

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: JULY 25, 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
SHAWN LAMOUREE, UNDERSHERIFF
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS CONOVER
LOEB
MASON
THOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mrs. Wood called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 10:22 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Girard 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 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 authorization for Corrections Captain Michael Gates, Lieutenant Albert Mayday and Lieutenant Daniel Clifford to attend the New York State Sheriff's Association Jail Administrators' Conference at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga Springs, New York from September 30-October 3, 2013 utilizing a County vehicle.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier 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.*

Sheriff York requested authorization for Patrol Officers Backus, Seeley and Stillman to attend the Deep Diver Specialist Training on Lake George, New York from August 15-18, 2013 utilizing a County vehicle. Mr. Strainer queried if the course was free and Sheriff York replied in the negative.

Motion was made by Mr. Strainer, seconded by Mr. Girard 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.*

Sheriff York requested authorization to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$20,500 to reflect the receipt of Motorcycle Safety Grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously 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.*

Sheriff York presented the following requests to amend the 2013 County Budget:

- 1) Increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$11,970 to reflect the receipt of Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) funding;
- 2) Increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$3,240 to reflect the receipt of Buckle Up New York (BUNY) funding, and
- 3) Increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$1,500 to reflect receipt of Child Passenger Safety funding.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to amend the 2013 County Budget as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Bentley entered the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

With regards to agenda item 7, Sheriff York requested to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$2,798 to reflect funds received from McKesson Governmental Entities for overpayment of prescriptions to inmates. Mr. Strainer questioned who discovered the error and Sheriff York asked Shawn Lamouree, Undersheriff, to respond. Undersheriff Lamouree explained that the refund was issued due to the results of a class action lawsuit. Mr. Strainer noted other overpayments in other areas could exist.

Motion was made by Mr. Strainer, seconded by Mrs. Frasier 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.*

Sheriff York requested a new contract with Electronic Office Products, Inc. for commercial repair and maintenance of the copier/printer upon acceptance of the contract and terminating January 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$295.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to authorize the contract with Electronic Office Products, Inc. as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 16, 2013 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.* Note: Subsequent to the meeting the County Attorney determined that a resolution was not necessary, as the contract was previously authorized by Resolution Number 461 of 2010.

Agenda item 10, Sheriff York advised, referred to a request to authorize the agreement with Stants Combustion Associates, Inc., and declaring them the sole provider for inspections, service and repairs of the boilers at the Warren County Jail for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 with the provisions for automatic annual renewal, provided there is no increase in contract cost. He explained that the County Attorney informed him the resolution was required, as Stants was the only vendor who provided service for the Warren County Jail boilers.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously authorizing the agreement with Stants Combustion Associates, Inc. as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 16, 2013 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York requested to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$425,000 to reflect the receipt of Public Safety Answering Point

(PSAP) funding for the upgrades to the 911 Communications Center. He explained that the funds would be used to pay for the upgrades to the County 911 Center required by Verizon.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously 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.*

With regards to Topics for Discussion section of the agenda, Sheriff York apprised he had received a request from John A. Diamond, City of Glens Falls Mayor, for a meeting with the Glens Falls Common Council about the possible consolidation of the Warren County Sheriff's Office with the City of Glens Falls Police Department. He said the Mayor had informed him they had questions about his analysis of how many employees would be needed in order to take on the additional workload; however, he stated, he wanted to receive Committee consent prior to agreeing to a meeting.

Mr. Strainer advised he felt the meeting was unnecessary, as the majority of the members of the Glens Falls Common Council had term limits that would conclude at the end of the year; therefore, he noted, new members may choose to continue with the discussion about the possible consolidation. He queried how many Officers per shift typically patrolled the Town of Queensbury, and Undersheriff Lamouree responded there were usually four patrol cars per day in Queensbury. Mr. Strainer asked if the proposal for the City of Glens Falls included more patrols than that and Undersheriff Lamouree replied in the negative. Mr. Montesi stated he felt it would be effective to attend the Common Council meeting to answer any questions they may have.

Following a brief discussion it was determined that Sheriff York would notify the Committee members when the meeting was scheduled. Mrs. Wood remarked she would inform the full-Board of the meeting date.

The final item agenda item, Sheriff York advised, pertained changes in staffing. He stated that four new Correction Officers had been hired to replace employees who had resigned which resulted in a savings to of \$42,494.

Sheriff York felt it was pertinent to inform the Committee the New York State Corrections Commission was performing an audit to analyze whether the County Jail was staffed at an efficient level to maintain the safety of the staff, as well as the inmates. He apprised he felt the audit would find that according to State mandates, the County Jail was understaffed and would provide an analysis of how many additional staff would be necessary to meet their requirements.

Mr. Girard asked what the implications were for being understaffed and Sheriff York said he was unsure. He explained that if the audit determined the County Jail was understaffed they would provide the number of additional staff required, as well as a sufficient time limit to meet this criteria.

Mr. Montesi queried whether they based their staffing needs on the number of bad incidents that occurred at the County Jail and Sheriff York said that was not the case. He explained that is was based upon the average number of suicide watches, hospital transports, inmates that required protective custody, etc. He noted that due to staffing mandates and being understaffed, the overtime costs had increased considerably within the last year.

Mr. Strainer questioned if part-time employees could be hired and Sheriff York responded that the audit results would include the number of part-time employees which could be hired and where they could be utilized. He apprised currently five part-time employees were assigned to transporting

inmates, as well as other tasks on an as needed basis. Mr. Strainer voiced his concern for the well being of employees working considerable overtime and Sheriff York concurred this was a valid concern.

Mr. Loeb queried if the overtime costs had increased due to staffing mandates and Sheriff York replied affirmatively. He explained as an example, the number of suicide watches had increased and New York State required one Correction Officer be assigned to each of these inmates to ensure they did not harm themselves.

He reiterated that he felt the audit would determine the County Jail was understaffed and opined that additional employees would be required to ensure the safety and security of the employees and inmates.

The Sheriff and Communications portion of the meeting concluded at 10:45 a.m.

Paul Dusek, County Administrator advised the job posting for the position of Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement was active until August 2, 2013 and he would schedule a meeting shortly thereafter to review the resumes received with the Committee.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Frasier and seconded by Mr. Montesi, Mrs. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist