

Public Safety Committee Minutes
June 1, 2021– 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman John Lant; Committee Members Preston Allen, Dick Lucia, Jean Raymond, Jon Schopf; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Ed Kinowski, Kevin Tollisen and Chairman of the Board Todd Kusnierz; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Susan Hayes Masa, Coroner; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Penny Heritage, Animal Shelter; Rebecca Robarge, Youth Bureau; Craig Hayner, County Clerk.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Allen, the minutes of the May 4, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to authorize a renewal agreement with Albany Medical Center for the use of laboratory and Morgue facilities needed by the County Coroner in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 effective January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Unanimous.

Mrs. Hayes Masa said that the terms have not changed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to authorize the acceptance of a \$250,000 grant from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) State and Municipal Facilities Program for the procurement of a new mobile communications command vehicle. Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay said that the funds will be used towards replacement of the communications unit that was previously purchased in the early 2000's.

A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to authorize the transfer of \$15,000 from the STOP DWI program reserve for two Sheriff Deputies to attend the Drug Recognition Expert Training held in Orlando Florida and amending the 2021 budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Bulger said that Wes Carr retired recently from the Youth Bureau. He has stepped down for a short period as STOP DWI Coordinator and will be reappointed to that position in the near future. The transfer of \$15K will leave an amount of \$93,074 in the reserve account.

A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to authorize the acceptance of the Aid to Defense Grant of \$14,656 for the term of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Unanimous.

Mr. Blumenberg said that the Aid to Defense grant is from Indigent Legal Services.

Mr. Lant thanked the Sheriff's Department for their recent response to two incidents in the Town of Wilton. The professional response by the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's office in his opinion stopped a lot of other possible injuries or death. Mr. Lant said that the County's highly skilled Deputies, Corrections Officers and Dispatch staff utilize their training in a way that makes us very proud. Their jobs deal with very stressful situations. Mr. Lant commended Mr. Zurlo on his leadership.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board