

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: MAY 24, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
GIRARD
BENTLEY
MONTESI
TAYLOR
FRASIER
STRAINER

OTHERS PRESENT:

KAREN PUTNEY, ADMINISTRATOR, FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT
BUD YORK, WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF
BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS CONOVER
KENNY
LOEB
MASON
MCDEVITT
SOKOL
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mrs. Wood called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 10:03 a.m.

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

Privilege of the floor was extended to Karen Putney, Administrator, Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of which is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mrs. Putney said a Budget Performance Report was included in the agenda packet, as well as the Monthly Activity Reports for March and April of 2013. She advised that the budget was as expected for this time of the year. With regards to the Monthly Activity Reports, she stated that in comparison to the prior year, the number of building permits issued had increased by 3%, and revenues by 1%.

In reference to Pending Items, Mrs. Putney requested to table the discussion on authorization for the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Office to perform Fire Safety Inspections on newly formed businesses until they started discussing the 2014 County Budget.

Mrs. Putney requested a transfer of funds in the amount of \$40 from Code A.3620 418, Insurance-Gen. Liab., to Code A.3620 220, Office Equipment, to fund the purchase of an electric stapler. She noted that this was a replacement for one that was no longer working.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request for transfer of funds as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request for Transfer of Funds form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Montesi asked Mrs. Putney to review what the authorization for the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Office to perform Fire Safety Inspections on newly formed businesses was. She said certain types of businesses, classified as mercantile or non-residence buildings, only required Fire Safety Inspections every three years and when a business changed ownership or format, things were missed. She advised the current local law did not authorize the Department to perform a Fire Safety Inspection on the newly formed businesses. Mrs. Putney stated she had discussed with the County Attorney an amendment to the local law which would grant the necessary authority. She said the item had been tabled until budget time, as they did not have the funds available in 2012 County Budget to hire additional employees to conduct the inspections.

Mrs. Putney requested authorization for Thomas McKinney, John Pagano and Martin Fitzgerald to attend the New York State Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association Educational Conference at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, New York on September 3- 6, 2013 utilizing a County vehicle. She explained that the conference cost had increased because it now included all 24 hours of re-certification training.

Mr. Strainer asked if this was a New York State certification and Mrs. Putney replied affirmatively. Mr. Girard asked how many hours of re-certification training on an annual basis was required to maintain their certification and Mrs. Putney advised that it was 24 hours.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to authorize attendance at the conference as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

This concluded the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement portion of the Committee meeting and the Sheriff and Communications portion of the meeting commenced at 10:09 a.m.

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 the agenda is on file with the minutes.

Commencing the agenda review, Sheriff York presented a request for a contract with Fowler Equipment Co. for commercial repairs on the washers and dryers in the Jail on an as-needed basis with the terms to be determined prior to the June 21, 2013 Board meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to authorize the contract as outlined and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 21, 2013 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.* (Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the County Attorney advised that Res. No. 461 of 2010 provided authority for the Chairman to execute agreements for routine and/or emergency services. Therefore, a resolution was not needed.)

Sheriff York apprised that he had written a letter to Essex County and the Town of Minerva informing them that effective January 1, 2014 they would begin charging them for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Dispatch Services the Sheriff's Office provided. He said he felt that sending the letter would give them the initiative to get their own services in place prior to January 1, 2014. He advised the Sheriff's Office had been handling the service for them at no charge since 2010; however, he said, he felt that adequate time had passed for them to have their own plan in place.

Mr. Montesi asked if it would be more cost effective for them to pay Warren County rather than build their own system and Sheriff York advised that the construction of their new system was already

underway. Brian LaFlure, Director, Office of Emergency Services, apprised that it was a County-wide system in conjunction with the consortium that included 10 Counties, as well as the New York State Police and New York State Electric & Gas. He said that Essex County was the central point of the consortium and all the other Counties were connected. He speculated the delay in getting the system in place was due to the issues they had encountered with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). He said that the Governor had intervened and now the project was proceeding along; however, it was substantially behind schedule.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to authorize the Sheriff to bill Essex County and/or the Town of Minerva for EMS Dispatch Services should it become necessary.

Sheriff York advised the last item was not on the agenda but he felt it was pertinent to inform that Jail revenues had been drastically reduced due to Dutchess County no longer housing their inmates in Warren County. He said he had been able to compensate for a portion of the loss by housing Federal inmates. He said he felt that because the Jail had a good reputation for dealing with "problem prisoners", the Federal Government would be sending them more inmates.

Mr. Mason queried how many Federal inmates a day the Jail housed and Sheriff York estimated it to be between 8-11 per day. Mr. Montesi asked what classified a prisoner as a "problem" and Sheriff York advised that "problem inmates" had reputations of threatening other inmates, as well as past attempts to smuggle contraband into jails. He noted that Warren County Jail was known for being difficult to smuggle contraband into.

Mr. Sokol questioned whether the amount paid by the Federal Government to house prisoners was more than what Dutchess County had paid and Sheriff York replied affirmatively. He estimated that Dutchess County had paid \$75-\$80 a day per inmate whereas the Federal Government was paying \$110 per inmate, per day.

Mr. McDevitt asked if there were any updates on the possible consolidation of the City of Glens Falls Police Department with the Warren County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff York stated he had received a letter from the Division of Criminal Justice Support (DCJS) stating that they had received the request. He noted the DCJS had not visited either facility, which was a requirement. He advised he should have the data available as to how many additional employees would be needed in order to cover the increased workload at the next Committee meeting.

Sheriff York apprised that there was a pending item from the Legislative & Rules Committee with regards to a change in the closing time for bars and taverns in Warren County. Mrs. Wood stated that she felt it could remain a pending item until a decision was made by the New York State Liquor Authority as to whether the closing time could be changed.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Strainer, Mrs. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist