

Public Safety Committee Minutes  
July 8, 2020– 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members Jack Lawler, Darren O'Connor, Jean Raymond, Matt Veitch, Mo Wright; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Todd Kusnierz and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Mike Zurlo, Sheriff; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; J. Wes Carr, STOP DWI; Pamela Wright, Clerk of the Board.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the minutes of the June 3, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize an amended agreement with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services related to the statewide expansion of the Hurrell-Harring settlement, and amending the County budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mr. Blumenberg said that the amendment provides details related to funding for Year 2. The amendment will add \$30,408 to the Conflict Defenders Office. Funds will be used for Attorney's Fees and Litigation Consultants. The amendment will also add \$87,424 for the Assigned Counsel Program. These funds will be used toward the salary and fringe of the ACP Administrator, Litigation Consultants and conference fees. The funds are 100% State aid.

**A motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize a renewal agreement with Albany Medical Center for the use of laboratory and morgue facilities needed by the County Coroners when performing autopsies and other post-mortem activities. Unanimous.**

Mr. Dorsey said that the previous contract expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The renewal is for a term of one year from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 with a not to exceed amount of \$30K. The rates are the same as last year's agreement.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to authorize a tower license agreement with Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless, for the placement of communications equipment on the County's Luzerne radio communications tower in the Town of Lake Luzerne. The Motion Passed. Mr. Veitch recused from voting.**

Mr. Zeilman said that this is another co-location agreement. This will benefit the residents of Hadley and those in the Northern part of the County. The rental agreement for a year is \$26,400 and will be split 50/50 with the Town of Lake Luzerne to utilize the property. This is the fourth tower in a few months and will also benefit the Sheriff's office, Fire Department and EMS Personnel that are utilizing the CAD system. Mrs. Raymond thanked Mr. Zeilman for the effort put forth into this project. With everything going on, Mr. Zeilman has remained diligent in getting

these towers located. Mr. Peck also thanked Mr. Zeilman as the North Country cell service has been a problem for a long time, particularly from an Emergency Services standpoint.

Mr. Peck said that the Sheriff's monthly report was previously distributed. The numbers are very similar to last year. Mr. Zurlo said that traffic tickets are down and he attributes this to less traffic during COVID. The remaining statistics are very similar to those of 2019.

Mr. Peck said that he has spoken with the Undersheriff regarding the Governors Executive Order that deals with police reform. It's currently being discussed with the Sheriff's Association and they expect an update in the future.

Mr. Zurlo said that there are two protests coming up. The first is a Black Lives Matter/Pride event on July 18<sup>th</sup> in Clifton Park at 2pm. The other is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the Correctional Facility. This group is touring the Capital District and approximately 75 people showed up last week at the Albany Correctional Facility. They were peaceful but very vocal. The staff will be meeting tomorrow to discuss and prepare for the safety of the facility. Mr. Lawler said that a protest is also scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> in Waterford, beginning at Peebles Island.

Mr. Peck read a thank you letter that was sent from Wellspring to Commissioner Zeilman thanking him and the Emergency Services Team for their continued support, especially during the pandemic, and for the donation of hand sanitizer and gloves. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

Mr. O'Connor said that the Animal Shelter charges animal owners a fee when an animal is returned following seizure by Animal Control officers. That fee is less than the cost that the Towns pay, and while the owners have the animal returned, now the Town has to follow up to recoup the remaining fee from the owner. The Towns do not have any leverage once the animal has been returned. Mr. O'Connor posed the question if other Supervisors have seen in issue with this and whether it might be worth looking at the possibility of having the Animal Shelter charge the owner the full fee so that the Towns would not have to go back to attempt to get the remaining fee from the owner. Mr. O'Connor said that he will speak with other Supervisors to see if it's an issue in their Towns. Mr. Peck said that he will bring it to the attention of the Animal Shelter Director Penny Heritage and discuss it with her.

**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



# WELLSPRING

Ending relationship and sexual abuse in our community

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*Board of Directors*

June 15, 2020

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*Vice President*

Saratoga County Office of Emergency Services  
25 West High Street  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

*Tom Meaney*  
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*David Cumming*  
*Secretary*

Dear Carl and team at the Saratoga County Office of Emergency Services,

We are amazed and honored that during a time of such uncertainty you have made it a priority to continue supporting those in need. Thank you so very much for your recent donation of hand sanitizer and gloves.

*Jake Behuniak*

For victims of abuse, isolation presents a landscape ripe for escalation. Abusers are constantly present to gain power and control over their homebound victims.

*Stephanie Collins*

*Andi Dolinsky*

*Giovanna D'Orazio*

We want to assure you that through creative adaptations, Wellspring continues to provide all of the essential victim assistance and community education services that we always have. Our phone hotline is available for clients 24/7 and because it is not always safe for someone to pick up the phone, Wellspring has launched an internet-based chat line to help support our clients who cannot call.

*Dean Kolligian*

*John Lefner*

*John Pecora*

*Kevin Ronayne*

Reasons like this are why donations like yours are more critical now than ever. We are forever thankful that amidst so much distress, you chose to support Wellspring and our clients.

*Margaret Roohan*

*Lester Snyder*

So with deepest gratitude, thank you. Your generosity allows us the opportunity to continue making a positive impact as we support survivors and our community at large during this time of exponential need.

*Linda Toohey*

**Thank you for your gift and for joining us in this important work. Together, we will conquer this.**

Gratefully,

Maggie Fronk  
Executive Director

Stevie Fellows  
Director of Development

*Your gift is tax deductible. In accordance with the current IRS Tax Code, Wellspring affirms that we did not and will not provide any goods or services to you, in whole or in part, in consideration for this donation.*

*THANK you  
so much  
for helping  
to keep us  
safe!  
-Stevie*