

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: JULY 1, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
GIRARD
BENTLEY
MONTESI
TAYLOR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS FRASIER
STRAINER

OTHERS PRESENT:

KAREN PUTNEY, ADMINISTRATOR, FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT
BRIAN LAFLORE, FIRE COORDINATOR/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 LOEB
MASON
WESTCOTT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mrs. Wood called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:31 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Taylor 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 Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator/Director, Office of Emergency Services (OES), 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, Mr. LaFlure requested authorization to submit a grant application to the New York State (NYS) Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 State Homeland Security Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for a term commencing September 1, 2013 and terminating August 31, 2014.

Mr. Montesi asked whether there was a mandate dictating what the funds could be used for and Mr. LaFlure replied affirmatively. He explained the funds granted to the OES would be used for mass disaster response preparedness.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to authorize the submission of the grant application as outlined above and the necessary resolution was approved for the July 19, 2013 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

The next item on the agenda, Mr. LaFlure advised pertained to a request to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$60,000 to reflect the receipt of FY 2013 State Homeland Security Grant Program funding.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2013 County Budget as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaFlure requested authorization to approve the Tri-County Companion Animal Response Team (CART) Plan. He explained that Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties participated in the plan with veterinarians and animal care professionals to coordinate setting up temporary shelters for animals next to where their owners were sheltered during events such as floods, etc. He said the program was implemented because they felt individuals would be more likely to leave their homes if they had access to their pets.

Mr. Monstesi asked if each County would retain a trailer and Mr. LaFlure replied in the negative. He explained that there was one trailer; however, he said, members of the team were from all three Counties.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the Tri-County CART Plan as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 19, 2013 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

With regards to Pending Items, Mr. LaFlure requested the update on the beaver task force be referred to the Legislative Committee for further discussion. Mr. Montesi queried whether the majority of the beaver dams were on personal property and Mr. LaFlure replied affirmatively. He explained that although they were on personal property, if they failed damage and destruction of public roads and property could occur. Mr. Bentley pointed out that County Route 11 had sustained damage from beaver dam failures three times.

It was the consensus of the Committee to refer the update on the beaver task force to the Legislative & Rules Committee.

In reference to the topics for Discussion section of the the agenda, Mr. LaFlure stated the operation of the Fire Training Center was going well and noted the facility was being used more frequently. He said within the last two weeks National Grid had used the facility three times for their live line demonstration. Concerning the communications vehicle, he advised he was putting together the equipment and would install it on the vehicle when the assembly was completed. Regarding the new OES organizational chart, Mr. LaFlure apprised he had included a copy with the agenda. He said there were no major changes other than including the two new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinators, as well as some new Fire Instructors.

Mr. LaFlure advised he felt it was pertinent to discuss the extensive damage caused by the storms that occurred over the last few days. He said he had worked with Supervisor Vanselow to address the damage in the Town of Johnsbury. He noted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would be assessing whether there was enough damage to warrant FEMA funding.

Mr. LaFlure acknowledged the Marine Rescue Unit for their hard work and commended them on a job well done. He informed the Committee they had responded to four separate incidents over the prior weekend, two of which had positive results.

Mr. Girard questioned if Mr. LaFlure was satisfied with the two new EMS Coordinators and he replied affirmatively. He said there were many changes being implemented, all of which he felt had a positive impact. He stated substantial strides had been made with the EMS and Fire Advisory Boards to implement a cooperative effort for sharing ideas and information.

Mr. Mason questioned where he would find documentation of whether the storm that occurred late Thursday or early Friday morning in Queensbury had contained gale force winds, as he was assisting

a constituent who was contesting an insurance company's refusal to cover damage sustained to their home from the storm. Mr. LaFlure replied that if Mr. Mason provided him with the address he would submit an inquiry to the National Weather Service and they would supply a record of the information. He requested that the Supervisors who sustained any amounts of storm damage in their City or Town notify him so it was documented in the system.

There being no further OES business to discuss, 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 agenda 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 Report for June of 2013. She advised the budget was as expected for this time of the year with the exception of transferring funds to replace some broken equipment. With regards to the Monthly Activity Report, she stated that the number of building permits issued had increased by 4% and revenue was as projected compared to the same period in 2012.

Mr. Montesi queried how much revenue had been received thus far this year and Ms. Putney replied she estimated it to be around \$70,000. She explained the bulk of the revenue her Department received was attributed to building permits purchased during the summer and fall months. She noted revenues received from Fire Safety Inspections had increased by an estimated \$6,000, due to the number of inspections almost doubling from this time last year.

Mrs. Putney requested to remove the discussion on authorization for the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Office to perform Fire Safety Inspections on newly formed businesses from the pending items list. She said if it was deemed necessary, the item could be revisited at a later date.

It was the consensus of the Committee to remove the discussion on authorization for the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Office to perform Fire Safety Inspections on newly formed businesses from the pending items list.

Mrs. Putney announced that she would be retiring effective August 15, 2013. Mrs. Wood commended her on her years of service to the County and wished her well in her retirement.

Mrs. Wood requested that the Committee enter into an executive session in order to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105 (f) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 9:48 a.m. to 10:03 a.m.

The Committee reconvened and Mrs. Wood noted no action was taken during the executive session.

Mrs. Wood requested permission to advertise and fill the position of Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement, Employee No. 6444, due to impending retirement, with the associated salary to be determined pending the results of a salary study.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to authorize advertising and filling the position of Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement as outlined above and refer same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Girard applauded Mrs. Putney on her years of service to the County and thanked her for the outstanding job she had done.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Montesi, Mrs. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist