

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

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members John Lant, Darren O'Connor, Matt Veitch, Mo Wright; Supervisor Ed Kinowski and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Rick Castle, Sheriff; J. Wes Carr, STOP DWI; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Cathi Duncan, Public Health; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Kelly Devall, Animal Shelter; Carl Zeilman, Ed Trembley, Emergency Services; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; 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. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Lant, the minutes of the February 5, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Peck asked Mrs. Duncan to give a brief overview of COVID-19. Mrs. Duncan said that all of the emergency services are working together on this, Public Health, Office of Emergency Services and the Sheriff. There is a county wide coalition that has met for years, and meet quarterly each year. They are very well connected and Saratoga County is one of the most robust emergency preparedness counties in this area. At this time, 12 people have been quarantined and there are no active cases. There are currently 6 confirmed cases in NYS. Mrs. Duncan said that information will be sent out in the event that this becomes a pandemic, such as cancelling large gatherings and events, schools may have to look at remote learning, continued promotion of the flu vaccine, explore options for working from home, and consider locations for mass quarantine. Pandemic plans continue to be expanded diligently per the CDC. Mr. Zeilman said that he has been working daily and sometimes hourly with the Public Health Department. The Office of Emergency Services has identified some locations in the County that could be used for mass quarantine. The office has a state accredited continuity of operations plan which can be used as a template for other county offices. Mrs. Duncan said that they will be inviting Town Supervisors and officials to a meeting next week. Mr. Wright requested that wording and links be provided for municipalities to put on their own websites. Mrs. Duncan said that a press release will be going out. Mr. Hellwig said that the County website has a link under latest news that directs the public to the most up to date information from Public Health.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Lant, to amend the 2020 County Budget to increase appropriations and revenues by \$50,794.04 to reappropriate unspent NYS Homeland Security grant funds as approved by resolutions #214-17 and #221-18. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that the first grant will expire in August 2020 and the second grant will expire August 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to proclaim April 12-18, 2020 as "National Public safety Telecommunicators Week" in Saratoga County. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that this will recognize the hard work, day in and day out, of Telecommunicators in his office and around the County. Most recently was during the snow storm, at times there were 40 calls backed up and they did a phenomenal job. Mr. Peck said that this is a very stressful job and Saratoga County has a very low turnover compared to neighboring counties. Mr. Peck said that we have outstanding people doing a fine job.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize the transfer of funds from the STOP-DWI program reserve, and amending the 2020 county budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Carr said that the funds will be used to send two Sheriff's Deputies to the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in August for drug recognition expert training. Mr. Zurlo said that there are currently five DRE trained deputies in Saratoga County. Mrs. Heggen expressed her support of DRE training. They continue to see increases in combined influence cases in her office, people under the influence of marijuana and/or another substance. The Sheriff's office is on the forefront bringing the DA's office strong solid cases so that roadways can be kept safe.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to proclaim April 12-18, 2020 as National Crime Victims' Week (2020 Theme - "Seek Justice | Ensure Victims' Rights | Inspire Hope"). Unanimous.

Ms. Heggen said that this is the week that they reflect back on victims of crime. The theme this year summarizes the work done each and every day for victims. An event is being planned to kick off National Crime Victims week in the Capital Region. Date, time and location will be announced next week. Mr. Peck commended Ms. Heggen for the great job her Department does for Crime Victims' work.

Mr. Wright thanked the Office of Emergency Services and Sheriff's office for their support during the most recent ice storm.

Mr. Peck said that updates will continue to be sent out from both the Office of Emergency Services and Public Health regarding COVID-19.

Mr. Peck said that the Animal Shelter monthly report was previously sent out.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board