

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
GIRARD
TAYLOR
BROCK
SEEBER
SIMPSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
AMY DREXEL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
BUD YORK, WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF
CHARLES WALLACE, FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATOR
MICHAEL GATES, CORRECTIONS CAPTAIN
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR VANSELOW
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR FRASIER

Ms. Wood called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:45 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Simpson 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, Director, OES (Office of Emergency Services), 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 presented a request for authorization to execute a grant application with the New York State Emergency Response Commission for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Planning grant for the Local Emergency Planning Committee in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for a term commencing October 1, 2014 and terminating September 30, 2014.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to authorize the submission of the grant application as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19, 2014 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

There being no further OES business to discuss, 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 new contract with Lexis Nexis/Matthew Bender (formerly known as Lexis Publishing) to provide law library services for inmates commencing January 1, 2015 and terminating December 31, 2017 for the amounts outlined in the contract. Sheriff York pointed out the cost of the contract decreased over the three year period from \$40,800 to \$38,400 because the County had been a long-term customer. Ms. Seeber

questioned whether there were any other correctional facilities utilizing an alternative law library, as she was concerned with the substantial cost of the subscription. Michael Gates, Corrections Captain, advised they had researched other options, but felt strongly that Lexis Nexis was the best option available for the County Jail. He explained the first alternative they explored was an internet based system; however, he said, this posed a security threat because the inmates could bypass the law library and access the internet. He stated another choice they looked into involved limited access carts that required personnel to search for the inmates legal research. He apprised the Lexis Nexis System used wall mounted kiosks that allowed inmates to research matters on their own.

Ms. Seeber stated her concern was with the high cost for the subscription. She noted there were many law enforcement agencies that could not afford subscriptions to Lexis Nexis and yet inmates had free access to it. Captain Gates pointed out the cost included the quarterly updates to the system. He commented the cost of having the published version of the law books and all of their updates was much more substantial than the cost of Lexis Nexis. Ms. Seeber mentioned she was aware of this; however, she questioned whether there was any way to reduce the cost.

Mr. Taylor asked whether providing inmates with access to a law library was a Federal or State requirement and Sheriff York replied it was a State requirement. Ms. Seeber queried whether the Sheriff's Office could share their subscription to Lexis Nexis with other law enforcement agencies and the Probation Department. Captain Gates advised their System was a closed system, as it was in-house and ran through a server directly inside of their facility, which was not accessible outside of their facility. Sheriff York advised they could ask other law enforcement agencies who boarded their inmates in the County Jail to provide funding toward the subscription cost; however, he did not recommend this course of action. Ms. Seeber clarified that she was inquiring whether it was feasible to provide complimentary access to other agencies. Captain Gates stated they were required to provide inmates with access to specific information; therefore, he said, other agencies may require a different access level. Ms. Seeber commented her desire was to obtain the best value for the County by extending the subscription to other agencies and Departments within Warren County who could not afford their own subscription.

Sheriff York asked Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, whether his Department utilized Lexis Nexis and Mr. Auffredou replied affirmatively. He said their subscription provided them convenient access to information when they were researching legal matters. He questioned whether they would be required to go to the Sheriff's Office to access Lexis Nexis if it was determined they could share their subscription with other agencies and Departments and Sheriff York replied he was unsure. Mr. Auffredou advised they could reach out to the representative from Lexis Nexis and inquire whether it was permissible to extend the Sheriff's Office access to other Departments and agencies. Ms. Seeber suggested looking into whether they could consolidate the different access levels required and then extend it to other Departments and agencies. Sheriff York advised he would research the matter.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Brock and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19, 2014 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York requested to ratify the actions of the Sheriff's Office in executing an agreement with WSWHE BOCES (Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services) to host a Career Day at the Warren County Sheriff's Office for WSWHE BOCES students participating in the New Visions Program. He said they had participated in this program with WSWHE

BOCES for a number of years; however, he said, the County Attorney felt a resolution was required.

Mr. Auffredou advised his understanding was the Sheriff's Office had been participating in this program for a number of years wherein students who had identified that they may be interested in law enforcement as a career spent a day or a portion of a day at the Sheriff's Office. He questioned whether this was an internship or clinical experience for the students and Sheriff York replied in the negative. He explained the participants in the program were high school students that were considering law enforcement as a career. He said they generally spent a portion of the day in the Communications Office. Mr. Auffredou stated he wanted to distinguish this program from that of an internship program because an internship program required approval from the County Administrator and the Department Head. He continued, as an example he was aware that the Sheriff's Office was developing a Working Internship Program with WSWHE BOCES through the New Visions Program. Mr. Auffredou pointed out this particular program was not an internship, as it entailed the student spending a day or a portion of a day at the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Auffredou apprised the contract that WSWHE BOCES sent to the Sheriff's Office referred to that of an internship/clinical-type agreement that entailed more than just a Career Day. He suggested authority be granted to the Sheriff's Office to enter into an agreement with WSWHE BOCES for a Career Day extension. Sheriff York interjected he thought this was the agreement they had entered into with WSWHE BOCES in previous years. Mr. Auffredou questioned whether this was the first year WSWHE BOCES had requested the Sheriff's Office sign an agreement with them for Career Day and Sheriff York replied he was unsure.

Discussion ensued.

Pursuant to the discussion, motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Ms. Seeber and carried unanimously to ratify the actions of the Sheriff's Office in executing an agreement with WSWHE BOCES to host a Career Day at the Warren County Sheriff's Office for WSWHE BOCES students participating in the New Visions Program and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19, 2014 Board meeting. *A resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York requested a transfer of funds between various Budget Codes in the amount of \$185,000. He explained the transfers were required to ensure there was a sufficient amount of funding in the accounts to cover the expenses through the end of the year.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request for transfer of funds as presented and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request for Transfer of Funds is on file with the minutes.*

Moving along Sheriff York apprised there were no pending items to discuss this month. In reference to topics for discussion, Sheriff York stated two Correction Officer positions had been filled with new hires as a result of resignations, which resulted in a savings of \$14,259.

Sheriff York added he believed there would be a substantial savings in staff overtime related to hospitalization of inmates due to the new medical services provider at the County Jail; however, he said, the final figures would not be available until the Spring of 2015.

As there was no further Sheriff's Office business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Charles Wallace, Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Administrator, 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. Wallace reviewed the Budget Performance Report dated November 20, 2014 with the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.* He noted there would be a substantial savings in part-time salaries from the prior year due to postponing filling vacant positions.

With regard to Fire Safety, Mr. Wallace said he believed the number of inspections completed this year may be slightly higher than that of the previous year due to an upturn in the number of inspections they completed during the third quarter as compared to the same time last year.

Pertaining to the Monthly Activity Report, Mr. Wallace advised the agenda included copies of the reports for August, September and October of this year. He stated as of last week they had issued 878 permits as compared to 914 issued during the same time period last year. He mentioned revenue had decreased about 3% as compared to the same time last year. He pointed out there was a shortfall of \$4,635 in revenues for their budget thus far; however, he said, if the upturn in inspections continued, he felt they could achieve about \$4,000 more than was budgeted for in revenues for the year.

In regards to training, Mr. Wallace apprised the staff was up-to-date on their required annual training and certifications. He commented he had been unable to research the proposed changes to fee schedule that had been discussed in the Spring of 2014, but said he thought he would be ready to do so within the next few months, as he needed additional time to reach out to other municipalities for their rates in order to provide comparisons.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee on motion made by Mr. Girard and seconded by Mr. Brock, Ms. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board