

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

April 4, 2018

AMENDED

APPROVED

May 2, 2018

ALLEGANY COUNTY
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Members Present: D. Healy, W. Dibble, B. Harris, S. Havey, J. Hopkins, C. Crandall (Absent: D. Decker)

Others Present: L. Ballengee, T. Boyde, B. Budinger, L. Edwards, D. Fanton, K. Graves, S. Grusendorf, C. Ivers, B. Kelley, C. Knapp, J. Luckey, K. Monroe, J. Ricci, D. Root, D. Scholes, T. Shaw, R. Starks, P. Stockin, R. Swarthout, M. Washer, R. Whitney

Media Present: C. Potter – *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m. by Public Safety Committee Chairman Dwight “Mike” Healy.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Dibble, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve the Public Safety Committee minutes for March 7, 2018.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Public Defender Barbara Kelley attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Kelley stated criminal cases are up quite a bit compared to this time last year. Ms. Kelley stated she has not heard any details regarding the state budget; however, when she finds out what it means for Allegany County, she will let them know.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND FIRE DIRECTOR

Emergency Management and Fire Director Jeff Luckey attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Luckey stated on March 11 he attended a Confined Space Training that was set up by his office with assistance from Allegany County Farm Bureau as well as RS Maher & Son. Sixty-six fire and EMS personnel from 16 departments and three counties attended the training. Committee Chairman Healy stated there was a point in time when EMS received a fair amount of calls for agricultural accidents and asked how that is currently trending. Mr. Luckey stated there are fewer small farms so we have seen a decline in farm accidents. Mr. Luckey stated on March 21, he attended the Western New York County Fire Coordinators meeting where they discussed recruitment and retention for volunteers. Mr. Luckey indicated the decline in volunteers is not just in Allegany County; there is a reduction across the state. Legislator Hopkins asked Mr. Luckey to highlight his school safety meeting that was held on March 22. Mr. Luckey stated it was a collective meeting that went very well. They are looking in to the possibility of having a drill; however, first they will make sure staff is trained. Legislator Hopkins asked how many schools have participated in that training. Sheriff Whitney stated they have visited all of the schools at least once. Mr. Luckey stated that Sheriff Whitney and he gave a presentation on Active Shooter and Workplace Violence at L.C. Whitford’s 2018 Safety Training Seminar. Committee Chairman Healy asked if the Cuba Police Department and Village of Wellsville Police Department were invited. Mr. Luckey stated it was not his event or place to invite additional people. Mr. Luckey addressed the Cancer Bill being brought forward by the State, stating it will be an unfunded mandate that will cost \$250 to \$300 per person per year. Mr. Luckey is hoping to get additional details in the near future but indicated this bill will trickle down to the taxpayers. Legislator Graves stated our fire departments are voluntary, and this bill will be devastating to them. Legislator Hopkins indicated that this burden is causing some fire departments to change the number of firefighters who are classified as interior firefighters, and expressed concerned that our fire companies will be at risk of not having enough people who are legally allowed to go inside a burning building. Mr. Luckey stated he is not aware of anyone that has changed any classifications yet, but he agrees it is an issue and has raised it several times.

Mr. Luckey continued that being an interior firefighter is physically demanding with a lot of training included. It is not just a title that is given to anyone, so to suddenly lose that classification, he anticipates fire companies will see a loss in volunteer firefighters.

Request to Fill Emergency Services Assistant Position

Emergency Management and Fire Director Jeff Luckey requested permission to fill one full-time Emergency Services Assistant (Council 66 – Local 2574 General Unit, Grade 13, Step: Base – Step 7) and all subsequent positions including hiring from the outside. This position is responsible for assisting the Director in developing and administering programs and plans to cope with natural and manmade disasters. This position also coordinates the Emergency Medical Services Training Program. The annual salary of this position is estimated between \$35,184.42 and \$42,805.67 with benefits estimated between \$16,702.04 and \$20,319.85. This position is funded 75 percent with County funds and 25 percent with state funds. Committee Chairman Healy asked if this position has been discussed with both Human Resources and the County Administrator, and is Mr. Luckey anticipating the need to fill another vacancy. Mr. Luckey stated, yes, he has discussed this position with Mr. Boyde and Mr. Budinger and is anticipating an additional vacancy to fill. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

STOP- DWI

STOP-DWI Coordinator Linda Edwards attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Edwards stated bicycle safety is beginning to pick up, and she recently attended a *Learning is Fun Night* at Scio Central School with bicycle safety and DWI educational information and gave away twelve bicycle helmets. On March 12, Ms. Edwards presented to the Mighty Makers 4-H Club in Alfred and also gave away twelve helmets and educational information. Ms. Edwards stated the Top Cop Dinner went very well with 47 attendees. Ms. Edwards thanked everyone who came and participated and also thanked those who acknowledged her years of service and presented her with a certification of appreciation. The Youth Board dinner is underway, and there will be three youth recognized this year. Ms. Edwards asked that those who plan to attend please RSVP.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Keith Slep was unable to attend the meeting but submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Probation Director Robert Starks attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Starks stated there were an extra 15 investigations added, leaving March as the largest month for investigations ordered. Mr. Starks stated that Probation Officer Sara Mahoney presented another nationwide webinar on March 22 on “Supervising Domestic Violence Offenders” and had over 500 individuals throughout the country listening in.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Weights and Measures Director Gilbert Green was unable to attend the meeting but submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Rick Whitney attended the meeting and submitted his monthly reports to the committee for review. Sheriff Whitney acknowledged and congratulated Undersheriff Monroe for graduating from the National Academy. Sheriff Whitney stated they have had several meetings with local schools regarding building security and school safety, and have upcoming meetings scheduled as well. Committee Chairman Healy asked if they are providing any special training for building security. Sheriff Whitney stated, no, they are just doing walkthroughs and offering suggestions on how to better secure their facilities. Committee Chairman Healy stated there are currently several bills on School Resource Officers, and the best thing we can do is wait and see what the final version will be, adding there is supposed to be funding from the state and federal levels. Committee Chairman Healy thanked Sheriff Whitney for his efforts in working with the schools and looks forward to having a School Resource Officer in each and every one of our schools across the state. Sheriff Whitney stated that an email he received from the State Sheriff's Council indicated that the recently adopted state budget does not include any funding for Resource Officers and/or school safety. Legislator Harris asked who the schools should be contacting if they wish to take advantage of the Sheriff's school safety expertise. Sheriff Whitney stated they can contact the Sheriff, Undersheriff Monroe, or Lieutenant Grusendorf, and they will set up a time to go and sit down with administration and possibly do a walkthrough of the school. Sheriff Whitney noted that students and teachers are not involved with the initial meeting.

Acceptance and Appropriation of ACT II Batterers Program Funds

The Sheriff's Office requested a resolution to accept and appropriate \$1,793 in user fees for the ACT II Batterers Program. The fees should be appropriated as follows:

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| <u>Appropriation:</u> | <u>Amount:</u> |
| A3117.449 (ACT II Batterers Program) | \$1,793 |
| <u>Revenue:</u> | <u>Amount:</u> |
| A3117.2260.00 (ACT II Batterers Program) | \$1,793 |

This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Dibble, seconded by Legislator Havey, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Former Third Floor Inmate Outdoor Recreation Area

Legislator Dibble presented a proposal to add a roof to the former inmate outdoor recreation area. Legislator Fanton stated this proposal should be looked at in Public Works, adding LaBella Associates has done a study on this area in the past, and he believes they are not load bearing walls, and there was an issue with adding a roof, but he will follow-up with LaBella regarding the matter. A motion was made by Legislator Dibble, seconded by Legislator Havey, and carried to refer the proposal to Public Works. **Refer to Public Works Committee**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m. following a motion by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Dibble, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Washer, Confidential Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators