

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

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members John Lant, Darren O'Connor, Jean Raymond, Matt Veitch, Mo Wright; Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Penny Heritage, Animal Shelter; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Adam Kinowski, Human Resources.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, the minutes of the October 7, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Wright, to authorize an amendment to the contract with Pittsfield Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$4,077.45 for 800 MHz radio installation and programming service. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that the contract with Pittsfield Communication is to do installs and removals of radios in the Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff's office and County Highway. The current contract has been exceeded, and the increase will cover the expenses related to one OES vehicle, one DPW vehicle, and approximately 12 Sheriff's vehicles. Installs are not limited to new vehicles, it may be relocation of radios from one truck to another, etc.

Mr. Zeilman said that they are live in Edinburg and the Town of Day with Verizon Wireless Services now. Testing is ongoing, they have identified spotty areas, and they are working with the power signal and directional use of the antennas to correct or spread wireless coverage. The fourth and final project in line with Verizon Wireless is underway in Lake Luzerne. Mrs. Raymond said that Mr. Zeilman is already aware of her comment, that there is a large section near the tower where there is no service. She has received complaints from residents in that area. Mr. Zeilman said that he will report this issue back to Verizon.

Mr. Wright said that he believes there will be a working group from Essex, Warren, Washington counties to try to better cell service in rural areas. They are looking for Saratoga County to participate. Mr. Wright asked Mr. Zeilman who may be a good representative for Saratoga County to send. Mr. Wright said that he spoke with Mark Behan this afternoon, who was approached by Mike Bittle. Mr. Wright said that he would at least sit it on the initial meeting but would like to know who a good representative from Saratoga County would be. Mr. Zeilman said that he is not a telecommunications specialist, however if the Committee would like him to sit in on the meetings he would be agreeable to it. Mr. Wright said that he will keep Mr. Zeilman in the loop.

Mr. Zurlo said that election night was a quiet night. They had 2 teams of 15 deputies work 6am-2pm, and then 2pm until 10pm, and there were no issues at all. They assisted Board of Elections with some orders and such, but it was quiet all in all. They are still assisting Public Health with quarantine orders.

Ms. Heggen said that the local courts are up and running for the last few months however the capacity in some of the Courts are small and therefore while they are up and running, the amount of cases and the number of cases flowing through are limited in large part by capacity issues. Ms. Heggen said that the ADA's are trying their best to do as much as they can offline, and try to get as much through to the Courts as they can. Ms. Heggen said that they participated in a trial pilot program with the State, they had one jury trial already and another one ready to go. Civil Courts and County Court are now going to have the opportunity to have the Court room for approximately 2 months, and they have a full schedule of criminal trials after that.

Mr. Blumenberg reported that all is going smooth from the Public Defender's office. Ms. Heritage said that she emailed an update to all committee members on October activities. Things are running smoothly, adoptions are going well.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board