

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Committee: **Public Safety** (*Including Fire Prevention & Building Codes, Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff & Communications*)

Date: **July 24, 2008**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors VanNess
Bentley
O'Connor
Belden
Haskell
Stec
Girard

Others Present:

Bud York, Sheriff
Frederick Monroe, Chairman
Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Paul Dusek, County Attorney
Supervisor Strainer
Supervisor Thomas
Robert Swan, Undersheriff
Shane Ross, Chief Deputy
Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist

Mr. VanNess called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 10:04 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2008 meeting of the Public Safety Committee, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Bud York, Sheriff, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members. *A copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York remarked that the first item was a request for a new contract with AFSCO Fence Supply Co., Inc. to install fencing around the Narcotics Enforcement Unit for an amount not to exceed \$5,715. Sheriff York added that this fencing was needed to give the drug investigators storage for confiscated items. Mr. VanNess commented that the pricing was for the cost of installation only and the fencing from the old jail would be reused.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to authorize a new contract with AFSCO Fence Supply Co., Inc. to install a fence for use by the Narcotics Enforcement Unit as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 15, 2008 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes. Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the Purchasing Agent advised the Sheriff that it would be necessary to obtain three quotes for the fencing. A revised request was submitted to authorize a contract with the low bidder, Tri-County Fence Co., for a total amount of \$5,255. Copies of this resolution request are on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 15, 2008 Board meeting.*

Sheriff York apprised the Committee that item two on the agenda referred to a request for Out-of-State travel for two Drug Unit Investigators to attend the Undercover Operations training in Franklin, Massachusetts on August 5 and 6, 2008. Sheriff York added that the expenses for the training would be covered by Asset Forfeiture monies; therefore, no costs would be incurred by the County.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request for Out-of-State travel as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 15, 2008 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving along, Sheriff York indicated that the next agenda item was a request for Out-of-State travel for two Drug Unit Investigators to attend the Domestic Drug Interdiction Training in Methuen, Massachusetts from July 30 through August 1, 2008. Sheriff York noted that the travel expenses and training costs would be covered by Asset Forfeiture monies; therefore, there would be no cost to the County.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request for Out-of-State travel as outlined above with the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 15, 2008 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York advised that the next item was a request for Out-of-State travel for four Patrol Officers to attend the Child Passenger Safety Technical Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey from September 24 through September 26, 2008. Sheriff York advised the Committee that Asset Forfeiture funds would be expended from the Governor's Traffic Safety Council grant, creating no cost to the County.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request for Out-of-State travel for the four Patrol Officers as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 15, 2008 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

The final travel request on the agenda, Sheriff York stated was a request to authorize three Corrections Officers to participate in the Glock Armorer's Course in Schenectady, New York on September 4, 2008. Sheriff York apprised the Committee that this training was mandated for all Correction Officers.

Motion was made Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the request to authorize three Corrections Officers to attend training as outlined above. *Copies of the Authorization to Attend a Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York informed the Committee that his office had received a reporting and voucher packet from the State of New York for snowmobile grant funding, which had been completed and would be submitted to the State. He noted the reimbursement amount would be up to 50% of the submitted costs which the State calculated using the number of snowmobile registrations issued by Warren County for the year. He then added that a grant application process was not necessary and he would return to the Committee with a request to amend the County Budget when the exact dollar amount of the grant was known.

Moving along, Sheriff York presented a request to amend the 2008 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$2,100 to reflect monies received from the New York State Wireless 911 Program for the purchase of the wireless headsets for the 911 Operators.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2008 County Budget, as outlined above and to refer the same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented the Committee members with a copy of the fuel summary for the first half of the year; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.* Sheriff York pointed out that the summary reflected the measures taken to reduce fuel consumption; he added that for the months of March,

April and May the fuel usage was 1604 gallons less than the previous year. He commented that although there was no way to control fuel prices, consumption could be controlled and the fuel summary reflected the efforts of the Sheriff's Department.

Moving on to the next item, Sheriff York advised of several request to fill vacant positions which were as follows:

- Building Maintenance Mechanic, Employee No. 10779, base salary of \$35,100, due to resignation;
- Corrections Officer No. 15, Employee No. 10489, base salary of \$30,100, due to resignation and,
- Communications Officer, Employee No. 10829, base salary of \$30,100, due to resignation.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve all three requests to fill vacant positions, as outlined above and refer same to the Personnel Committee. *Copies of the Notices of Intent to Fill Vacant Position forms are on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York apprised the Committee of the possibility that two positions in the Sheriff's Department might be eliminated; the first position being a Building Maintenance worker and the other position being a Patrol Officer. He noted that he was requesting that the two positions be funded through the end of year to cover overtime issues, but could be unfunded in the 2009 budget. However, Sheriff York added, it might become necessary to reinstate the positions, and he would ask the Committee members to keep this in mind.

Mr. VanNess added that he and Sheriff York had recently met to discuss this issue and had determined that it was reasonable for the positions to be retained through the end of the year to cover the extra costs that would be incurred by the position cuts. Mr. Belden asked for clarification on whether the positions were funded through the end of this year, to which Sheriff York replied affirmatively. Mr. Belden then went on to ask if the money that the County was saving from cutting these positions would be transferred to cover overtime as needed, to which Mr. VanNess replied affirmatively.

Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative and Fiscal Services, asked if the positions would not be funded in the 2009 Budget, but would remain on the organizational charts with a zero dollar amount, and Mr. York replied affirmatively.

Proceeding with the agenda review, Sheriff York presented a request for transfer of funds as follows:

<u>From Code</u>	<u>From Title</u>	<u>To Code</u>	<u>To Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3150.469	Other Payments/Cont.	3150.260	Other Equipment	\$10,000
3150.445	Foods	3150.260	Other Equipment	\$15,000

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Haskell and carried unanimously to approve the request for transfer funds as outlined above and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request for transfer funds form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York notified the Committee that during a recent storm lighting had struck the communication tower located on Prospect Mountain creating major problems with the phone system, although the emergency center lines were in working order. He noted that the repair would cost \$58,000 but would be covered under the County's insurance policy, but would require a payment of \$10,000. Mr. VanNess advised that he would be traveling with the Sheriff's Office

personnel to Prospect Mountain on Friday to look at damage and determine if there were any steps that could be taken to prevent this reoccurring.

Sheriff York announced that he had one final item for presentation which was not included on the agenda. He advised that subsequent to a automobile accident, a leased 2007 Chevy Malibu had been totaled, requiring the County to pay \$11,000 to buy out of the lease and to sell the damaged vehicle to the highest bidding salvage company. Sheriff York explained that Paul Dusek, County Attorney, would pursue litigation against the insurance company to reimburse the County for the lease costs. He apprised that the Committee's approval of a resolution request to transfer or sell County equipment was necessary in order to sell the damaged vehicle. *Note: Subsequent to the Committee meeting the vehicle was sold to East Side Used Auto Parts Inc. for the high bid of \$1,700.*

Motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Haskell to approve the request to transfer or sell County equipment as outlined above. *A copy of the Request to Transfer or Sell County Equipment is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Dusek added that normally surplus County property was sold at the County auction; however, he said, in this instance he had spoken with Julie Pacyna, Purchasing Agent, who had indicated that the County would be able to get more money for the vehicle from a salvage company than the auction. He then went on to clarify that as part of the lawsuit to recover the value of this vehicle, he needed to establish the value of the vehicle and would then sue the insurance company for the balance. Mr. Dusek noted that the reasoning behind suing the insurance company was that they had offered the County only 70% of the vehicles value due to the fact that it was their feeling that the Officer was 30% at fault for the accident. Mr. Dusek said he had reviewed the facts of the accident and did not agree with these findings.

Mr. VanNess called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to authorize the transfer or sale of County equipment as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 15, 2008 Board meeting. *A copy of the request to transfer or sell county equipment is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. VanNess advised the Committee that he had received a call from Marvin Lemery, Fire Coordinator and Director of Office of Emergency Services, apologizing for not being able to make a presentation at the meeting and adding he felt there was no immediate business requiring Committee action.

There being no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Haskell, Mr. VanNess adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McLenithan
Legislative Office Specialist