

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: JUNE 30, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
BROCK
SEEBER
SIMPSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

BUD YORK, WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
GIRARD
FRASIER

SUPERVISORS KENNY
VANSELOW
WESTCOTT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SAMANTHA HOGAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

In the absence of both Committee Chairman Wood and Vice Chairman Girard, Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:31 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Brock 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 the following requests:

1. Request to extend the existing agreement with Software House International for the Hyper-Reach notification system for the term commencing May 1, 2014 and terminating April 30, 2017 for the lump sum amount of \$13,800 annually.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Brock and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 18, 2014 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

2. Request for authorization to attend meeting or convention - Sergeants Pasquale Girard, and Greg Riley and Patrol Officers Greg Seeley, Bill Backus and Shaun Stillman to attend dive school training in Alexandria Bay, Jefferson County, NY on 9/22 - 9/26/14 at a total cost of \$500.

Motion was made by Mr. Brock, seconded by Ms. Seeber and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned travel request. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

3. Request for a transfer of funds in the of amount of \$10,800 from Budget Code A.3110 455 (Sheriff's Law Enforcement, Safety Equipment) to Budget Code A.3110 220 (Sheriff's Law Enforcement, Office Equipment) for the purchase of eight vehicle radios.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Brock and carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds, as outlined above, and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

4. Request to fill the vacant position of Patrol Officer #29 (Annual Salary \$41,353) due to retirement.

Motion was made by Mr. Brock, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request, which will be reported on the July 9th Personnel Committee agenda. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

5. Request to fill the vacant position of Patrol Officer #47 (Annual Salary \$47,710) due to resignation.

Mr. Brock asked why the officer had resigned and Sheriff York replied that this he was one of the gentlemen who had been recruited from Ticonderoga, and he had resigned for personal reasons. Ms. Seeber said she had received a number of questions about the Patrol Officers hired from Ticonderoga and whether they were Warren County residents. She commented that it was her understanding that Warren County had to take transfers and did not send people for training. Sheriff York advised that they could send people for training; however, he noted, this would incur a cost of about \$10,000-\$13,000 for the six month training course, during which they would also have to pay a salary to each of the trainees. He commented that he received many resumes from qualified individuals wanting to work in Warren County due to the professionalism of the agency and because they liked the area. Sheriff York advised the Undersheriff and Lieutenants reviewed these resumes to determine the applicants qualifications and, if they were able to hire these already certified police officers they did so in order to avoid the time and cost associated with training. He stated that he intended to continue this procedure and noted that many other agencies were doing this, as well. With respect to a question as to whether they were restricted to hiring only Warren County residents, Sheriff York apprised that a prior resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors allowed for hiring applicants residing outside of Warren County.

A brief discussion ensued, following which a motion was made by Ms. Seeber, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill the vacant position of Patrol Officer #47, which will be reported on the July 9th Personnel Committee agenda. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to Topics for Discussion, Sheriff York advised that no Corrections Officer positions had been filled since the last meeting.

Sheriff York notified the Committee that there had been an increase in the number of Federal Prisoners housed at the Warren County Jail. He advised that the 2014 Budget had included \$300,000 in revenues for housing of Federal Inmates, and as of May they had already received \$250,000. He said that he expected to surpass last years revenues by \$150,000 or more if this momentum continued.

With respect to overtime costs at the Jail, Sheriff York apprised they had expended 39% of the amount budgeted so far and he expected to come in under budget in this Code at the end of the year. He also noted that the number of inmates sent to the hospital had dropped since the Correctional Department Medical Care program was implemented.

In regards to the boarding of Federal prisoners, Mr. Brock inquired as to whether the County was able to decide what level of prisoners would be accepted and Sheriff York responded affirmatively, advising that they were able to refuse prisoners they felt were not right for the Warren County Jail facility. He noted that the Federal Officers were pleased with the strict manner in which the Warren County Jail operated that allowed them to send prisoners who had created problems in other facilities to Warren County for successful management.

Ms. Seeber asked about the mental health protocol in the jail and whether there had been a decrease in overtime use as it pertained to suicide watch. Sheriff York replied that suicide watch overtime was still on the rise, but stated that because there was now around the clock nurse coverage to assist with weekend hours, some overtime costs were being saved.

Mr. Simpson inquired about the turn around time for reimbursements for Federal Prisoners. Sheriff York stated that the monies were transferred directly to the Treasurer's Office in what he believed to be an expedient manner. Sheriff York also noted that if the inmates required any type of transfer or transportation to a medical facility, the County was reimbursed for those costs, as well.

There being no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Brock, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Legislative Office Specialist