

Public Safety Committee Minutes
January 12, 2021– 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman John Lant; Committee Members Preston Allen, Dick Lucia, Jean Raymond, Jon Schopf, Mike Smith; Supervisor Peck; Steve Bulger, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Hugh Burke, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Michael Zurlo, Rick Castle, Sheriff; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; David DeCelle, Coroner; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Smith, the minutes of the December 2, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Lant announced the appointment of Jon Schopf as committee vice chair.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Allen, to amend Resolution 284-2019 authorizing a continuation of an annual contract for Law Enforcement Services with the Town of Halfmoon from \$221,898.59 to \$221,850. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that the correction is in regard to a rate change that was agreed to be paid by the Town of Halfmoon for 2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to authorize a 2021 Contract for Police Services in the Town of Halfmoon. Unanimous.

Mr. Zurlo said that this is a one year agreement. The negotiated rate for 2021 will be increased to \$226,336.56.

A motion was made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept an Aid to Prosecution Grant for the District Attorney's Office. Unanimous.

Ms. Heggen said that this is an annual grant. It normally runs from April to March, but this year they are extending it for an additional period so that starting in April 2021 it will run on the fiscal year of the State moving forward. This grant will run for an 18 month period. The funds provided focus on the prosecution of violent felony crimes. Because the violent crime rate is so low in Saratoga County, we do not qualify for additional funding that the State hands out.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services to accept a 2020-2021 District Attorney Salary Aid Program Grant. Unanimous.

Ms. Heggen said that this grant is a supplement that goes towards funding the cost of the District Attorney's salary. Grant funding this year is in the amount of \$72,189 however 20% has been

held back as part of the States budgetary issues. This 20% reduction also affects each County in NYS. It is unsure if this 20% will be received.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Smith, to authorize a major contract with NMS Labs to cover increased fee prices coupled with an increased amount of fatalities in the county related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unanimous.

Mr. DeCelle said that this will increase the not to exceed amount for the 2020 agreement and will also authorize a renewal agreement with a new fee schedule for 2021. The not to exceed amount will increase from \$50K to \$75K.

A motion was made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Smith, to authorize a major contract with Tim Godlewski for morgue assistant services. Unanimous.

Mr. DeCelle said that Mr. Godlewski assists during autopsies. He is currently contracted under a minor contract and needs to be moved to a major contract as he has exceeded the dollar threshold of the minor contract. The major contract will have a not to exceed dollar amount of \$30K. Mr. Kemper said that this item will be retroactive to November to cover the overages from 2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize an amendment to the 2021 budget to reappropriate unspent Statewide Interoperable Communications grant funds in the amount \$808,871.53. Unanimous.

Mr. Zeilman said that the funds are already earmarked for communications technology. Mr. Zeilman said that this is a reallocation from 2020 to 2021. The grants have already been accepted and for the most part, most of these grants have been expended, just waiting on invoices from vendors.

Mr. Zeilman said that his monthly report was previously circulated via email.

Mr. Lant said that a lot of Departments report to this committee and thanked them for the job they do. They all do a great job keeping this County safe, helping people and we have a great team.

On a motion made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Allen, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board