

Public Safety Committee Minutes  
December 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, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Rick Castle, Sheriff; Carl Zeilman, Ed Tremblay, Mike McEvoy, Emergency Services; Steve Bayle, Probation; Tina Potter, Social Services; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; J. Wes Carr, STOP DWI; Jason Hayes, Animal Shelter; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; Charles Fohser, County Clerk.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to approve 2019 contracts for Police Services in the Towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zurlo said that the contracts for 2019 reflect a 2% increase from 2018. The Clifton Park agreement is \$561,822.33 and the Town of Halfmoon agreement is \$217,547.64. Mr. Zurlo thanked the committee for their support over the past year.

**A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to approve acceptance of a New York State Supervision and Treatment Services For Juveniles Program Grant and authorizing provider contracts through December 31, 2019. Unanimous.**

Mr. Bayle distributed a memo regarding his item. This is an annual resolution. The grant has been in place since 2011 and will help offset the expenses of the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program. The contracts are with the following providers:

Berkshire Farms - providing case management services for up to 12 families. They work with the families 24/7.

KMG Monitoring Services – provide electronic monitoring for youth as an alternative to placement in a secure detention facility

CAPTAIN Youth Shelter – to provide respite for families.

Mr. Bayle thanked the committee for their support over the past year.

**A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize an amendment to Resolution 259 of 2018 to remove reference to a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$30,000. Unanimous.**

Mr. Dorsey distributed a draft revised resolution. Mr. Dorsey said that Resolution 259 was passed last month due however, the Director of Albany Med contacted Mr. Dorsey and advised him that Albany Med would not sign any contract for morgue services that included a not to exceed amount. The revision to Resolution 259 will remove the words “at a cost not to exceed \$30,000”. Mr. Peck said that the Coroner can ensure that Saratoga Hospital is used as much as

possible as their fees are lower. Mr. Cooke said that historically the invoices for these services to Albany Med have not exceeded \$20K annually. Mr. Lawler asked for a quarterly report to the committee to keep track of costs.

Mr. Peck brought up the Local Law establishing certain duties of the County EMS and Fire Coordinators for discussion. Mr. Peck said that no action would be taken on this item today. Mr. Tremblay said that there have been several revisions and his intention is to bring a final version to the Fire Advisory Board for review. Mr. Lawler said that he appreciates the courtesy of viewing the revisions today, however it would be more efficient for the Fire Advisory Board to have a chance to review and suggest changes if necessary first, prior to bringing it back to this committee for approval. Mr. Zeilman said that the EMS Council meets on Thursday, Fire Advisory Board would have met at the end of the month but that is a holiday this month. Mr. Szczepaniak expressed his concern over the full Fire Advisory Board having full attendance at their meeting when these changes are reviewed. Mr. Szczepaniak said that he would like Mr. Tremblay to ensure all members got a chance to review changes and make comments. Mr. Zurlo said that several changes were made and he was not conferred on the most recent revision made this morning. Mr. Lawler said that he is very concerned with the process undertaken and the interpretation of the current wording of the law, he believes that the wording needs additional clarity. Mr. Lawler is also concerned with the potential expansion of powers of the Fire and EMS Coordinators, which could be interpreted from the current wording of the law. Mr. Lawler also questioned the need for changes in protocol when each department already has their own response protocols. He also expressed concern over potential liability tied to individuals other than the Sheriff controlling the dispatching of calls. Mr. Zeilman said that NYS Law articles 223-B and 225-A give Mr. Tremblay and Mr. McEvoy certain authority, however part of the intention of the proposed revision is to codify the changes in County Law. Mr. Zeilman said that they are attempting to capture the needs and wants from both the EMS Council and the Fire Advisory Board and address their concerns through the proper channels. Mr. Zeilman said that they can work with the County Attorney's office on strengthening the language. Mr. Lawler requested that copies of the NYS law articles previously referenced be distributed to the committee. Mr. Peck recommended that a final meeting should take place, where all Department Heads and parties involved can discuss all changes, and come to a conclusion on language and intent, reason why it's necessary, and problem being solved, prior to being brought back to this committee. Mr. Szczepaniak also suggested that no action be taken and leave all as it currently stands.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board