municipalities and share radio communications, audio and digital media in urgent events.

Mr. Tremblay said that the Statewide Mobilization Plan for Fire has been activated which means that available resources can be deployed in emergency situations. Currently they are looking for water teams due to flooding concerns in the State.

Mr. Lawler announced that that this Saturday, August 18, the Town of Waterford will be hosting their first Dragon Boat race event which is a signature fundraising event for breast cancer. Mr. Lawler thanked Sheriff Zurlo and his staff who will be providing maritime security for the event.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board