

Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Emergency Communications Committee

*Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2025*

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

ALSO: Board Chairman James Cunningham
County Administrator Mark Scimone
Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari
First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell
Sheriff Todd Hood (via Zoom)
Undersheriff James Quatrone
Assigned Counsel Administrator David DeSantis
Director of Emergency Management Dan Degear
Fire Coordinator Doug Shattuck
Emergency Management Deputy Director Mike Sudol
Director of EMS Jenna Illingworth
Confidential Secretary to Board of Supervisors Jennifer Keville
Public Information Officer Samantha Field
Town of Sullivan Supervisor Tom Daviau
Town of Lenox Supervisor Joseph John Pinard

ABSENT: Supervisor Greg Reuter

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rex Vosburg at 9:05 a.m. in the Chambers.

Minutes:

The minutes of the March 26, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved on the motion of Supervisor Joe Wicks and second of Vice-Chairman Loren Corbin.

Assigned Counsel:

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Modify an Existing Contract with the New York State Defenders Association, Inc.

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

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc.

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

Discussion: Vice-Chairman Corbin asked about the fee being monthly and it was noted that

that was incorrect in the resolution and it should be an annual fee instead of a monthly fee. The resolution will be corrected and was passed as amended.

District Attorney:

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

**Authorizing the Chairman to Enter Into an Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc.
(Axon)**

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

Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari provided the following updates:

- Found out last week that one of our full-time assistants is leaving to take a job closer to where they live. Depending on the bar results that are being released this morning, we either have a candidate lined up or will be figuring out how to fill that position. We also have a person leaving at the end of May which is a position that we are not filling. We will be down four people with retirements and new jobs.
- June 11 is the new date for the law enforcement training we do every year.
- There will be some changes to the Discovery Law that won't make our job easier as far as providing discovery but will make it less likely that cases will get dismissed for nonsense reasons. The legislature has realized that DA offices will need additional funding to keep up with discovery. We already received \$264K from discovery grants. As far as Axon, they waived the \$5K installation fee. Our costs for Axon will be around \$21K in 2026 and ending around \$30K in 2035.

Sheriff's Office:

Undersheriff James Quatrone provided the following updates:

- A summer intern for the CAC will be starting.
- Everyone was provided with the STOP DWI report to read through.
- Attended the STOP DWI night at the Utica Comets game and assisted with the puck drop with the Chief of Utica and Oneida County Sheriff.
- Sheriff Hood is always trying to improve his office. Regarding the lieutenant position that got shot down, training is a huge issue with our department. It will lead to effective and better police work, less lawsuits and accreditation. That's why we are looking to fill it with a position of rank like lieutenant for accountability. We are down about six people right now. The training position can't be someone who is doing three or four other jobs. We have to reapply in January for this position which is a ways away, and we would like to get going with it. Our budget won't change initially. We would like to request that this training position be reconsidered. County Administrator Mark Scimone suggested that they resubmit the request to the Committee and then GOC. It was suggested that Undersheriff Quatrone come and talk about it at the GOC meeting the next day and for Sheriff Hood to join via Zoom as well.

Chairman Rex Vosburg mentioned to the Committee that there is a bus driver in Chittenango who has cars passing his bus all the time and that he would like to take a strong look at the stop arm laws on school buses. Undersheriff Quatrone said he would look into it and make some calls.

Emergency Management:

Fire Coordinator Doug Shattuck provided the following updates:

- 54 people attended the April 10th seminar on Local Governments Role in Sustaining and Growing their Volunteer Fire Department including 14 Government Officials from towns, villages and fire districts.
- OSHA Emergency Response Standard Update: Cooperation with International Association of Firefighters. National Volunteer Fire Counsel is proposing a phased in approach with phase 1 being fully career fire departments (2025) and phase 2 being combination and volunteer fire departments (2026). Biggest concern is NFPA Standards by reference. NYS DOL, PESH expects a year delay to implementation. There are still fire departments that don't comply with June 1980 standard.
- Fire Data for 1st Quarter of 2025 (Jan. 1-Apr. 15): 84 structure fire dispatches, 30 working fires, 37 outdoor fires (almost all prohibited burns), 30 during the burn ban to date with several in very high winds. State Fire and my office began monitoring them for growth out of control on March 14th.
- Local PESH Investigations: 3 anonymous complaints resulting in investigations in Madison County.
- County Fire Coordinators Seminar the first week of April. Had presentations on county fire departments and national emergency response information system (end of 2025 in NY). NYS PESH line of duty death investigations 2021 through 2024 common causes: heart attack, hit by vehicle in roadway and building collapse.
- Fire department staffing and response capabilities is still a struggle and is a struggle in every county in NYS.
- State fire associations are working in a united effort. The Firefighters Association of the State of NY has decided to lobby state and federal officials on their own agenda.

Director of Emergency Management Dan Degear provided the following updates:

- In the process of hiring an Emergency Management Associate position to help with plan writing and to focus on the EM side. Had a candidate who was offered the job but we had to rescind the offer for various reasons. Conducting second round interviews with three other candidates. Hopefully will have a decision soon.
- Our team and the Sheriff's Office had a debriefing last week on the recent standoff. We put together a draft report. Did learn a few things logistically including some inadequacies with our command trailer that we have had about 15 years. We want to figure out how we can solve that problem; may be a potential item we need to start thinking about.
- Had a 911 staff meeting last week. Director Frank McFall announced that it was the first time in many years that they had been fully staffed even though he knew it was going to be for a short while. Will have someone retiring soon, one employee left to go back to their former employer and one is out on National Guard duty.
- Frank will be at next month's Committee meeting to discuss 911 standards. There are new professional standards being put in place by the State of NY.
- SOMAC dissolution is in the end stages and soon all assets will be turned over to the county.

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 10:24 a.m. on the motion of Wicks and second of Corbin.

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

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