

Public Safety Committee Minutes
February 13, 2019 – 2:45 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members Preston Allen, Phil Barrett, Jack Lawler, Darren O’Conner, Scott Ostrander, Tim Szczepaniak, Tom Wood; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Tom Wood, Mo Wright and Chairman of the Board Kevin Tollisen; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; J. Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Steve Bayle, Probation; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Craig Hayner, Christine Rush, County Clerk; Tina Potter, DSS; Mark Castiglione, CDYCI; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Allen, the minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. O’Connor, to authorize participation in 2019 state STOP-DWI program and contracts with local agency participants. Unanimous.

Mr. Carr said that the STOP-DWI plan was emailed out to the committee members last week. The plan was originally submitted to the Governor’s Traffic Committee on September 20, 2018 and approval was received on February 7th, 2019. There was one minor change in the administrative component of the budget, the difference in the dollar amount was \$152. The plan has now been amended to match the County budget.

A motion was made by Mr. O’Connor, seconded by Mr. Barrett, to authorize the acceptance of a domestic violence prosecution grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$35,600. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that the grant amount is the same as last year. The grant will be used to partially offset the salaries of two attorneys that prosecute domestic violence cases.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, 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 \$118,900 to offset salaries in the DA’s office. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that the crimes prosecuted are white collar crimes, such as failure to pay tax obligations and Medicaid fraud. The grant will fully fund one ADA position in the DA’s office for one year.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to authorize an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to obtain and share flood hazard data, increase public awareness, and enhance hazard mitigation within Saratoga County. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay said that the agreement will update flood hazard plains and related insurance items. Entering into this agreement will also aid the county in acquiring any mitigation funds that may become available.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to accept a \$54,000 NYS DCJS Legislative Aid Grant from Senator Kathy Marchione to purchase protective equipment for Emergency Medical Service responders and amending the 2019 Adopted Budget. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay said that the protective equipment will be provided to EMS agencies.

Mr. Lawler said that he recently read a letter from a gentleman that was seriously injured and rescued in Edinburg, the letter was recently included in the Fire Advisory Board minutes. The gentleman was the Director of Special Operations for the NYC Fire Department. The letter was inspiring. Mr. Tremblay said that he will forward the letter out to Supervisors.

Mr. Wright and Mr. Allen said that this is also an instance to recognize the lack of cell service in that area. As there was no cell service, the gentleman's wife had to leave his side and take their ATV approximately 1 ½ miles in order to call 911.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to amend the 2019 Adopted Budget to reappropriate \$2,086,145 in NYS Homeland Security Program funds to cover various equipment, clothing, training, and lease expenses. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that the funds were previously accepted by the board. This will reappropriate funds into the 2019 budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize an amended and restated Municipal Cooperation Agreement with the Counties of Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady associated with secure detention and Raise the Age legislation requirements. Unanimous.

Mr. Bayle said that he emailed information out to the committee members yesterday. Mr. Bayle said that this resolution pertains to the Capital District Youth Detention Center which houses youth in a secure detention due to court orders. The facility has been in operation since 1997 and is administered by the Capital District Youth Center Incorporated. Mr. Bayle introduced Mark Castiglione, the Chief Administrator for CDYCI to answer any questions. Mr. Bayle said that there is one bed for each of the two age groups reserved for Saratoga County. The agreement and letter of intent reflect the desire to continue to operate the secure detention facility on a joint and regional basis, and to implement and comply with the requirements of the new raise the age legislation as it pertains to the operational facility. Because of the implementation of the raise the age legislation, upgrades are needed to the facility. They currently have a conditional operating certificate for the part of the facility that houses the raise the age and in order to receive a full operating certificate upgrades are needed. Under the raise the age legislation, any renovations or upgrades to the facility will be 100% reimbursable expenses upon submission of an approved raise

the age plan. A plan has already been submitted by the County Administrators office and is awaiting approval. The prorated share of the costs for Saratoga County is 8%. Mr. Castiglione said that the preconstruction costs total between \$800K and \$1M, and the Saratoga County share will be 8%. The preconstruction includes schematic design, design development, construction documents and pre-construction documents. The cost of the actual construction of the project will be determined during the preconstruction phase. It is estimated that bid documents will be available in July or August, the question remains whether the construction will begin in this year or next year. Mr. Lawler questioned the timing of the reimbursement process. Mr. Castiglione said that the State has given their commitment that they will make reimbursements as quickly as possible. Mr. Castiglione said that the total capacity of the facility is 24 beds. they are operating two separate facilities in the same building. The younger facility has 13 beds for males and the older facility has 8 beds for males. The facility for females has 3 beds and can be used for either/or. Mr. Castiglione said that Saratoga County has rarely exceeded their bed reserve. In the event that it does, the fact that Saratoga County is a member of the consortium of counties gives Saratoga County the ability to bump counties that are not members of the consortium. Mr. Bayle said that in the last 6 years, there was one instance of two Saratoga County youths in the facility at the same time.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Barrett, to authorize the acceptance of a grant from the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services for Distribution No. 7 in the amount of \$211,602. Unanimous.

Mr. Schreiber said that the funds will be used for technology, investigators, expert witnesses court mileage, transcripts, CLE training for the attorneys and miscellaneous office supplies, printing and subscriptions. The grant will run for three years. The annual amount is \$70,534.

A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Barrett, to authorize an amendment to the 2019 budget to reappropriate unspent funds for public safety initiatives in the Sheriff's Department totaling \$91,265.77. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that this will carry over remaining funds from 2016 and 2017 homeland security grants. The grants were already approved by the Board are 100% state aid.

Mr. Peck said that a sub-committee was set up last month to look into the potential purchase of the Round Lake Substation. Supervisor Peck and O'Connor visited the property this week. It was built in 1992, is well kept and well managed. They will continue researching details of the potential sale and report back to the committee next month.

Mr. Barrett commended Sheriff Zurlo and some of his counterparts on their comments recently regarding their concerns on the legalization of marijuana. Mr. Barrett said that the expansion of the drug culture continues, and also the availability of harmful prescription as well as illicit drugs. Mr. Barrett said that the legalization of marijuana would result in an increased cost of training for officers, increase costs of mental health services, social services and addiction services which would all affect the local tax payers. The most expensive cost of all bring the human cost and what the expansion of drug culture would do to society.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board