

Public Safety Committee Minutes
December 2, 2020– 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Bill Peck; Committee Members John Lant, Jack Lawler, Darren O'Connor, Jean Raymond, Matt Veitch, Mo Wright; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Alan Grattidge, Ed Kinowski, Todd Kusnierz, Jack Lawler, Dan Pemrick, Benny Zlotnick and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Chad Cooke, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, Hugh Burke, County Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Steve Bayle, Probation; Carl Zeilman, Ed Trembley, Emergency Services; David DeCelle, Coroner; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Penny Heritage, Animal Shelter.

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 November 4, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to authorize a 5-year agreement with Axon Enterprises Inc. in the amount of \$127,440 for storage of digital information relative to Taser testing and storage and dissemination of digital evidence files. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that this is a five year contract and the County will save 5% because of this. The cost is \$25,488 per year fixed price. Mr. Zurlo said that the funds are in the 2021 budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to authorize a 2021 contract for police services with the Town of Clifton Park. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that the contract is for \$584,519.96 and reflects a 2% increase for 2021 consistent with the bargaining agreement. The contract is the same as this year except for the 2% increase.

Mr. Zurlo thanked the Supervisors for all of their support over the past year.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Lawler, to authorize the acceptance of the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) grant from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in an amount up to \$59,992 and to authorize the associated specialized provider contracts accordingly for the 2021 fiscal year. Unanimous.

Mr. Bayle said that this program has been in place since 2011. The grant and contract terms are the same as the 2020 agreement. Mr. Bayle said that the grant is applied for by DSS and funds are passed through to Probation to administer the contracts. Mr. Bayle said that the programs have been very successful over the past nine years. The three programs provide case services, respite, and electronic monitoring so that youths don't need to be sent to secure detention or residential placement. Mr. Bayle said that number of placements have gone down from 35-40 prior to

implementation, to approximately 6 this year. The annual cost of residential placing of a person is approximately \$125K.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize the acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$22,033 for the Ignition Interlock Device (IID) Monitoring Program, which will partially reimburse the County for the Probation's Departments efforts in monitoring offenders with said IID devices, and includes a grant period of October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Unanimous.

Mr. Bayle said that this program has been in place for 8-9 years. This is an annual grant. The amount is determined by the State based on the number of ignition interlock devices that are monitored. This does not provide funding for the actual devices, that's the responsibility of the defendant.

Mr. Bayle thanked the Committee for its support this year. The silver lining on this terrible year has been the move to the new Public Safety Facility.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to authorize a 5-year agreement with Spectrum Enterprises in the amount of \$560 per month and a one-time installation fee of \$500 for a fiber optic connection between Edinburg and 6010 County Farm Road in Ballston Spa. The motion passed. Mr. Veitch recused himself from voting.

Mr. Zeilman said that this is leveraging the new infrastructure at Fraker Mountain, the fiber infrastructure that was just placed there for the cell service. Mr. Zeilman said that this will allow them to terminate the need for a T1, a copper line, going out to this fiber. This will reduce the expenses from \$1,040 to \$560 per month. This will allow the County to ride the 800MHz communications traffic over that network. Mr. Zeilman said that it is also more robust as items such as water in the copper lines will cause disruption. This is a lot more stable.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize a 1 year agreement with Mission Critical Partners in the amount of \$63,200 for maintenance, technical support services, and on-site computer aided dispatch (CAD) 911 network support for the Capital Region CAD/E911 system. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that this agreement will provide maintenance, and mitigates against network failures to the CAD system that is shared by Rensselaer, Albany and Saratoga Counties. This is a shared expense, the other two counties pay the same amount on their end.

Mr. Zeilman echoed the words of his colleagues, and thanked the committee for their support over the year.

Mr. Peck thanked the Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff's office, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defenders and Coroners for all of their work handling public safety issues throughout a year that has been a very complicated year on behalf of the citizens of this County due to the Coronavirus. Mr. Peck said that they have performed outstanding work individually but what

impresses him most is when they all work together as a team with effective results. Mr. Lant agreed.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize a rate increase from \$100 to \$225 per case for Deputy Coroners. Unanimous.

Mr. DeCelle said that they Deputy Coroners currently get \$100 plus travel mileage per case. This proposal is to change it to an all-inclusive rate of \$225 per case. Mr. DeCelle said that the amount of time and effort that the Deputy Coroners have to put in to cover for the elected Coroners when they are not available, while on vacation, sick, and now due to the pandemic is very time consuming. Mr. DeCelle said that there are currently four very good Deputy Coroners and this increase will be the first received since 2015. This will also compensate for the amount of time that they put in. As an example, for the month of November, as the Coroner, Mr. DeCelle put in 278 hours, a Deputy Coroner put in 60 hours. For those 60 hours he was on call and working he was only compensated \$200. Mr. DeCelle said that the Deputy Coroners only get paid for when they get called out, however this Deputy was on call for 60 hours. Mr. DeCelle said that this weekend two of the Deputy Coroners were on call one on Saturday and one on Sunday. During those days they did not receive one call, which is great for Saratoga County as there was no expense incurred, however, those Deputy Coroners gave up 24 hours of their personal time to be on call without compensation. Mr. DeCelle believes that the increase in the rate will be a good leverage or balance. They will still only get paid per call, but at the higher rate. Mr. Cooke said that the County averages approximately \$40K per year in expenses related to the \$100 per case plus mileage. It varies on the number of cases. Mr. Cooke said that this change is inclusive of mileage. Mr. Cooke said that the increase to the budget could be between \$30-\$40K for 2021.

Mr. DeCelle said that Coroners (Elected or Deputy) responds to scenes to assist law enforcement as an independent set of eyes for the deceased. They are in charge of death certificates, meeting with families, dealing with funeral homes, reports to the forensic medical examiner. They are training for safety due to Covid-19 and other issues. A Coroner may get a call on one day and the autopsy is not until several days later, they must make arrangements to attend autopsies which can be 2-3 hours long. Mr. DeCelle said that the Deputy Coroners must stay with the same case, and the pay rate is per case. Mr. Peck suggested that issues such as this be brought forward prior to the budget process in future. Mr. Cooke said that the Resolution can be offered to also amend the 2021 budget. Mrs. Raymond confirmed that this change becomes effective as of January 1, 2021. Mr. Peck agreed. Mrs. Raymond asked if monthly or quarterly reports are received. Mrs. Raymond said that she has no complaints with what the office of the Coroner has been doing but she would like to see some type of reporting, how many calls, how many are handled by the Coroners vs. the Deputy Coroners either monthly or quarterly, so that they can see if there is an uptick and be able to plan more efficiently. Mr. Lawler and Mr. Peck agreed. Mr. Lawler said that knowing how many calls are handled collectively and individually per Coroner and Deputy Coroner would be helpful. Mr. Peck asked the Committee if they would prefer monthly or quarterly reports. Mr. Wright said that reports to this committee from Emergency Services and Sheriff are monthly. Mr. Peck requested a monthly report. Mr. Peck said that this does not mean the Coroner has to attend each monthly meeting, the report can be sent via email.

Mr. DeCelle thanked the Committee for their support over the year.

Mrs. Raymond complimented Mr. Peck immensely on the time and effort he has put into not only this Committee but she is aware that he has been spending a huge amount of time, day after day, with both the Covid issues and also bringing the Public Safety Building to completion, on time, and she believes under budget also. Mrs. Raymond said that she believes Mr. Peck is very much responsible for creating the environment that had everyone working together. Mr. Peck thanked Mrs. Raymond and said that he believes it's the staff of the County, the team effort. This year was an unusual year trying to bring the building to completion but Tom Speziale was the driving force. We were just here to make sure the employees of the County have the guidance needed. Mr. Peck said that the new Public Safety Facility is going through its final finishing touches and is a crown jewel for the County. Mr. Peck said that when they started the project, they wanted it to be serviceable for the next 50 years, and the growth of this County, and it was designed with growth in mind. Mr. Peck said that this was a team effort by a lot of people and will serve the County well. Mr. Peck thanked all of the Departments under Public Safety and said that Saratoga County often basks in the glory of having the lowest taxes in Upstate NY, he believes crime statistics put us near the lowest levels in NY also, and this is a testament of the work of the Board and Department Heads leading these areas.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board