

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: MARCH 25, 2010

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS	OTHERS PRESENT:
PRESENT:		BUD YORK, SHERIFF
SUPERVISORS	VANNES	BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
	BENTLEY	AMY MANNEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
	SOKOL	FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
	GIRARD	PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY
	THOMAS	JOAN SADY, CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
	CONOVER	KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
	MCDEVITT	SUPERVISORS KENNY
		PITKIN
		TAYLOR
		STRAINER
		STEC
		GOODSPEED
		JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. VanNess called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:32 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2010 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brian LaFlure, Director, Office of Emergency Services, who distributed copies of the meeting agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Pertaining to the Emergency Services Training Center, Mr. LaFlure reported that he was in receipt of a letter from the State Legislators which encouraged opposition to the State budget reductions.

Mr. Girard entered the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Addressing new business, Mr. LaFlure presented a request for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Warren County and the United Way 211 Northeast Region to establish a call system for the Warren County Communication Center. The 211 informational call system, he said, would provide useful information relative to housing, shelter, and other necessary community agencies to the general public undergoing hardships. He noted that some 911 calls would be transferred to the 211 line, and there was no cost to the County.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request for the MOU as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 16, 2010 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaFlure presented a request to attend the Fire Coordinator's Spring Conference in Montour Falls, New York, from April 9 - 10, 2010.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the

travel request for Mr. LaFlure as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

Citing damages caused by flooding in the Town of Johnsbury, Mr. LaFlure emphasized the need to report all incidents which incurred damages and expenses to the Towns. He explained that the State had set a cap dollar amount, that when reached, would qualify Counties for reimbursement. He further advised that each incident must be recorded by the respective Town Highway Department as a possible hazard, thereby creating an opportunity for Federal funding for hazard mitigating activities.

Pertaining to the Warren County Emergency Radio system, Mr. LaFlure announced that improvements to the radio system were underway and would be finalized in the summer of 2010. He stated that the changes had been presented to the Emergency Squad members, the Emergency Management Team and the Fire Chiefs. Mr. LaFlure informed that the issuance of Red Light Cards pertained to law enforcement and fire companies and was not the responsibility of the OES, as opposed to the Blue Light Cards for the volunteer firefighters which would continue to be issued by the OES. Responding to a question from Mr. Geraghty, Mr. LaFlure stated that the radio equipment was rebuilt approximately five years ago, and he apprised that the County-owned radios located in the fire trucks had unreliable transmission capabilities. He noted that a draft plan was underway in order to enforce the narrow banding (Public Safety Communication Channels) scenario, which would significantly improve efficiency.

Mr. LaFlure cited an incident whereby a County radio of unknown location was locked-on in Chestertown which caused a tower to lock at Gore Mountain. Mr. Geraghty asserted that radios must be capable of proper transmission or otherwise be removed from the vehicles. Mr. VanNess cited a false alarm emergency call which caused many unnecessary work hours, and he pointed out that the new system would have caller identification capability.

Pertaining to the Department of Environmental Conservation Regulations, Mr. LaFlure reported many new and revised rules would become effective in October of 2010. He reported that open burning would be prohibited from March 15 to May 15. He stated that he would forward a copy of the regulations to the Supervisors.

Addressing pending items, Mr. LaFlure informed that subsequent to a discussion with the County Attorney, it was determined to be acceptable to charge the proposed \$25 fee for investigative reports. He noted that the necessary paperwork was underway with the assistance of the County Attorney's Office. With regard to the expiring appointments of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board members, Mr. LaFlure advised that he would like to revise the period of appointment which would be May 1st through April 31st to concur with the organization's annual election of officers; therefore, he said the appointments would be reported at the April 2010 Committee meeting. Mr. Thomas recounted that the County Facilities Committee had agreed that the former Social Services Annex building would not be used by the OES as a fire training site. With regard to the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator position, Mr. LaFlure reported that Mr. Thomas, Chairman Monroe and representatives from the Department of Public Works and Planning & Community Development Department would meet to further discuss the appointment.

This concluded the OES portion of the Public Safety Committee meeting and privilege of the floor was extended to Bud York, Warren County Sheriff, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Sheriff York presented Agenda Item 1, which included three travel requests, the first of which was a request for Captain Michael Gates and Lieutenant Albert Maday to attend the New York Tactical Officers Association (NYTOA) Training Conference in Verona, New York from April 27 - 29, 2010, at a total training and lodging cost of \$929 to be paid from grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the travel request as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

The second travel request presented by Sheriff York, requested permission for Kim Gryga to attend the New York State Sheriff's Association (NYSSA) Basic Civil School Phase 1 and 2 Training, in Albany, New York, from April 12 - 16, 2010; and April 24 - 28, 2010.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the travel request as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

The final travel request presented by Sheriff York was for Sergeant Kevin Scellen to attend Civil Supervisors School in Saratoga, New York from May 17 - 18, 2010.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the travel request as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented a request for a contract with SRI Fire Sprinkler, LLC, to provide testing and inspection of fire sprinkler systems within the Warren County Sheriff's Office building, for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, for a total amount of \$1,750 to be paid upon completion of services.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request for a new contract with SRI Fire Sprinkler, LLC, as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 16, 2010 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Sheriff York presented Agenda Item 3, a request to amend the County Budget to increase revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$686 to reflect payment received from Old Dominion Insurance Company for damages to a patrol vehicle.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$686 as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request to Amend the County Budget is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented Agenda Item 4, a request to amend the 2010 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$62,884 to increase revenues and appropriations to reflect 2010

grant funding received from the Buckle Up New York Grant; the Child Passenger Safety Grant; the Motorcycle Safety Initiative; and the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2010 County Budget as outlined above and to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request to Amend County Budget is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Thomas stated that an executive session would be necessary to discuss matters relating to the employment history of a particular person.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to declare executive session pursuant to 105(f) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 9:50 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.

Committee reconvened and Mr. Thomas noted that no action was necessary pursuant to the executive session.

Sheriff York presented requests to fill two Correction Officer positions as follows:

- Correction Officer #3, base salary of \$33,534, Employee No. 11587, due to resignation;
- Correction Officer #51, base salary of \$33,534, Employee No. 10715, due to resignation.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the requests to fill the two vacant positions of Correction Officer #3 and #51 as outlined above and to refer same to the Personnel Committee. *Copies of the Notices of Intent to Fill Vacant Positions are on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York articulated the need for remediation of the process by which New York State disbursed the Statewide Wireless 911 Cellular Surcharges and he summarized a resolution approved by Livingston County, a copy of which is included with the agenda.

Mr. VanNess explained that the 911 surcharges were applied to all phones. He further reported that the total amount of surcharges collected was approximately \$178 million and the counties received \$9.3 million, allowing a disproportionately high amount to be retained the State. Sheriff York apprised that counties were not receiving additional funds due to the improper distribution methods and the State continued to pay the fines associated with the incorrect distribution rather than correct the process. It was necessary, he asserted, to show opposition for the current process thereby increasing disbursement to the counties.

Mr. LaFlure confirmed that \$178 million in total surcharges was collected Statewide for which the Federal Government received approximately \$40 million; New York State received approximately \$120 million; and the counties received the remainder which resulted in a total disbursement of \$32,000 for Warren County. Mr. LaFlure apprised that the Governor's Budget included a new plan which would meld the 911 Wireless Board, Fire Prevention & Control and Homeland Security under one line and create a new Statewide Wireless Board which would change the landscape of grant funding. He further explained that \$50 million of the \$178 million would be available for competitive grants thereby presenting Warren County with the opportunity to receive additional funding while risking a reduction or full denial of funding. Mr. LaFlure expounded that surcharges were applied to both cellular and land line phone services and the increase in demand for service through cable companies had caused a virtual collapse in the land line service business. This change in demand, he contended, underscored the need for correction to the Statewide Wireless 911 Cellular Surcharge disbursement procedure.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution supporting that Statewide Wireless 911 Cellular Surcharge monies be passed on to the counties and not held by the State, and to refer same to the Legislative Committee. A copy of a similar resolution adopted by Livingston County is included with the agenda.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Mr. VanNess adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist