

Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Emergency Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2021

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

ALSO: County Administrator Mark Scimone
District Attorney William Gabor
Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari (via Zoom)
First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell (via Zoom)
Emergency Management Director Dan Degear
Emergency Management Intern Dan Sparkowski
Director of 911 Frank McFall (via Zoom)
Sheriff Todd Hood
Treasurer Cindy Edick (9:33 a.m.)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Walrod at 9:00 a.m. in the Chambers.

Minutes:

The minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved on the motion of Supervisor Bill Zupan and second of Supervisor Cliff Moses.

District Attorney:

Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement for Aid to Prosecution Grant

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

Adopting Local Law No. 2 for the Year 2021

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

Discussion: Chief ADA Robert Mascari said that after reviewing some court cases and legal opinions, they found that some changes had to be made so they would be in ethical compliance as prosecutors and so that local courts could actively participate. First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell noted that this was the same amendment that was voted on at the last meeting but that this resolution would formally adopt the Local Law.

Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari said that the first post-COVID County Court jury trial was going on currently and they had eight to ten coming up and would be very busy. Mascari noted he had a trial in Supreme Court before Judge Cerio on a City of Oneida incident on

June 21st. Mascari informed the Committee that local courts were starting back up as well.

District Attorney William Gabor mentioned that he would like to access the court room through the back door someday like they used to. Gabor said that now they have to walk around to the single point of entry and that they have tried to address the situation with security but haven't gotten it resolved yet. Gabor noted that he would like some direction from the Committee or Board on how to use that door. County Administrator Mark Scimone said he would put a call into Amanda Gardner to see what we can do and that we could also talk about doing a resolution as well.

Sheriff's Office:

Sheriff Todd Hood presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and Modifying the 2021 County Budget – Explosive Detection Canine Team Grant Program

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

Authorizing Chairman to Enter an Agreement with the Stockbridge Valley Central School District for the Use of Special Patrol Officers

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

Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget

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

Discussion: Treasurer Cindy Edick explained that this resolution was due to the PBA Contract that was ratified late in 2020 saying that they had allocated some into the contingent fund for those salary increases. Edick said they were looking at \$158,557 that would cover the increase for 2021 for the whole year which included a little additional for personnel, uniforms and equipment.

Sheriff Hood informed the Committee that they had been looking for different ways to fill the Children's Advocacy Center Director position after Renee left. Hood said that the Gorman Center had offered them office space to relocate the Children's Advocacy Center to if we paid for the utilities on the space. Sheriff Hood noted that he was moving towards putting Lieutenant Netzbund in charge of the CAC and creating another Lieutenant position for her position. This move would free up the current location of the CAC that could be utilized by the Landfill and would be great for the County. It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the lease agreement with the Gorman Center to be put before the Board. A motion was made by Supervisor Ostrander to approve the concept of creating a Lieutenant position in charge of the Children's Advocacy Center and it was seconded by Supervisor Moses and unanimously carried.

Sheriff Hood stated that Undersheriff Lenhart's last day would be June 11th. Hood said there would be a lot of movement and promotions coming up in the next few months.

Hood stated that body cameras came highly recommended from the State AG's office with zero funding so he was looking into them again. Hood said they are very expensive but the Officers in the jail like them.

Hood wanted to make the Committee aware that he had a request in the Civil Division for an employee to be promoted from an OAIM to a Principal Account Clerk. Hood stated that he sent the information to Eileen Zehr for review.

Other Committee Business:

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for a Three-Year Distribution 2021-2023

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

County Administrator Mark Scimone stated that he would recommend making the Assigned Counsel Program a permanent program for the County noting that Assigned Counsel Administrator Dave DeSantis is willing to stay on long-term and that he has heard judges have said things are going great. Chairman Pete Walrod noted that he would like an annual review of the program at the one year anniversary to look back at how things have gone. Scimone said he would have Dave DeSantis come to the next meeting to give a mid-year review of the program.

Emergency Management:

Emergency Management Director Dan Degear noted that the State of Emergency was renewed on May 19, 2021. Active cases are in the mid-40's.

Degear stated that the Incident Command Structure we have been operating under for the last 14 months was designed to grow and retract as the situation changes. The department is in a significant retract mode now as the situation is being effectively managed by Public Health and the private sector.

While the response mode is being scaled down, we are now focused on long-term recovery Degear stated. Mental health will be the largest obstacle to overcome.

Degear informed the Committee that the Training Center had some concrete damage in the burn room that needs to be repaired. The burn building will be out of service until the repair is made.

Having an issue with ground water seeping into the garage drain holding tank. Maintenance is aware of the issue and Highway may be assisting in lot/drainage issues.

Degear informed the Committee that there were a couple of grant projects going on. Preparing to begin 2nd wave of radio replacements for village and city police departments. Last year, radios for fire departments and County agencies were completed (Sheriff's and Probation). Highway and Landfill will use the old radios coming back in for now.

Degear stated that 360 degree cameras would be installed on Texas Hill, Quaker Hill, Mutton Hill, COB by the jail and possibly Johnny Cake Hill. These will give the department a good look at weather coming in as well.

Working on EOC technology upgrade to allow for better monitoring, classroom and teleconferencing.

EOC security on outer doors is in the process for badge access.

Degear noted that they had a demo with Spillman on their CAD system which was a great system. Will look at Hexagon next.

Degear advised the Committee that EMS Coordinator John Barattini was on vacation and would give a detailed plan next month on Community Paramedicine.

Preferred Agenda:

The Committee unanimously approved including all resolutions with the exception of, Adopting Local Law No. 2 for the Year 2021 from the DA's Office, Authorizing the Modification of the 2021 Adopted County Budget from the Sheriff's Office and Authorizing Chairman to Enter Into Agreement with Linstar from the Sheriff's Office, in the Committee's Preferred Agenda on a

motion of Moses and second of Walrod.

Adjournment:

The Committee adjourned at 10:29 a.m. on the motion of Walrod and second of Moses.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

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