

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

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members John Lant, Jean Raymond, Matt Veitch, Mo Wright; Supervisor Ed Kinowski and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Spencer Hellwig, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Penny Heritage, Animal Shelter; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Karen Heggen, District Attorney.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Wright, to authorize an increase in Rabies Clinic Workers compensation. Unanimous.**

Ms. Heritage said that the current fee has been a flat fee for the past 25 years. The request is to increase from \$40 to \$60 for a regular clinic and \$80 for an expanded clinic. The costs are 100% covered by a NYS rabies grant. The regular clinic covers 3 hours and expanded clinic covers 4 hours. Mr. Hellwig said that the Committee has authority to approve this, it does not need to go to the full Board.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Lant, to reduce adoption fees for cats and kittens through December of 2019. Unanimous.**

Ms. Heritage said that this is an annual request. The adoption fees will be reduced to \$30 which will cover the testing fee and rabies vaccine fee. The adoption portion will be waived. Ms. Heritage said that they are averaging a populating of 45-50 cats on an ongoing basis which is lower. They are doing a good job of keeping the population down, which was a goal during COVID. During kitten season the population can increase tremendously.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize the acceptance of an Emergency Management Performance Grant from FEMA on behalf of the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the amount of \$48,009. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zeilman said that this is a supplemental grant to the EMPG grant they receive every year. The funds will be put towards some COVID-19 expenses that have already been incurred through the pandemic. The purchase of thermometers, masks and gowns. The grant will cover 50% of the costs already incurred.

Mr. Zeilman said that he only received minor reports regarding trees down on wires, scattered power outages, from the most recent storm. Nothing significant was reported in this area.

Ms. Heggan said that the local Courts began to open up as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. They are aware that things have been sitting for a long time. They are trying to work as best they can to move things along, but at the same time they are asking the Courts not to be asking for extra days. If each Judge asked for one extra day, she would have 40 more court appearances in one month. Ms. Heggan said that her office has been working throughout the pause, and the initial reports is that things are moving along because they have had great collaboration with the Public Defender's office. They conferenced a lot of cases. Ms. Heggan wanted to let those that have Town Courts know that they realize things are busy, and they are dedicated to get the work done. It just might not happen the first or second time. Mr. Lant said that his Court was very pleased with how everything was handled.

Mr. Veitch said that Supervisor O'Connor had a question at the last meeting regarding recouping the fees for returning animals. Mr. Peck said that he has discussed the issue with Ms. Heritage and plans to have a discussion at September's meeting.

Mr. Veitch said that at last night's City Council meeting, they appointed a committee for the executive order for reform. Mr. Veitch wondered if there was a timeline whereby the County had to appoint a citizen committee. Mr. Peck said that he discussed it with the Sheriff and Undersheriff a few months ago and was told that working through the Sheriff's Association, they are on target and would have everything up to speed by Fall. Mr. Peck said he will follow up with the Sheriff and Undersheriff. Mr. Veitch said that NYSAC Public Safety was yesterday and they had a resolution to ask for State funding for actions that may need to be taken to change police policy and procedure.

Mr. Lant said that he went to Saratoga on Thursday night to support the police. Mr. Lant said that the City Police, Sheriff's and Troopers handled things very well and we are lucky to have them. Mr. Peck said that we are very fortunate in this County with the quality of people we have in our police forces.

**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