

Public Safety Committee Minutes
September 10, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members Preston Allen, Darren O’Conner, Scott Ostrander, Tim Szczepaniak; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Carl Zeilman, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Penny Heritage, Animal Shelter; 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. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Allen, the minutes of the August 13, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Ms. Heggen said that this is an annual item. There are two full time employees in the District Attorney’s office dedicated to Saratoga County domestic violence cases. Ms. Heggen said that they have tremendous resources from law enforcement through to the court system. They also partner with two agencies in the County, Wellspring in Saratoga Springs and the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program in Mechanicville.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize the acceptance of an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$85,193 from the NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that this is an annual grant and helps to offset the expenses of the Office of Emergency Services. The funds are used toward items such as equipment maintenance and fuel.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize a 2-year renewal agreement with a 1-year extension option with RS Telecom, Inc., in the amount \$85,500 per year for services related to maintenance of the County's emergency radio network. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that RS Telecom was the only bidder. The cost is up approximately \$30K from 3 years ago. Sites and fiber have been added to the County’s infrastructure since then.

A motion was made by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize a memorandum of understanding with the Rural Law Center of New York, Inc. to provide appellate services to clients of the offices of the Public Defender and the Conflict Defender. Unanimous.

Mr. Blumenberg said that they have used the Rural Law Center for approximately 4 years now. The fee is \$2,500 per appeal with a not to exceed number of 20. This is 100% funded by Indigent Legal Services.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize an amendment to the contract with Conflict Defender Kyran Nigro in the amount of \$31,512.35 for reimbursement of administrative services for the period from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. Unanimous.

Mr. Blumenberg said that this will cover 7/10's of the salary of Mr. Nigro's Administrative Assistant. This is 100% funded by Indigent Legal Services. Mr. Cooke said that this was approved in the ILS contract. Mr. Blumenberg said that this agreement will be retroactive to April 2018.

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