

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: NOVEMBER 29, 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
GIRARD
THOMAS
CONOVER
FRASIER
STRAINER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR BENTLEY

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES:
AMY DREXEL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
REPRESENTING THE WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:
SHAWN LAMOUREE, UNDERSHERIFF
MIKE GATES, CORRECTIONS CAPTAIN
DANIEL G. STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS LOEB
MASON
MCDEVITT
WESTCOTT
KAREN PUTNEY, ADMINISTRATOR, FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE
ENFORCEMENT
JOHN STROUGH, COUNCILMAN, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mrs. Wood called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 10:34 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the prior Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Shawn Lamouree, Undersheriff, who distributed copies of the Sheriff & Communications agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing with the agenda review, Undersheriff Lamouree presented a request to amend the 2012 County Budget to reflect the receipt of unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$3,081. He explained that the funds had been received as an insurance recovery resulting from a vehicle accident in which an intoxicated driver had struck and damaged one of the variable message boards placed by the Sheriff's Office.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Lamouree announced that the next agenda item consisted of a request for a transfer of funds between various codes which he proceeded to review in detail for the Committee's benefit.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard and seconded by Mr. Strainer to approve the request.

Mr. Girard pointed out that the request included several transfers to Code A.3150 435, Sheriff's Correction Division, Medical Fees, which totaled \$34,000. He said he recalled prior discussions indicating that the costs associated with the boarding of Federal inmates were higher than local inmates due to certain mandated requirements and he asked if any part of the \$34,000 transfer requested pertained to these types of costs. Mike Gates, Corrections Captain,

responded in the negative, advising that the amount budgeted for inmates' medical costs was determined based on an average of the actual expenses incurred during the prior five year period and said that apparently the health status of the facilities incarcerates as a whole was worse than it had been for prior years, leading to higher health care costs. Captain Gates assured Mr. Girard that any health care costs incurred for boarded inmates was passed along to the facility they were being boarded for. He continued that although Federal inmates had different characteristics and requirements than local inmates which had the potential to increase costs associated with their housing, they had not been adversely affected by the one Federal inmate currently incarcerated.

There being no further discussion on the matter, Mrs. Wood called the question and the motion to approve the request for a transfer of funds between various codes and forward same to the Finance Committee was carried by unanimous vote. *A copy of the Request for Transfer of Funds form is on file with the minutes.*

Undersheriff Lamouree concluded his agenda review with the Topics for Discussion section, advising that since the last Committee meeting one Corrections Officer position had been vacated due resignation and Sheriff Bud York had already filled the position.

Mr. McDevitt noted a recent case reported in the local newspaper pertaining to a Federal drug case in which the perpetrator had been burying gold bars in his backyard. He said that because the Warren County Sheriff's Office had assisted with the case they were to receive a portion of the assets seized and he questioned whether the funds would eventually be used as a savings for future County Budgets and how the amount to be received would be determined. Undersheriff Lamouree replied that approximately \$11 million had been seized in association with this case and Warren County would receive a portion of this amount, based on a formula determined at the Federal level. He said that all of the funds received would be placed in the seized asset forfeiture fund and could only be used for law enforcement related expenses. He said that over the past four years, seized asset forfeiture funds had been used to make vehicle purchases for the Sheriff's Office, as well as to purchase a significant amount of the equipment utilized by the Sheriff's Office, alleviating the cost to the taxpayers of Warren County and essentially serving as a budget savings, as the vehicles and equipment would otherwise have been purchased using County dollars.

As there was no further Sheriff & Communications business to present, privilege of the floor was extended to Amy Drexel, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Services (OES), who distributed copies of the OES agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.*

Beginning with the first item listed under the Action Agenda section, Ms. Drexel presented a request to amend the 2012 County Budget in the amount of \$197,598 to reflect the receipt of anticipated revenues in association with Capital Project H254.9550 280, Fire Training Center Project. Mrs. Wood pointed out that, as noted by Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, a budget amendment was not necessary to address this issue, but rather an increase to the Capital Project to reflect the receipt of anticipated matching State grant funds. Ms. Drexel advised that she would forward the correct request form to Mrs. Sady following the meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to increase Capital Project No. H254.9550 280, Fire Training Center Project, by \$197,598 to reflect the receipt of matching State grant funds and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Concluding the agenda review, Ms. Drexel addressed the Topics for Discussion section, as follows:

1. Update on Emergency Services Training Center - In relation to the request to increase Capital Project H254.9950 280, Fire Training Center Project, Ms. Drexel advised she had been working with the Treasurer's Office in anticipation of receiving the Shared Municipal Services Incentive New York State grant funds which would allow payment to Washington County for their portion of the reimbursing

funds. Additionally, she said they were working to develop a means to invoice Washington County for some of the expenses that Warren County had funded in advance of the receipt of grant funds. Ms. Drexel stated a temporary generator had been installed to power the Emergency Services Training Center and she noted that they intended to purchase a larger, permanent generator unit with funds anticipated from the Federal Fiscal Year 12 Homeland Security grant.

2. Update on Command Vehicle work - Ms. Drexel advised the Command Vehicle had been painted and was currently undergoing diagnostic testing because one of the dash indicator lights had illuminated, signifying an engine issue.
3. Regional Fire Administrators Conference - Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator/Director of the OES, was not present because he was attending the Regional Fire Administrators Conference, Ms. Drexel apprised, and she said that due to the ongoing efforts relating to damages incurred by other parts of the State from Hurricane Sandy, the meeting had been scheduled without much advance notice. Ms. Drexel said the meeting would consist of discussion on Hurricane Sandy relief efforts and deployment issues relating to challenges in communication and organizing forces. She explained that they had experienced some frustration on a couple of occasions when the State had requested assistance and then advised that it was not necessary just as they were getting ready to deploy. Ms. Drexel said they hoped these issues would be discussed and addressed so that similar instances would not occur in the future.
4. FASNY (Firemen's Association of the State of New York) firefighter recruitment incentive - Ms. Drexel said she had been asked to attend a FASNY meeting which focused on encouraging new volunteer firefighter recruits. She advised that it was becoming much harder to find volunteers because many people felt that if they made such a commitment they would be expected to attend every fire or emergency event; Ms. Drexel explained that this was not the case and that expectations had changed with the understanding that the volunteers needed personal time and could not attend every event. She said that becoming a volunteer firefighter required a lot of hard work and training, but noted that anyone could join. Ms. Drexel apprised that during the FASNY meeting posters were distributed encouraging anyone interested to visit their website and sign up to become a volunteer firefighter. She said the FASNY representatives had requested that she take a number of the posters with her for distribution to the members of the Board of Supervisors for posting in the Town buildings. Ms. Drexel asked if it would be appropriate to distribute the posters at the upcoming December 21st Board meeting, and Mrs. Wood replied affirmatively.

Mr. Strainer questioned whether the Emergency Services Training Center was still being used consistently and Ms. Drexel replied that the use requests had decreased because the weather was turning colder and less outdoor training was taking place. She noted that when the Center had first opened, it had been very difficult to schedule training for the facility due to the number of groups seeking to use it; she noted that the Sheriff's Office and certain EMS (Emergency Medical Services) groups had also been using the facility for their training exercises.

A brief discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Strainer and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mrs. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Deputy Clerk of the Board