

Public Safety Committee Minutes
February 5, 2020– 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members Preston Allen, John Lant, Jack Lawler, Darren O’Conner, Jean Raymond, Matt Veitch, Mo Wright; Supervisors Alan Grattidge; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Rick Castle, Richard Emery, Sheriff; Carl Zeilman, Office of Emergency Services; J. Wes Carr, STOP DWI; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Penny Heritage, Animal Shelter; Al Poremba, District Attorney; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. O’Connor, the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to enter into a contract with Trinity Services Group for food service procurement management services for the Saratoga County Correctional Facility. Unanimous.

Mr. Castle said that this went out to bid late last year. Trinity Services Group were the only response. Mr. Castle said that they will be consolidating all of their food services orders through one group which will streamline the process. Mr. Castle said that the pricing is on a sliding scale based on the population of the jail. Mr. Emery said that their menus will be certified to the New York State Commission of Corrections standards twice a year. Mr. Castle said that this is a 5-year contract with a 90 day notice cancellation clause.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize an amendment to the 2020 budget to reappropriate unspent capital funds in the Sheriff’s Department in the amount of \$86,641.31. Unanimous.

Mr. Castle said that the funds were for projects that were approved and funded last year. Projects include the expansion of the housing unit in the jail and the engineering work in the Rec. yard.

A motion was made by Mr. O’Connor, seconded by Mr. Wright, to authorize a 3-year contract with Northeast Mobile Dental Services for dental services at the County’s correctional facility in the amount of \$126,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Castle said that they have been under contract with Northeast Mobile Dental Services since 2011 without a price increase. The agreement is being increased from \$36K to \$42K annually.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize an amendment to the 2020 budget to reappropriate unspent Statewide Interoperable Communications grant funds in the amount of \$848,874. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that this will allow for payment of ongoing projects.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize a contract with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless in the amount of \$26,400 per year to co-locate wireless communications equipment on the County's radio monopole in the Town of Edinburg. The motion passed. Mr. Veitch recused himself from voting.

Mr. Zeilman said that this will allow for cell service in the North Country starting in Edinburg. Mr. Zeilman said that once this is completed, they are considering Lakeview in Day and Lake Luzerne after that. The process for the additional projects has already begun. Flights have been scheduled to study the towers. Mr. Zeilman thanked Mr. Dorsey for all of his help on this project. Mr. Veitch recused himself as he is currently employed by Verizon. Mrs. Raymond thanked Mr. Zeilman for his work on this long overdue project. Mr. Zeilman said that this will provide coverage to a 5-8 mile radius depending on the power of the phone and the number of users. Mr. Grattidge said that goals were set out several years ago to not only improve the radio system but to also co-locate and improve cell service throughout the county.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize participation in the 2020 State STOP-DWI program and contracts with local agency participants. Unanimous.

Mr. Carr said that the 2020 STOP DWI program plan was emailed out last week. This is an annual resolution. The various components are the administrative aspect, law enforcement aspect with funding for all of the police agencies in the Counties, and \$30K provided for crackdown efforts during various holiday seasons. They also help offset the costs in the District Attorney's office, Probation and Mental Health. A contract with the Prevention Council in Saratoga Springs provides for public information and education. They also help fund the various high school after prom events. The total budget for 2020 is \$387,640.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to authorize the acceptance of a grant from the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services in amount of \$211,602 for Distribution No. 9 for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021. Unanimous.

Mr. Blumenberg said that this grant will continue to pay the Rural Law Center for its appellate work and also pay a portion of the Public Defender Social Worker's salary.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize the acceptance of a grant from the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services in amount of \$211,602 for Distribution No. 10 for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Unanimous.

Mr. Blumenberg said that this grant will enhance services in the Public Defender's office, enhance the computer system, pay for the PDCMS license, and also pay for investigators and expert witnesses among other things.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Lawler, to authorize Chairman to enter into intermunicipal agreements with participating municipalities for 2020 Saratoga County Animal Shelter services. Unanimous.

Ms. Heritage said that there are no price changes, all fees and terms are the same as last year.

Mr. Peck said that they appreciate the reports provided by the Department heads being sent out in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Peck said that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to go over the legislative agenda. Mr. Peck said that a resolution excluding emergency responders private information from being made discoverable will be brought directly to Law & Finance.

Mr. Veitch gave a brief report from NYSAC. He is the vice chairman of the Public Safety committee at NYSAC. Three resolutions were passed: 1. Improving probation alternatives to incarceration to reduce reliance on jails; 2. Dam safety – asking the State to fund Dam Safety; 3. Efforts to attract and retain volunteer Firefighters and EMS. NYSAC set up a task force for the specific topic of attracting the retaining volunteers Firefighters and EMS.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board