

Public Safety Committee Minutes
September 11, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Supervisors Preston Allen, Tara Gaston, Jack Lawler, Scott Ostrander, Dan Pemrick, Tim Szczepaniak, Kevin Tollisen and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; Carl Zeilman, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff, J. Wes Carr, STOP DWI.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, the minutes of the August 14, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Heggen gave a brief update on the proposed Animal Abuse Registry. Ms. Heggen said that she has received a lot of feedback and input from different sources. The concept and idea continues to move forward and they are working on the maintenance of the registry within the county. Ms. Heggen said that several supervisors had heard from a representative from a local animal rights group. This individual raised several issues. One was the cost of establishing and maintaining the registry. Another was lack of effectiveness and decrease in prosecutions. Ms. Heggen said that the basis for the request from her office has to do with enhancing the animal abuse case prosecutions by giving the judges more tools to deal with defendants that are charged, convicted, and serve sentences related to animal abuse. Ms. Heggen said that the highest level of animal abuse offence, a felony, provides a maximum of 2 years in the county jail and after that there is no oversight, or continuing requirements. If a person is placed on probation, they can be on probation from 3-5 years and have prohibitions on access to or engaging with animals during that time frame. Ms. Heggen said that this registry will allow them to be pro-active in animal abuse cases.

Ms. Heggen said that she has received a lot of positive input from the public on this initiative and that she intends on bringing a draft back to the committee next month.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize a contract with the Rural Law Center of NY for appellate attorney services in an amount not to exceed \$85,000. The motion passed. Mr. Tollisen was recused.

Mr. Schreiber said that Grant 6 was received in 2016 and this provided for the services of a social worker and an appellate attorney. Mr. Schreiber said that the appellate attorney has indicated that it is no longer economically feasible for him to provide these services. The Rural Law Center will provide the service for a flat fee of \$2,250 for the first appeal and \$2,500 per appeal after that. Mr. Schreiber said that there were 25 appeals last year.

Mr. Tremblay said that he distributed his monthly report via email. Mr. Szczepaniak asked for an update on the \$500K grant for the fire training center. Mr. Zeilman said that they have been nominated for the award and are submitting the paperwork for the replacement of the fire training facility, once awarded they will have 5 years to finish the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, to accept a 2018 NYS Homeland Security Program Grant in the amount of \$217,437 and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay said that this is an annual grant will be used towards the cost of replacing the generator at Spruce Mountain radio site, and the I Am Responding contract.

Mr. Peck gave a brief update on the Public Safety Facility. There was a pre-construction meeting last week. They are expecting that the general contractor will be mobilizing in the next few weeks. Mr. Peck said that Mr. Hellwig, Mr. Cooke and Mr. Dorsey have been working with Bond Counsel. They were initially looking at a 30-year bond and a 20-year bond. Now they are proposing a 15-year bond which will result in a savings of \$1.775M compared with a 20-year. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony set up within the next few weeks. *(Please see minutes from the 10/9/2018 Public Safety meeting for additional clarification of the above)*

Mr. Szczepaniak said that he has received positive comments on the school resource officer program. Mr. Zurlo said that he has received positive feedback from the school administrators and parents.

Mr. Lawler thanked the Sheriff's Department for their participation in the dragon boat race event held in Waterford recently.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board