

Public Safety Committee Minutes
October 9, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Supervisors Preston Allen, Tara Gaston, Jack Lawler, Scott Ostrander, Dan Pemrick and Tim Szczepaniak; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Carl Zeilman, Ed Tremblay, Office of Emergency Services; J. Wes Carr, STOP DWI; Craig Hayner, Charles Foehser, County Clerk; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; Jason Hayes, Animal Shelter; Press.

Chairman Peck 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 September 11, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Peck clarified an item he reported on during his update on the Public Safety Facility project at the September 11, 2018 meeting. The savings realized by moving to a 15-year bond is actually \$2.9M and not the previously reported figure of \$1.775M.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Saratoga County. Unanimous.

Ms. Heggen said that this is an annual item. This resolution helps to bring awareness to issues regarding domestic violence. They have partnered with Wellspring and the Mechanicville City Community Center Program, and the District Attorney's office sponsors a collection of goods to provide to these organizations this month. The goods consist of personal care items for those that need to move out of their homes unexpectedly.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize the acceptance of a NYS Homeland Security State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program grant in the amount of \$72,479. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that the grant funds will be used for enhanced counter terrorism and response capability, upgrade the lexipol policy, development training, dive team equipment, night vision equipment and video monitors for the Sheriff's office.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize the acceptance of a NYS Homeland Security PSAP Operations grant in the amount of \$133,450. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that the grant funds will be used to offset operational costs of the PSAP operations in the office, such as salaries and benefits. The revenue has already been included in the 2018 budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize the acceptance of a Division of Criminal Justice Services grant in the amount of \$22,500 and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that this grant is provided by Senator Tedisco. The grant funds will be used to enhance the drone high resolution, night vision, thermal imaging capabilities. The aircraft will assist during search and rescue, large scale fire scenes, mass gatherings and other events where an aerial view is deemed necessary.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize an amendment to the 2018 budget to recognize revenue from the County's School Resource Officer program. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that the amendment will include additional revenue from the School Resource Officer contracts with the nine school districts and amend corresponding expense accounts to fund necessary purchases for the program. The revenue will offset salaries, uniforms and other expenses.

Mr. Zurlo said that he sent his monthly statistics previously via email.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize the acceptance of a FEMA Emergency Management Performance grant in the amount of \$86,553. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that this is a 50/50 match grant. The grant funds be used towards the maintenance of the microwave radio system, broadband connectivity in the PSAP, and cellular connectivity.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to authorize a 1-year contract with Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$188,347.32 for maintenance of the County's 800 MHz radio system. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that the radio system was upgraded from version 2009 to 2017. With the update, they received a one year warranty. The \$188,347.22 cost is for the items that are not covered with the new upgrades such as servers and hardware. Mr. Zeilman said that the annual maintenance is typically \$318,555 however the one-year warranty allows for a lower cost this year. Mr. Zeilman said that next year the price will re-increase. Mr. Zeilman said that the agreement runs from June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize a contract with Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$540,748 to replace the County's fire paging system. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that the County's paging system was struck by lightning last year. Repairs were made, however, they have been working with limited channel usage since then. By utilizing grant funds for another project, it left enough funds in the current budget to replace the system. There is also insurance revenue in the amount of \$143,917. At this point the technology has changed and they must replace the entire system.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Allen, to introduce a Local Law to establish certain powers and duties for the County EMS Coordinator and the County Fire Coordinator and setting a date for a public hearing. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that the EMS and Fire Coordinator serve under Article 223B of County Law. Mr. Zeilman said that some Fire Departments and EMS agencies have questioned the authority when a policy or procedural question arises. Mr. Zeilman said that the authority is already implied and this will clarify the responsibilities and authority.

Mr. Tremblay said that a policy change being made and questioned, in certain cases, was that a non-emergency call did not need Fire Department dispatch. Mr. Tremblay said that the local law has been discussed with the Fire Advisory Board.

Mr. Dorsey said that there are several changes being made, for example, the statute states that the County EMS Coordinator will be appointed, however, it does not say for how long or by whom. The Fire Coordinator statute states that the fire coordinator will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, but does not state for how long. Both statutes specify certain duties of the coordinators which Mr. Dorsey briefly described and this change will prescribe certain additional duties. Policies will be created in consultation and conjunction with the County EMS Director.

Mr. Lawler had several questions regarding the changes and agreed to bring it forward by setting the public hearing, however, he will be meeting with his Fire Department and EMS people to make them aware of the changes and make sure they are comfortable with them. Mr. Lawler is concerned whether the Fire Advisory Board and EMS Council are in agreement with the changes.

Mr. Szczepaniak thanked Mr. Zeilman for the emergency management team training.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to authorize acceptance of a donated utility truck from the Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay said that the vehicle has been on loan and used for cause and origin and is now being donated to the County. It is a utility box vehicle.

Mr. Tremblay said that regarding Fire Department Response, an automatic response has been put in place for suspected cardiac arrests. Survival rates are increased if a defibrillator gets to the emergency within a few minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize a transfer from the DWI Reserve in the amount of \$3,290 and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Carr said that the funds will cover the expenses of two Sheriff's Deputies attendance at a Chiefs of Police Conference and receive training as drug recognition experts. The officers attended the training in August. Mr. Zurlo said that they plan to send an additional two deputies to this training next year.

Mr. Szczepaniak said that he was very impressed with the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Public Safety Facility. Mr. Peck said that the groundbreaking ceremony was held last Tuesday. Mr. Peck said that they began moving ground the week prior and the job was well executed.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Allen, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board