

Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Emergency Communications Committee

*Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2024*

PRESENT: Chairman Rex Vosburg
Vice Chairman Loren Corbin
Supervisor Pete Walrod
Supervisor Joe Wicks
Supervisor Michelle Kinville
Supervisor Greg Reuter (via Zoom)

ALSO: Board Chairman Joseph John Pinard
Board Vice-Chairwoman Melissa During (via Zoom)
County Administrator Mark Scimone
Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari
County Attorney Tina Wayland-Smith
First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell
Sheriff Todd Hood
Undersheriff Bill Wilcox
Probation Director Joanne Miller
Director of 911 Frank McFall
Director of Emergency Management Dan Degear
Director of EMS Jenna Illingworth
Assistant Director of EMS Thomas Dorn
Supervising Paramedic Jeremy Williams
EMS Educator Morgan Pedersen
Emergency Management Intern Lillian Gormley
Assigned Counsel Administrator David DeSantis
Director of Finance Lou Anne Randall
Treasurer Cindy Edick
Public Information Officer Samantha Field
Clerk to the Board Emily Burns
Confidential Secretary to Board of Supervisors Kristin Guinto
Executive Assistant to County Administrator Christine Coe (via Zoom)
Town of Nelson Supervisor Jim Cunningham
Town of Fenner Supervisor David Jones
City of Oneida Supervisor Mary Cavanagh (via Zoom)
Town of Lincoln Board Member Peggy LeClair (via Zoom)
County Attorney Intern Jarrod Scroggs
Director of Information Technology Paul Lutwak (via Zoom)
Supervisor of Hamilton Eve Ann Shwartz (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rex Vosburg at 9:02 a.m. in the Chambers.

Minutes:

The minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved on the motion of Supervisor Pete Walrod and second of Supervisor Michelle Kinville.

Probation:

Probation Director Joanne Miller provided the following updates:

- Currently there are 297 people under supervision which includes 261 adults and 36 juveniles. There are 45 open investigations. The caseload per officer is about 50 which is average.
- Still have a vacancy and having trouble filling positions. Had someone start last week who is a transfer from Oneida County saving us the expense of the need for training as he is already trained. Have an interview this morning and another person on a list.
- Have a juvenile officer that has been with us two years who was a transfer from Cortland County. She has been doing a fantastic job. Rate of cases that are diverted from Family Court are up. She is beginning a partnership with Oneida High School where she will go for a few hours a week and meet with kids on probation there.
- One of the supervisors completed certification as a fire arms instructor last year.
- Have three grants that we receive consistently from the State which include the Block grant, ATI grant and Ignition Interlock grant. Also recently received a grant for pre-trial supervision for \$126K.

District Attorney:

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with Diversion Management, LLC to Administer a Traffic Diversion Program

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

Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari provided the following updates:

- Will be the chief liaison to the Committees and Board of Supervisors this year.
- Bail law reforms and Discovery law reforms have put burdens on us and retention issues that are not being helped by the new Assigned Counsel rates. Expecting some vacancies this year.
- Money that is coming from the general fund to support the office has been reduced by 1/4 of a million dollars a year from Traffic Diversion and grants that the State has given us. All money that has reduced costs even though staffing has gone up.
- Trials have been increasing which means more expenses. Have been successful with trials. Appeal costs have gone up significantly. Most increases are due to new laws.
- Proud of staff and the cooperation they get from departments.
- Have been looking for and found an article that explains all issues facing prosecutors. They are pressing and not going away. Provided a handout to the Supervisors and will send it out in an email as well.

Assigned Counsel:

Assigned Counsel Administrator David DeSantis presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

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

(Distribution #11)

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for a Three-Year Distribution 2024-2026 (Distribution #14)

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for a Three-Year Distribution 2023-2026 (4th UQI & CR)

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Modify an Agreement with M.E.I.D., LLC

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

Assigned Counsel Administrator David DeSantis provided the following updates:

- A number of grants had to be modified to be used this year.
- Started construction on the Gorman Center for the additional office space. Should be completed in June.
- Budget modifications going to Finance, Ways & Means include the Gorman Grant, Distribution #12, Distribution #13 and CAFA 4.
- Has been a good year for attorneys with rate increase. With the increase there have been some challenges for Assigned Counsel as well with competition between offices. Some offices can recruit and retain and others are struggling. Recruitment and retention are always on our mind. Had 22 attorneys when the program started and currently have 27. The County does a great job getting attorneys paid on time within two weeks.
- Have a great staff with five in-house staff, a quality assurance attorney that we hired last year, 2 appellate attorneys, 17 family court attorneys and we have recruited some mitigation specialists, investigators, expert witnesses and are working now to put together a team of resource attorneys.
- Lots of trials which has led to increased costs. Have had some big appellate victories.
- Greatly increased grant funding from when we started. Main grant is Hurrell-Harring grant. Had \$800K per year in funding when we started and have increased that to \$1.1M per year for the next three years.
- Received \$450K in competitive family court grants that will go for the next three years.
- Our Executive Assistant goes to Oneida City Court every Thursday and two attorneys came up to her and said Madison County Assigned Counsel was a very well run organization which was good to hear.

Sheriff's Office:

Undersheriff Bill Wilcox presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement for Jail Physician Services

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

Authorizing the Termination of an Agreement with the Central New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Wicks and second of Kinville.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Inter-Municipal Agreement for Police Tactical Team Cooperation

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

Undersheriff Bill Wilcox provided the following updates:

- STOP DWI 4th Quarter Report to read at your leisure.
- Agreements for automatic renewals include: Psychological Resources, Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Livescan and NYS Division of Criminal Justice for fingerprints.

Sheriff Todd Hood provided the following updates:

- Happy with the Committee, and looking forward to working together to get things done.
- Oneida Indian Nation Jail Agreement and Legislation: Taking a look at housing their inmates in our jail. The Nation has been working on making that happen with legislation. They are working on the agreement now with the particulars and will try to put something together as far as the fees and how much it would cost to house them and get the legislation pushed through where we would take their inmates in our jail.
- Attended the State Sheriff meeting in Albany last week. We are expected to get 100% funding on a bunch of grant money we put in. Most will be used in the Emergency Management area for radios. They also covered some of the legislation, and there are a few things they will target in Corrections again.

Emergency Management:

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

Approving Fees for Madison County Emergency Medical Services

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with Cazenovia Area Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CAVAC) for Emergency Medical Services

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Wicks and second of Kinville.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with Bridgewater Fire Co. and Ambulance for Emergency Medical Services

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Wicks and second of Kinville.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with Vineall Ambulance, Inc. for Emergency Medical Services

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Wicks and second of Kinville.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with Greater Lenox Ambulance Service, Inc. for Emergency Medical Services

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Wicks and second of Kinville.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with Smith Ambulance for Emergency Medical Services

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Wicks and second of Kinville.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with the Village of Madison for Emergency Medical Services

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Wicks and second of Kinville.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with Smithfield-Eaton Volunteer Ambulance Corp. (SEVAC) for Emergency Medical Services

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Wicks and second of Kinville.

Director of Emergency Management Dan Degear provided the following updates:

- Budget modifications going to Finance, Ways & Means include the Homeland Security Program Grant and the Emergency Management Performance Grant.
- Agreements for Automatic Renewals include: MOU with Georgetown for Ambulance Use, American Tower for Rental of Georgetown Tower, IamResponding, Master Site Maintenance with Onondaga County 911 for the Communications System, Motorola for Maintenance of the 911 Radio System, MultiMed Billing Service for EMS, Chittenango Central School for Ambulance Refueling and Image Trend for Patient Care Documentation.
- Hosting BOCES program at Training Center daily for high school students to begin their training as a firefighter. Wrapped up first section which was BEFO and in the Spring will be ICS. Started with OCM BOCES for the first year and then will work with MO BOCES. Currently have six students in the program.
- Tomorrow at GOC will talk about the addition of deputy fire coordinators. Each battalion has two deputy fire coordinators who are paid an annual stipend. We need to have a succession plan. Would like to add an additional deputy fire coordinator to each battalion so there would be three.
- Currently have six fire investigators. Want to look at bringing them on and paying them for investigations.
- State is concerned with the solar eclipse in April. Big concern is influx of spectators and what that does for traffic and the possibility of bad weather. The same week there is a big women's hockey event in Utica so there will be traffic already. Something we are watching.
- Deputy Director Mike Sudol is attending a tabletop in Oriskany on snow storms.
- Spillman did an update and it caused problems for law enforcement and mapping. Working on fixing that.
- EMS presentation on where things are and what the program is.
- We have a policy that was passed last year by the Board of Supervisors that allows residents that are being billed for EMS services to get a discount based on financial hardship. Have

someone who has requested a fee waiver based on this. After review, it was determined that this person is eligible for a discount. The Committee unanimously approved it on the motion of Wicks and second of Walrod.

Additional Resolution Added for Emergency Management:

Affirming Madison County's Commitment to Continuing to Honor the Corporate Purpose of the Southern Madison County Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. (SOMAC) and Authorizing the Chairman to Sign Necessary Instruments for the Conveyance of Assets to Madison County.

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Wicks and second of Kinville.

Preferred Agenda:

It was the consensus of the Committee to allow any eligible resolution from today's meeting to be added to the Preferred Agenda.

Adjournment:

The Committee adjourned at 11:24 a.m. on the motion of Kinville and second of Wicks.

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tricia Wiley on behalf of Chairman Rex Vosburg.