

# PUBLIC SAFETY Transcript 6/1/2021

## **SPEAKERS**

Jean Raymond, Steve Bulger, John Lant, Susan Hayes Masa, Andrew Blumenberg, Jonathan Schopf, Preston Allen, Several Supervisors, Dick Lucia, Ed Tremblay

### **John Lant**

I'd like to welcome everybody to the June 1 2021 Public Safety meeting. Motion if you've had a chance to read last month's meeting minutes. We need approval to accept the May 4th minutes.

### **Dick Lucia**

I would move that.

### **John Lant**

Do I have a second?

### **Preston Allen**

Second.

### **John Lant**

All in favor?

### **Several Supervisors**

Aye.

### **John Lant**

Opposed? Approved. Number three Albany Medical Center contract renewal. Susan do you want to talk about it?

### **Susan Hayes Masa**

I'm just asking the Committee to approve a resolution to renew Albany Medical Center's contract for the year. The terms have not changed at all.

### **John Lant**

Does anybody have any questions for Susan? Somebody want to make a motion to approve that?

### **Preston Allen**

So moved.

### **John Lant**

And a second?

**Dick Lucia**

I'll second.

**John Lant**

All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**John Lant**

Any opposed? Pass.

**Susan Hayes Masa**

Thank you.

**John Lant**

Thank you. Number four, acceptance of a \$250,000 grant from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

**Ed Tremblay**

Hey, good afternoon. This grant is basically accepting the \$250,000 to be put in to the budget. And then after that, the money will be spent on bidding process whatnot. Replacing our communications unit that was purchased, I want to say it was early 2000, 2001, 2002, also with a grant.

**John Lant**

Does anybody have any questions for Mr. Tremblay?

**Jean Raymond**

I would move that.

**Dick Lucia**

I will second.

**John Lant**

All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**John Lant**

Any opposed? Pass. Number five transfer funds for STOP DWI program reserve. Mr. Bulge?

**Steve Bulger**

Yes, thank you, Chairman. So with the retirement last week of West Carr, from the Youth Bureau, he also had to step down for a very short period for the STOP DWI Coordinator. He will be getting reappointed to that very shortly. But in the meantime, this resolution had to come before us. Basically, we're asking for \$15,000 to be transferred from the Reserve DWI program to mitigate the impact of reduced revenue and to pay for two Saratoga County Sheriff's Deputies to attend a drug recognition expert training program in Florida. And the reason that's so important this year, is with the passage of the cannabis laws in New York, this training is going to be heavily focused on how to identify legally and appropriately anyone under the influence of cannabis. So, the STOP DWI team feels this is a very important training, especially this year, that we go to. So it would be a transfer from the DWI reserve to the operating budget for \$15,000.

**John Lant**

Anybody got any questions for Mr. Bulger?

**Preston Allen**

This number on the bottom here, is that what's left in the reserve?

**Steve Bulger**

Yeah, the 93,000?

**Preston Allen**

But you take the 15 out of it?

**Steve Bulger**

Right, so currently there's 106,000, with the reduction, it should come to \$93,074.

**Preston Allen**

I'll move that.

**Jean Raymond**

I'll second that.

**John Lant**

All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**John Lant**

Any opposed? Approved. Number six acceptance of Aid to Defense funds. Is Andrew here? Thank you, Steve.

**Andrew Blumenberg**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. We would ask the Committee to accept the Aid to Defense grant from Indigent Legal Services, which is for \$14,656 for the term of April 1, this year through March 31 of next year.

**John Lant**

Anybody got any questions for Andrew? Somebody want to make a motion?

**Preston Allen**

So moved.

**John Lant**

Second?

**Dick Lucia**

I'll second.

**John Lant**

All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**John Lant**

Any opposed? Passes.

**Andrew Blumenberg**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**John Lant**

Thank you. Have any other business? I got something. And I'm not much of a speaker. I wrote a lot of things down. Just bear with me please. A lot of times we take things for granted, our families, our jobs. Forget to say thank you. I pay attention here. We have a lot of great employees and a lot of great leadership here. Saying thank you once in a while will go a long ways for all of us. I want to share a couple of incidents that happened in the Town of Wilton. March 19 around 10pm we got a road rage incident involving the shooting. Quick action by our Sheriff's department had the shooter in custody, arraigned and in jail. I thank the DA's office too, which I believe stopped a lot of other possible injuries, possibly death in short order. In our Town building, you go through the front doors and the next set of doors are locked and there's a window on each side. Building department and the Tax department, where they take care of your business. And we had a man go there, he didn't know how to act. This is the next day. I got a call. What happened? They called the Sheriff's department. They were on their way. I don't live very far away from there. But I drove right down there. And when I pulled in the lot we had three or four of our Deputies cars there, four Deputies on the scene, which I witnessed firsthand how impressed I was. A very angry person, they calmed everybody down. No one got hurt. No one got

arrested, everybody walked away happy. All this shows is a great leadership we have in our Sheriff. The Deputies receive top notch ongoing training, our highly skilled professional Deputies utilize their training in a way that makes us very proud and I believe that 90% of the calls in the County end this way. And there's been a lot of shootings in the County, you probably don't pay much attention to them. But this one is close to home. I really gave it a lot of thinking. Our Deputies and our Police in this County go to a lot of calls, fires, car accidents, neighbors fighting, bar fighting. And I gotta honestly believe their mind is always working, but this call was a lot different. There was a gun involved, shots were fired, somebody was shot. Going into harm's way, I don't know what goes through a police officer's head but I imagine what would go through mine. Is just my last shift? Am I going to see my wife, my kids, my loved ones again. Very, very stressful job and then you got people want to defund the police departments. I guess they want to go back to the 1800s and live in the wild west. And then our civil Deputies they serve eviction notices, probably arrest warrants. They go knock on the door, they don't know what's behind the door. Our Correction Officers, you got people in jail, made bad choices, angry people Who do they pick on? The guards, swear at them, attack them. Probably one of the most difficult jobs is our dispatchers, take 1000s and 1000s of calls a year, accidents, fire calls. Dealing with working fire with a young officer all excited trying to calm him down. (inaudible) They deal with suicide victims, trying to talk them out of it. Your loved ones having a heart attack. They're all excited, the caller, they try and calm them down. Teach him how to perform CPR, it is a very stressful job. And all of this returns to the first and ongoing training. Things usually work out. I've known Sheriff Zurlo for over 40 years. He's a true professional, no nonsense guy. Makes easy decisions as well as tough ones. I watched Sheriff Zurlo for eight years now, successfully running the Sheriff's department. County citizens are being offered more services every year, watch this department every year go up to a different level. Sheriff Zurlo was a big believer in teamwork, putting the right people in leadership positions where they all feed off each other. And I know when you have a positive boss, that's a positive thinker with a positive staff, positive things happen. I honestly believe we have the greatest Sheriff's Department in the country. Because everybody, it's a reflection to Michael Zurlo's great leadership abilities. Mike's not one to take pats on the back, or saying thank you. I for one, and I feel like a lot of other people, are very glad that you are our County Sheriff Michael. Thank you for doing a great job for the citizens in this County. Please pass my words on the rest of your department. Because I know the other Supervisors in this County feel the same way. Thank you. Anybody got anything else?

**Jean Raymond**

I would just like to say that I think that was well said and I'm sure we all share the same sentiments.

**Dick Lucia**

Exactly. Good job.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Excellent.

**John Lant**

All our County employees do a great job. We're very fortunate we have great leadership in this county. Anybody want to make a motion to adjourn?

**Jean Raymond**

So moved.

**John Lant**

Second?

**Dick Lucia**

Second.

**John Lant**

All in favor.

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**John Lant**

Thank you all.