

Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Emergency Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2021

Zoom

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

ALSO: Board Chairman John Becker
County Administrator Mark Scimone
District Attorney William Gabor
County Attorney Tina Wayland-Smith
First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell
Emergency Management Director Dan Degear
Sheriff Todd Hood
Treasurer Cindy Edick
Public Information Officer Samantha Field
Assigned Counsel Administrator David DeSantis
Supervisor Eve Ann Shwartz

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

Minutes:

The minutes of the March 2, 2021 special meeting were unanimously approved on the motion of Vice Chairman Loren Corbin and second of Supervisor Cliff Moses.

District Attorney:

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

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget

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

District Attorney William Gabor stated that some of the local courts have opened up. Gabor informed the Committee that the first trial is scheduled for June 22nd for County court, where the serious felony cases are handled.

Gabor reports that everything is going fine.

Emergency Management:

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

Requesting Professional Review of all Wind Turbine Structure Sitings to Prevent Interference with the Madison County Interoperable Communications System

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Priority Dispatch

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Enterprise Agreement with Day Automation

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

Emergency Management Director Dan Degear reported that EM is continuing their support of COVID-19 response and is supporting three POD sites (Oneida will start next week) as needed.

Weekly COVID testing at the COB will resume 3/18/21; didn't have one last week due to elevator construction in the building. Madison County residents are receiving tests at a rate of around 650 per day. Active cases have leveled off over the past few days at around 40.

Degear informed the Committee that they have found the need for two additional messaging boards for COVID response. Two more have been ordered as an emergency purchase.

Hosting the Manlius Fire Academy at the Training Center. Recruits are from Manlius, Fayetteville, Liverpool and Endicott. May grow into a revenue generator for OEM.

Degear stated that the codes issue at the Training Center is going to the NYS Variance Board in April. An engineer reviewed the training prop, suggested changes and ensured that the changes were made. Degear said they feel they have a strong case and should receive the variance.

Meeting with a CAD vendor, Spillman, next week to discuss the possibility of upgrading the CAD and RMS systems.

Moving forward with a project to upgrade the server for the recording system in 911. Only upgrading the primary site server as the back-up center is re-evaluated.

Degear reported that the new radios are in and programmed and are being deployed into the field.

Supervisor Eve Ann Shwartz asked Degear if the Colgate COVID test results are included in the County numbers. Degear said that they are included in the County numbers if they are using the Colgate zip code.

Supervisor Shwartz stated that SOMAC is concerned about the rising number of mutual aid calls they are covering for Madison as they have lost a couple of people. SOMAC is getting a lot of calls. Degear stated that there was an EMS Directors meeting on 3/18/21 in which that would be a topic of conversation. He said that they have been watching the Chenango County situation carefully. Degear said they haven't done a lot and have been working on it for a few years trying to solve it.

Sheriff's Office:

Sheriff Todd Hood presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget

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

Authorizing Chairman to Enter into Agreement with Linstar, Inc.

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

Sheriff Hood stated that Sergeant Marshall was retiring on March 23rd which would leave three openings to be filled for road patrol. Currently doing interviews and getting people in for lateral transfers. If needed, will send two or three people to the next academy. Supervisor Moses wondered if we get applications in from people in Onondaga County and Oneida County. Hood said he does hire people from those counties.

Supervisor Corbin asked Sheriff Hood if we were currently issuing Bench Warrants. Hood said yes they would get people on warrants that the judge orders them to but that a lot of the other stuff was on hold until courts open up. Hood anticipates they would start having trials the end of this month or next month.

Supervisor Zupan asked Sheriff Hood if he was still looking for a shooting range. Hood said that Morrisville State contacted him about some land in Georgetown and doing a joint project with them. Sheriff Hood said they had a bunch of options. Zupan said he had a place three miles South of DeRuyter for short-term. Hood said they were using Mohawk Correctional in Rome right now to train but if they could get something closer that would be good. Zupan said he would send the name and number of the person to him.

County Attorney Tina Wayland-Smith informed the Committee that effective April 1, 2021 there is a new law going into place where NYS is establishing a Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigation office in the Attorney General of NYS's office. Wayland-Smith said she would send a copy of the information to Sheriff Hood.

Assigned Counsel:

Assigned Counsel Administrator David DeSantis reports that they continue to make positive strides.

Courts are for the most part re-opened, and they have had a lot of attorneys that are physically present in the courts.

DeSantis said they have been working with Oneida City closely and they have been getting them everything they need.

Courts and judges are understanding the system they have in place.

DeSantis stated they are hearing positive feedback about the attorney's in the program.

Finalizing discussions with ILS for a significant increase in funding to improve quality in the program. Going forward will work on quality improvement.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Supervisor Joe Ostrander to enter into executive session at 9:39 a.m. for the advice of counsel. Vice Chairman Loren Corbin seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Loren Corbin to exit executive session at 9:43 a.m. Chairman Walrod seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Preferred Agenda:

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

Adjournment:

The Committee adjourned at 9:44 a.m. on the motion of Zupan and second of Moses.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

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