Mr. Montesi called the meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee to order at 11:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. MacDonald and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Montesi spoke regarding the EMS System Report that was distributed to the Committee members by the Office of Emergency Services (OES), a copy of same is on file with the minutes. He informed the plan consisted of providing emergency services to northern areas of the County by hiring ten additional employees and two fly cars which were fully equipped. He notified the City of Glens Falls and Town of Queensbury would not participate in the proposed plan, as they had their own emergency response systems and equipment in place. Mr. Merlino advised the Town of Lake Luzerne also had their own emergency services that were shared with the Town of Hadley. Mr. Montesi indicated it would cost the Towns up to $30,000 a year for the proposed services. He opened up discussion regarding alternatives to OES plan during which several other options were discussed.

Ms. Braymer entered the meeting 11:06 a.m.

Mr. MacDonald inquired if the City of Glens Falls could provide a formal proposal and James Schrammel, Chief, Glens Falls Fire Department, mentioned they did not have a proposal. He informed the Mayor wanted to provide help with the matter. Mr. Montesi inquired if the City could provide a proposal and Chief Schrammel responded in the affirmative but he noted additional information was required.

Eric Catalfamo, representing Empire Ambulance, advised that they were interested in offering assistance, as well as being provided an outline of what type of services were required of them. He pointed out the County had previously contracted with them for EMS Services but they stopped when the Towns commenced providing the service with their own squads.
Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator/Director, OES, expressed the proposed $1.4 million plan could be scaled down and paid as it was used. Travis Howe, 2nd Deputy EMS Coordinator, questioned if the cost could be placed under one umbrella if every town and agency were willing. Mr. MacDonald mentioned the possibility of utilizing consolidated purchasing to save money on equipment and supplies. Chief Schrammel informed it did not apply to private entities and Mr. Geraghty confirmed only a Government agency could take part in consolidated purchasing.

Mr. Brock asked if Empire Ambulance was equipped to provide coverage in the northern portion of the County and Mr. Catalfamo responded in the positive.

Mr. Howe remarked every agency needed to be self-sufficient such as Warrensburg, who was equipped with three ambulances. Ms. Guy expressed all agencies would benefit if they partnered with the County. Mr. Strough informed the Town of Queensbury was willing to provide assistance. He informed there were issues with the lack of software that would provide a summary of scheduling and staffing and where to be with what equipment.

Mr. LaFlure informed, the cost for the I Am Responding software was $18,000 per year. Mr. Montesi inquired if all agencies involved would need the software and Mr. LaFlure responded if the County purchased the software all agencies would have access to it at no cost. Bud York, Sheriff, pointed out in order for the software to work correctly all agencies would have to cooperate. Ms. Guy commented it would be vital for the dispatchers to have access to the software.

Conservation ensued regarding emergency service coverage in northern Warren County.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of “I Am Responding” software for an amount up to $20,000 and forward same to the Finance Committee to determine a source of funding for the purchase.

Mr. Girard exited the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

Following, a brief discussion ensued regarding an error within New World software that was currently being used by the Sheriff’s Department.

Concluding, Mr. Montesi informed the next meeting would be held June 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Montesi adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist