

Public Safety Committee Minutes
June 3, 2020– 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members John Lant, Darren O'Connor, Jean Raymond, Matt Veitch, Mo Wright and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; J. Wes Carr, STOP DWI; Carl Zeilman, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Steve Bayle, Probation; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Mike Zurlo, Sheriff.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Lant, the minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to authorize the acceptance of an additional \$2,500 in STOP-DWI grant funding for Crackdown Patrols and Activities and amending the 2020 budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Carr said that he had the opportunity to apply for, and receive an additional \$2,500 as some of the other Counties across the State are not using all of their funding.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize an agreement with ONSOLVE, LLC in the amount of \$67,696.44 for an initial term of 1-year and 257 days plus a renewal 1-year option in the amount of \$50,000 for CodeRED emergency notification services. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that when the onset of Covid hit, they needed to upgrade the CodeRED system agreement to conduct the reverse 911 calls. It has also been used for the Census. This is afforded to all of the Towns to make emergency calls. Mrs. Raymond said that this has been very helpful with the Census as they were gearing up for a lot of outreach and were at a standstill when Covid got in the way. Three reverse notifications were already made and additional calls will be made as Census work is opened up again. Mr. Zeilman said that since we are under the Federal Declaration, they are hoping that 75% of the cost will be reimbursed.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize a 3-year agreement with Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$1,168,355.18 for a maintenance contract on the County's public safety radio infrastructure. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman apologized for this late addition to the agenda. Motorola has been operating with a skeleton crew to review contracts. Mr. Zeilman said that the agreement expired in 2018 when a complete radio system upgrade was done. At that time the monthly cost was \$26,546.25 per month. The cost was reduced in 2019 due to the warranty included in the upgrade. This is a refresh on the system agreement with the new equipment at a cost of \$32,454.31 per month. Mr. Zeilman said that \$285,913 from his budget is already dedicated toward the cost and he just received an SI19 grant and can dedicate an additional \$389,451.72 from that also.

Mr. Zeilman said that the site walks will be done with the vendor in Day and Edinburg on Friday morning for the construction of the Tower sites. Mr. Zeilman said that he is working with the Town of Luzerne to work out information to get the next contract agreed upon and that project done.

Ms. Heggen gave an update on the District Attorney's office via phone. Ms. Heggen said that her office just started to report to the office in teams of 1/3 at a time, today is one of the days she is not supposed to be in the office, and is working remotely. Ms. Heggen said that her office has been fully functioning and operating during this time period with the assistance of Law enforcement, IT and Human Resources. A total of 3 different homicides occurred since the County closed down in mid-March. The ADA's were able to be responsive to all three of the crime scenes as well as working the cases to the extent that they can. The Court shutdowns have limited appearances in Court in person, but they have been actively appearing via Skype in the County Court system and more recently at arraignments and proceedings in the City Courts and Courts serving as a centralized Courts. They have also been dealing with changes in the law which has brought significant additional numbers of cases and files that they have to open as they are now responsible for all of the information, known as discovery, in all criminal cases within 15 days. The time period was recently extended to allow 20 days for someone who is incarcerated and 35 days for those that are not incarcerated. They continue to assemble all of that information electronically from Law enforcement agencies and have been able to virtually continue forward with cases. They have more than doubled the number of cases they were opening and providing discovery for last year. Ms. Heggen said that the Court system is opening up as of this Friday to start to proceed in County Court with some matters in person. Ms. Heggen said that one last piece that is desperately needed from the State, that is still lacking, is that Grand Juries are not allowed to be brought in or to hear any cases. Ms. Heggen said that they currently have a back log of close to 40 felony cases that need to go through the Grand Jury and she is hopeful that they will be able to do that within a month's time. Ms. Heggen said that she is very proud of the men and women that work for her, and how they have been able to keep business moving. Ms. Heggen said that last week they received an administrative order from the 4th Judicial District. Judge Catena has adjourned the local justice court cases for all cases where someone is not incarcerated until August 1st. Ms. Heggen said that they are working now in order to be ready for that date. Mrs. Raymond said that this is the 3rd postponement they have received. Ms. Heggen said that this has been very challenging for her staff, law enforcement and the victims of crimes.

Mr. Bayle gave an update on the Probation Department. Mr. Bayle said that since March 23rd his office has been fully functional. They have been responsive to all the Courts, Police and other agencies that provide treatment to the people that the department supervises. Mr. Bayle said that they have three basic components; supervision of those on probation which is approximately 1,100, pre-sentence investigations for all of the Courts in the County which is approximately 23, and they also provide juvenile services. Mr. Bayle said that the probation officers have been in contact with all of those on probation. They received modified rules from the State regarding contacts and the types of contact they have with people. They have relaxed the requirement to see people in person. They have kept in touch with people via telephone, email. In mid-April all of the Probation Officers were provided with VPN's by IT which allows them to do all of their case work in the case load management software, meet with people via Skype and Zoom, and also allows them to run criminal history reports and do checks. Mr. Bayle said that he is putting

the finishing touches on the plan to allow probation officers to return to the office next week. They will probably only be in the office once or twice a week for the next 4-6 or possibly 8 weeks. Violations for the lower courts will need to wait until August. The more serious crimes at the County Court, probation violations have been filed and they have appeared via Skype for dispositions on those cases. Some of the probation officers have called and driven by houses, particularly domestic violence people, to check in person and have a brief conversation, keeping social distancing in mind.

Mr. Bayle said that they had a situation several weeks ago whereby a level 3 sex offender who was indicted by the Grand Jury approximately 9-10 years ago for failing to register as a sex offender, he absconded and was found in MA. He was brought back, and due to bail reform he could not be remanded, and was released. Judge Hogan ordered electronic monitoring for this individual. The Judge's order was signed on Thursday afternoon and by Friday he was hooked up to electronic monitoring. Mr. Bayle thanked IT, District Attorney's office, County Attorney's office and the County Administrator's office for their help in getting this in place.

Sheriff Zurlo said that most of the civil unrest that has been occurring has been outside of Saratoga County until this coming Sunday in Saratoga. A march is scheduled for 12pm and the Sheriff's office will be assisting Saratoga Springs PD. On Friday afternoon they are expecting 1,600 in Glens Falls for a March and they have been put on standby if needed to assist. A large march in the City of Troy has been scheduled also and the Sheriff's office will be available to assist if necessary. Another one is scheduled on Monday at 2pm in Clifton Park.

Regarding NY Pause, most of the complaints are regarding people not wearing masks.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Lant, requesting review and change of APA policies related to new telecommunications towers in the Adirondack Park. The motion passed. Mr. Veitch recused himself from voting.

A draft resolution from Washington County was distributed. Mr. Wright said that this was discussed at InterCounty last Thursday. The same resolution will be voted upon in Washington and Warren Counties in June. The request is to change the description of a tower being "substantially invisible" to being "not readily apparent". Mr. Wright said that substantially invisible means you cannot see something from a public viewing place. It is very difficult to get telecommunication companies to invest in towers that don't go above the trees or mountains because they don't work. Mr. Wright said that a change in the language to "not readily apparent" will allow for something that resembles a pine tree that will be higher than the landscape or trees, that will actually work. Mr. Wright said that this has really come to the forefront recently due to the increased need for telehealth and distance learning with schools. Residents and students are struggling to get school work done, converse with doctors due to the restrictions. Mr. Wright said that the Board of Education are starting to get on our side and health industry is saying that something has to be done. Mr. Wright said that there is some language to give a little more leeway in the hamlets to have towers a little higher than currently allowed. Mr. Wright said that NYSAC is looking for all Adirondack counties to pass this resolution. Mr. Wright said that by Law & Finance the necessary changes will be made to the Washington County draft to tailor it towards Saratoga County. Mrs. Raymond complimented InterCounty on coming up with language that might work at this point. Mrs. Raymond said that if a tower is currently put up on the side of a hill, and is substantially invisible, a year or two later the trees continue to grow and the tower does

not work at all. This is why Saratoga County had to go back and put extensions on the towers in Edinburg and Day, in order to even have cell phone coverage. Mrs. Raymond said that what currently exists defies any logic or common sense, and she completely supports this resolution. A brief discussion took place regarding the changes needed to tailor the resolution towards Saratoga County. Mr. Wright said that they have been fighting this battle for over 30 years and this would be a huge victory for the organizations. Mr. Wright said that the resolution was predominantly written by Fred Monroe, who was one of the original members of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, was a longtime chairman of the Town of Chester, and Chairman of the APA Local Government Review Board. Mr. Monroe has been fighting this fight for a long time and believes that the changes proposed, if approved, would mean that Frankenpines could be allowed in the Adirondack Park. Mr. Wright said that the language changes sound small, but it may actually give leeway to get coverage.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board