

Public Safety Committee Minutes  
March 2, 2021– 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman John Lant; Committee Members Preston Allen, Eric Connolly, Jean Raymond, Jon Schopf, Mike Smith; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Tara Gaston, Bill Peck and Chairman of the Board Todd Kusnierz; Steve Bulger, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Mike Hartnett, County Attorney; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services; J. Wes Carr, Rebecca Robarge, Youth Bureau; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Steven Bayle, Probation; Michael Zurlo, Rick Castle, Steve Gordon, Sheriff; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health and Addiction.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Allen, the minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize the acceptance of a grant from the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services in amount of \$423,201 for Distribution No. 11 for the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. Unanimous.**

Mr. Blumenberg said that this item is to fund the Conflict Defenders Office. There is no budget impact for Saratoga County, it is 100% State Aid..

**A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Allen, to approve the County's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Performance-Based Service Plan for the period up until June 30, 2021 and authorizing the acceptance of a grant for Alternatives to Incarceration from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$26,224 for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Unanimous.**

Mr. Bayle said that this partially funds personnel efforts for alternative to incarceration, which is done in Probation by pretrial services and done in the Employment and Training Department by their community work order program. Mr. Bayle said that this is a year late due to Covid and he anticipates coming back to the Committee in a few months if another application is put out this year.

**A motion was made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize the adoption of Executive Order 203 Group Report by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors and authorize the Chairman of the Board to submit verification of compliance with Executive Order 203 to the New York State Division of Budget. Unanimous.**

Mr. Hartnett said that this was before the Committee last month for forwarding to the Board. It is now to put it on the agenda for adoption. It is open for public comment at this moment, and that information is on the County website.

**A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize participation in the 2021 State STOP-DWI program and contracts with local agency participants. Unanimous.**

Mr. Carr said that this is an annual housekeeping resolution to approve the Stop DWI plan and allocating funds to the various partners who make up the Stop DWI force. This includes law enforcement, prosecution, the DA's office, Probation Department, County Mental Health Department. Also some public information and education, which is done through The Prevention Council in Saratoga Springs. It also provides funding to high schools for after prom activities, some administrative funding is also included. Stop DWI funding comes from DWI fines and forfeitures.

**A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize the re-appropriation of \$141,477.89 of previously authorized grant revenue and expenses from the 2020 budget to the 2021 budget in the Sheriff's Department. Unanimous.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to authorize an agreement with Black Creek Integrated Systems for the licensing and support of the Black Creek "SallyPort" for the Saratoga County Correctional facility at a cost not to exceed \$43,564.50 for the 2021 calendar year. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zurlo said that Black Creek supplies support for the security system and records management system in the Correctional Facility.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Allen, to proclaim April 11-17, 2021 as "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week" in Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

Mr. Gordon said that this is an annual event that's sponsored internationally, and in recognition of the hard work are the men and women that make up the Division of Communications at the Sheriff's office, for their 144,000 calls that were handled last year for the residents and visitors of the County.

**A motion was made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize the acceptance of the Crimes Against Revenue Program (CARP) from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$118,900 for a period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Heggen said that Crimes Against Revenue Prosecution includes prosecution of cases involving thefts of monies, which would have normally resulted in taxes being paid because people have income to themselves that they haven't attributed. It also covers prosecution of people who have falsely obtained public service type grants such as unemployment insurance, and grants from the DSS. The DA's office recoups well over the amount of the grant each year in the net savings of those who are prosecuted

**A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize the acceptance of the Criminal Justice Discovery Reform grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$380,056 for a period of April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Heggen said that this is designed to assist in the transition of additional work responsibilities providing discovery in criminal cases as a result of the 2020 Criminal Justice Reforms passed by the New York State Legislature. This will cover the time period of costs that were incurred from the beginning of last year's State budget, April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. The dollar amounts that have been awarded Statewide have been based upon an average of arraignments in the community over the preceding three years.

Mr. Lant thanked all of the Departments and their staff for the great job they all do for the County and for County residents.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board