

Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Emergency Communications Committee

*Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2021
Zoom*

PRESENT: Chairman Pete Walrod
Vice Chairman Loren Corbin
Supervisor Joe Ostrander
Supervisor Cliff Moses
Supervisor Bill Zupan

ALSO: Board Chairman John Becker
County Administrator Mark Scimone
County Attorney Tina Wayland-Smith
First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell
District Attorney William Gabor
Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari
Emergency Management Director Dan Degear
Emergency Management Intern Daniel Sparkowski
Sheriff Todd Hood
Probation Director Joanne Miller
Public Information Officer Samantha Field
Supervisor Eve Ann Shwartz
Deputy Elections Commissioner Mary Egger
Member of Public Kelley Hood

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Walrod at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Minutes:

The minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved on the motion of Supervisor Cliff Moses and second of Supervisor Bill Zupan.

District Attorney:

District Attorney Bill Gabor presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement (Crimes Against Revenue Program (CARP) Grant)

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Zupan and second of Corbin.

District Attorney Bill Gabor stated that they still haven't opened up courts for trials yet. Gabor said they are having in court appearances in County court for arraignments, pleas and sentences, and they are able to do Zoom appearances for conferences. Gabor said they are allowed to do Zoom hearings if consented to by the other side. Has been a year and a half since they've had trial; people are in jail awaiting their trial date.

Gabor informed the Committee that they received notice of a grant for discovery related expenses. The Committee approved a couple of new positions previously because of the added work associated with discovery. This grant would go back retroactively to last April and can be used for discovery related purposes. Emergency Management Director Dan Degear said he had some costs in the 911 center that could be included and he would send an email to Gabor with this information.

Probation:

Probation Director Joanne Miller stated that they have gone back to working in two teams consisting of five officers and one supervisor each, and they are working alternate days in the office and the other days remotely.

Miller said they are currently seeing high and medium risk probationers in the office. Low risk people continue to report via CE check-in, which is their electronic reporting program.

Drug screens are being done in the office. Haven't done alka-sensors due to the virus. Miller said that the sensor manufacturer has now made a nozzle to reduce the possibility of transmitting bacteria and virus, and they will look into purchasing some of those.

Miller informed the Committee that someone was on probation with us at the time of a murder that was recently committed by that person and that because of this, the Division of Criminal Justice Services and Office of Probation and Correctional Services reviews any critical incidents. Miller stated that she received the results back the end of December on that report and they were pleasing and overall very positive.

Roger LaTour retired as Supervisor and is currently working as a Probation Officer doing transfers. Dan Gilbert was promoted from Sr. Probation Officer to Supervisor in the beginning of January.

Miller noted that they had recently received notification from the State regarding two grants for the year 2021 and said that the amounts have not been decreased.

Emergency Management:

Emergency Management Director Dan Degear presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter an Agreement with Emergency Services Marketing Corp., Inc.

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Walrod and second of Corbin.

Authorizing a Renewal Order with Central Square for Maintenance of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Moses and second of Ostrander.

Discussion: Purchased new CAD in 2013 or 2014. Looking at getting a two or three year renewal order in place for maintenance of the system going forward.

Authorizing the Chairman to Sign Grant Funding Agreements with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Corbin and second of Walrod.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Oneida Health and Community Memorial for the Use of Madison County's Interoperable Communications System

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Moses and second of Zupan.

Emergency Management Director Dan Degear informed the Committee that Daniel Sparkowski is interning with us until May. He is a college student out of SUNY Morrisville and comes to us with a lot of experience.

911 had a small outbreak of COVID with four employees going out; all are back now.

Degear stated that Madison County's State of Emergency remains in effect. Degear shared a chart of active cases with the Committee. Cases are down, and we will be evaluating the necessity of the SOE in the coming days.

Degear notified the Committee that the Training Center has a training prop that the Codes Officer has an issue with. They are going through the process now and have a few things that need to be fixed.

There is a concern regarding the proposed 600' wind turbines in Madison which could be an issue with the communication system. We need to make sure we have no issues.

Degear shared pictures of the office renovations in the EOC. This new space will be more user friendly. Degear stated that the EOC will be available to other County departments for training/meetings as long as we are not in an activation. Degear thanks the Building Maintenance staff for the great job they did.

Sheriff's Office:

Sheriff Hood wanted to address the Committee on what he hears a lot going on about the State and things he sees on the news about vehicle and traffic pursuits being up and reckless driving and shootings being up because of COVID. Hood doesn't want people to buy into the narrative that is coming from the State of NY to deter the fact that bail reform is what's going on. Spikes are bail reform related, not COVID related.

Hood stated that they are looking at a couple different options as far as a training ground for Madison County Sheriffs. They are also looking at something in Georgetown that would be a cooperative venture with Morrisville State.

Uniform Allowance – Hood stated that in the last PBA negotiation, they were allowed to use \$800 for uniforms. Hood said it will be good to get the guys gear they need to do their job, and he is grateful for it being approved.

Hood stated that they had talked about moving all Investigator shifts from 8 am-4 pm. They will have another meeting Friday to determine if they will move forward with this.

Hood informed the Committee that he has four employees on road patrol who will be out of work; some for up to nine months or more. There is an open position that was budgeted for; and he is looking for approval to fill a road position.

Other Committee Business:

First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget – ILS Grant 10

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Zupan and second of Corbin.

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget – ILS Grant 9

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Moses and second of Ostrander.

First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell stated that they are finishing up Grant 9 and are still in Grant 10. Aumell advised the Committee that they just did the application for Grant 11 which will start this year. The grants run in three year cycles. Finishing up the reimbursement for Public Defender's expenses and moving it all to ACP. The CAFA grants and Hurrell-Harring Quality Improvement grants are being changed and as these grants cycle out, they will all be ACP and not PD. ILS has been outstanding to work with and very helpful.

Aumell has been in steady contact with David DeSantis. They have been busy, and things are going well.

Board Chairman John Becker made a motion that we postpone any discussion about the blue line flags indefinitely. Supervisor Moses seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Public Information Officer:

Public Information Officer Samantha Field reported that they had released the Police Reform draft plan last Friday. There is a public comment period on February 18th via Zoom and again on February 19th. Field said she would put it on our YouTube page for people to watch later. Field noted that there would need to be a special meeting for Criminal Justice to approve the plan so it can go to the Board by March 9.

Some highlights in the plan are training that the Sheriff's office does currently and things that will be added including: in the next three year's Sheriffs will be having full-time deputies take Crisis Intervention Training, a call diversion policy put together by Mental Health Department and 911 to go into effect next month, looking into a new records management system and amending the complaint process.

Chairman Walrod thanked everyone who has been involved with the Police Reform process.

Preferred Agenda:

The Committee unanimously approved including all resolutions in the Committee's Preferred Agenda on a motion of Moses and second of Walrod.

Adjournment:

The Committee adjourned at 10:01 a.m. on the motion of Moses and second of Ostrander.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tricia Wiley on behalf of Chairman Paul H. Walrod.