

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
GIRARD
TAYLOR
FRASIER
BROCK
SEEBER
SIMPSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
AMY DREXEL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
BUD YORK, SHERIFF
SHAWN LAMOUREE, UNDERSHERIFF
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
LARRY GIFFORDS, COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR (911 CENTER)
MIKE COLVIN, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DIRECTOR
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
SAMANTHA HOGAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Ms. Wood called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brian LaFlure, Director of the Office of Emergency Services (OES), who distributed copies of his agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the Agenda review, Mr. LaFlure presented a request for himself to attend the Linstar Users' Conference in Hamilton, NY on October 22-24, 2014 using a County vehicle. He added that Linstar was the company that provided some of the software used by the OES, which he was hoping to expand.

Ms. Seeber inquired as to the cost of the conference and Mr. LaFlure replied that Linstar would cover the cost of the conference and noted the only cost to the County would be for gasoline.

Mr. Taylor inquired about the cost for the other two travel requests listed on the agenda. Mr. LaFlure answered that both travel requests related to events held by New York State and the County was responsible for the overnight accommodations as well as the transportation. He stated that the expenses for the Hazardous Materials Leadership Forum would be covered under the existing Hazmat Budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the travel request as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving onto Item 2, Mr. LaFlure presented a request for himself and James Schrammel, Hazmat Coordinator, to attend the Hazardous Materials Leadership Forum in Cooperstown, NY on November 14-15, 2014 using a County Vehicle.

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

With regards to Item 3 Mr. LaFlure presented a request for himself to attend the New York State Regional Fire Administrator's Conference in Montour Falls, NY on November 19-21, 2014 using a County vehicle.

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

Under the Pending Items section, Mr. LaFlure provided an update on the OES shelter for vehicles and equipment. He stated that pursuant to discussions with Chairman Geraghty he had determined this Item could be removed from the Pending Items List until the Court expansion situation was resolved.

Concluding his portion of the Agenda with Topics for Discussion, Mr. LaFlure stated that the Emergency Services Training Center was doing well and they were looking for ways to incorporate the seven (7) new storage containers that they had acquired. He also noted that he had attended COMPLEX training, which was the Federal Training Course on communications during disasters, which he said was informative.

Privilege of the floor was then extended to Amy Drexel, Deputy Director of the OES; who advised that back in 2011 there had been four (4) state of emergency events throughout Warren County which prompted the realization of the importance of social media to post emergency updates as well as information such as when the Municipal Center would be closed. She informed that she and Mr. LaFlure had been authorized to start a Facebook page and granted access to maintain it from their computers. She explained that when she was busy it was difficult for her to post information on the site and that it would be valuable for other members of the OES staff to have access to post information with permission from either herself or Mr. LaFlure. Ms. Drexel advised the OES had implemented a social media policy which prohibited use of these sites during working hours.

Ms. Seeber stated that she thought it was great that OES had a social media policy. She stated that she had benefitted from Ms. Drexel's posts on closings and emergency updates, and she asked if the County had a social media policy for all staff.

Paul Dusek, County Administrator answered that currently they did not, but added that it was being considered in light of the technical upgrades occurring at the County. He stated that he felt it was time for Warren County to develop a Facebook page and the research as to whether the departments should link together or have separate pages was being done. Mr. Dusek added that Twitter was another site that he was looking into, noting that instant information was the way of society and it was important for Warren County to be involved. He stated that a written Policy for all staff would likely be written to address appropriate use of social media during work hours. Mr. Dusek apprised that at the recent New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference he had attended a seminar on social media and was very impressed by the information provided.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize all staff in OES to have access to the Facebook social media site, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Bud York, Warren County Sheriff, who distributed copies of his agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented the following requests:

1. Patrol Officers James Banish and Michael LaVallie to attend Emotional Trauma Survival Training for Law Enforcement at Ithaca College on October 22, 2014 using a County vehicle. The only costs to the County were the room accommodations for a one night stay.

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

2. Authorize an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Washington County Emergency Response Team for Tactical Team Cooperation. A copy of the Draft agreement is included in the Agenda.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the agreement and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

3. Request to fill vacant positions:

- Patrol Sergeant #10 (Annual Salary \$68,452), due to retirement, and
- Patrol Officer #25 (Annual Salary \$47,710), due to promotion.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve both of the aforementioned requests to fill vacant positions and refer same to the Personnel Committee for reporting purposes. *Copies of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form are on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to Topics for Discussion, Sheriff York stated that at a previous Public Safety Committee meeting he had submitted a request to enter into contract with Televate, LLC to perform a communications consultant study for the 911 Center. He stated that after concluding their study, Televate had prepared a presentation to be made at the October 17th Board Meeting; he added that Televate representatives were available via teleconference to review the power point presentation with the Public Safety Committee in advance.

The power point presentation commenced with Rick Burke and Omna Solomon, representatives of Televate, LLC, providing a page-by-page review of their findings via telephone conference call. *A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes.* A brief discussion followed.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee on motion made by Mr. Girard and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Ms. Wood adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Assistant Secretary to the Clerk of the Board