

Public Safety Committee Minutes  
March 12, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members Preston Allen, Phil Barrett, Darren O’Conner, Scott Ostrander, Tim Szczepaniak, Tom Wood; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Alan Grattidge, Ed Kinowski, Todd Kusnierz, Mo Wright; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Richard Castle, Steve Gordon, Sheriff; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Carl Zeilman, Ed Tremblay, Michael Stanley, Emergency Services; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; J. Wes Carr, STOP DWI; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, the minutes of the February 13, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. O’Connor, to proclaim April 14-20, 2019 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

Mr. Gordon, Director of Emergency Communications for the Sheriff’s Department said that that new CAD system was deployed two weeks ago. Calls can now be processed faster and this is a very successful project. Mr. Gordon said that this is an annual proclamation and will recognize the men and women of the Sheriff’s Office communications team and the work they do.

Mr. Peck added that the new CAD system will transition seamlessly into the new Public Safety Facility.

**A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Barrett, to authorize a 5-year contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for equipment and services associated with supplying the Sheriff’s Department with Tasers. Unanimous.**

Mr. Castle said that the current equipment is at the end of its 5 year shelf life. This agreement will provide for the replacement of equipment as well as all of the supplies, training and warranty. Instead of being a one off purchase each year, this is a 5-year replacement plan. The agreement will keep the equipment current, provide annual recertification training, replacement cartridges and training cartridges. This will also provide master instructor certification for two members. Mr. Castle said that in the five years of having Tasers, there has only been one deployment. The Tasers have been drawn on several occasions, however only one deployment.

**A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. O’Connor, to proclaim April 7-13, 2019 as National Crime Victims’ Week (2019 Theme - Honoring Our Past: Creating Hope for the Future). Unanimous.**

Mrs. Heggen said that this is an annual proclamation. A Candlelight Vigil will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Ballston Spa Baptist Church on Milton Avenue and all Supervisors are invited to attend. Mrs. Heggen said that it is a good time to reflect on the core basis of their jobs which is obtaining justice for the victims of crimes.

Mr. Zeilman said that the monthly report for the Emergency Services Department was circulated via email. Mr. Zeilman said that he recently visited the site of the new shared storage facility and the project is progressing.

**A motion was made by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize a budget amendment to reappropriate unspent funds for upgrades to the County's paging system in the Emergency Services Department in the amount of \$549,999. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zeilman said that funds will be moved from the 2018 to the 2019 budget.

**A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize a subscription agreement with Emergency Services Marketing Corp., Inc. for access to their emergency responder reply system for a term of five years. Unanimous.**

Mr. Tremblay said that this is related to I Am Responding Contract which is a responding system that text messages alarm information to responders. This is used by all of the Fire Department and Emergency Services agencies in the County. For Fire Departments, it also allows for the mapping of all fire hydrants. The current contract expires in June. The annual cost will be \$31,274 and is covered by grant funds.

**A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize the purchase of the Round Lake FD Fire Station in Malta in the amount of \$161,000 and amend the budget. Unanimous.**

Mr. Peck said that said that a sub-committee was set up to look into this purchase. Sub-committee members consisted of Supervisors Peck, O'Connor and Szczepaniak and they recently toured the property. Mr. Peck said that Round Lake is building a new station, have a shared station with Malta and therefore the substation is no longer needed. The property and building is assessed at \$161K, an appraisal was done and came back at \$250K. Mr. Tremblay said that the Fire investigation unit has been stored there for approximately 3-4 years. There is also plenty of storage for a generator, light tower and spill response trailer. Housing the spill response trailer in this central location will provide easier accessibility to the areas where it is likely to be needed most including, I-87, Routes 67 and 9. Mr. Peck said that the building was constructed in 1992, the purchase will be contingent upon structural and environmental reviews. The building is approximately 2300 sq. ft. on a 0.6 acre lot. Mr. Szczepaniak said that he was very impressed with the structure and the fire investigation unit.

Mr. Barrett commended the Sheriff and his staff for the recent training of additional drug recognition experts. Due to the eventual legalization of marijuana, the demand for these experts will be higher. Mr. Castle said that currently there are 66K police officers in NYS and only 263 drug recognition experts of which, Saratoga County now has 4. Participants must pre-qualify to be accepted into the 2 week training class in New York and upon completion of that, they attend a 1 week clinic in Florida. Funding for the training is covered by state funds. Mr. Carr said that training costs can also be expensed under STOP DWI funding. Mr. Barrett said that suspected cases of DWAI-Drug need to be investigated by drug recognition experts, if one is not on staff at

that time, they would need to be called in on overtime, which increases furthermore the expenses. Mr. Castle said that it is a 60-90 minute evaluation.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board