

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING

September 3, 2024

The regular meeting of Public Safety, Probation, Office of Emergency Services, Coroner, and Stop DWI was held in the Legislative Conference Room at the Ronald E. Dougherty Office Building, 56 Main St., on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 2:30 PM.

Present:

Keith Flesher	Chair, Public Safety
Barb Roberts	Legislator
Marte Sauerbrey	Chair, Legislator
Bob Williams	Coroner
William Standinger	Legislator
Brian Cain	Director, Probation
Corinne Cornelius	Director, Emergency Services
Rich Hallett	Undersheriff, Sheriff's Office

Guest:

Jackson Bailey	County Administrator
Pete DeWind	County Attorney
Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk

Absent:

Sheriff Gary Howard	Sheriff's Office
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of June 4, 2024; July 2, 2024; and August 6, 2024 minutes:

Legislator Standinger made the motion, seconded by Legislator Roberts, to approve the June 4, 2024; July 2, 2024; and August 6, 2024 Public Safety minutes, as written. Motion carried.

PROBATION – Brian Cain:

FINANCIAL:

- Expenditures are at 63% of the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Training – PO Regis is going to become the Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Trainer. Other Probation Officers will be attending trainings in Binghamton and Albany.
- Pre-Trial Release funding – will receive \$60,000 in Pre-Trial Release funding from New York State. Would like to use \$45,000 to replace the 2018 Ford Escape. Director Cain will talk to Gary Hammond about this if the committee approves this expenditure. Public Works would determine what will be done with the Escape.
- Pre-plea – big influx from Court this past month in Pre-Plea and Pre-Sentence investigations. JD tickets have increased.
- Probation Volunteer Activities – Staff participated in the Special Olympics fundraiser; Tioga Central Backpack Giveaway; and may participate in the Owego Halloween event on Lake Street.
- Armed Probation Officers - looking at exploring arming five members of the Probation Department by Spring 2025. Will develop a comprehensive plan and present it to committee members. Other surrounding counties, such as Tompkins, Broome, and Chemung County are arming their Probation Officers as well. Legislator Standinger has no objection to this concept.

- JD Tickets – one Juvenile Delinquency Appearance Ticket was issued for the fatal motor vehicle accident in Newark Valley. To date, 25 tickets have been issued.
- ATI Program - There are 7 individuals on electronic monitoring. The Weekend Work Program continues to have enough participants to function on both Saturday and Sunday. There are more orders coming in to keep the program going.
- Jackson Bailey job shadowed for several days at Probation last month. He went on several visits with the Probation Officers and learned first hand the amount of knowledge a PO needs to have to do their job.
- Court Ordered Investigations were 34; Supervision 175 cases; Violation of Probation 9 petitions.

PERSONNEL:

- One vacant Probation Officer I position exists. Hope to get Civil Service exam results this month.
- One unfunded Probation Office position exists.

RESOLUTIONS:

- **Resolution To Approve a Grant Award from NYS Division of Criminal Justice for County Pre-Trial Services**
A resolution was presented to request authorization to accept this award and modify the 2024 budget accordingly.

(Committee agreed to move this resolution forward)

OFFICE of EMERGENCY SERVICES – Corinne Cornelius:

FINANCIAL:

- Budget is on track.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Radio Project – gave update on the project. Final drawings are being completed as well as permitting.
- Dispatch – live cut over took place the week of 8/6-9. New VESTA phone system was installed. Reso is being presented to add Aware911 at no charge. Capital Area Communications staff were great to work with. New furniture, carpet, and computers were installed.
- Shirley Rd. Tower – primary lines went down. O’Connell electric recommended trimming the trees around the lines. Working with DEC to find what trees can be cut.
- Gary Hammond is creating an RFP for the Prospect Tower site for a driveway, roof and tree work.
- CAD system - is working well and some other fire departments and EMS agencies would like to join.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- 15 students enrolled for the EMT class which began August 19th.
- Owego stream gauge – Soil & Water asked if we would be able to help support the Owego stream gauge, which would cost \$23,000 yearly. We will support Soil & Water, however, our office does not primarily use this gauge and does not have the funding.
- Threat Assessment Team – Director Cornelius was accepted and will be completing a virtual Master Trainer class. Once completed, she would be a certified trainer and could train others.

FIRE:

- There have been a lot of fire calls this past month.
- I Am Responding – a resolution is being presented for renewal of this program.

PERSONNEL:

- There are resolutions being presented to appoint Will Ellis to the Deputy Director position; appoint Vera Clark and Penelope Ward to the Search & Rescue Team; and Richard VanHall to the Haz-Mat Team.

RESOLUTIONS:

- **Acceptance of the Application for Vera Clark Tioga County Search and Rescue Team**
A resolution was presented requesting authorization to add Vera Clark to the Search and Rescue Team.
- **Acceptance of the Application for Penelope Ward Tioga County Search and Rescue Team**
A resolution was presented requesting authorization to add Penelope Ward to the Search and Rescue Team.
- **Acceptance of the Application for Richard Van Hall Tioga County Haz-Mat Team**
A resolution was presented requesting authorization to add Richard VanHall to the Haz-Mat Team.
- **Amend Resolution No. 291-19; Authorize Amended Agreement with Motorola Solutions Change Order # 6**
A resolution was presented requesting authorization to execute change order # 6 with Motorola Solutions at no cost to the county.
- **Approve Sole Source Purchase I Am Responding Emergency Notification Program**
A resolution was presented requesting authorization to enter into a sole source agreement with Emergency Services Marketing Corp., Inc. for a one-year subscription to I Am Responding.
- **Authorize Appointment of Deputy Director of Emergency Services**
A resolution was presented requesting authorization to appoint William Ellis to the position of Deputy Director of Emergency Services.

(Committee agreed to move these resolutions forward)

SHERIFF – Undersheriff Rich Hallett:

FINANCIAL:

- Revenues are at \$313,065 which is 58% of the budget. Expenditures are at \$7,953,304.06 which is 70% of budget. Inmate boarders are at \$118,353.08 which is 79% of the budget.

PERSONNEL:

- Update on Vacancies:
 - Civil:
 - One vacant part-time Civil Deputy position
 - Corrections:
 - 6 Corrections Officer positions. This creates a lot of overtime as coverage is needed.
 - 1 part-time Cook position
 - No Corrections Officers are on light duty
 - 1 Corrections Officer is on military deployment.
 - Road Patrol:
 - 2 vacant Deputy positions
 - No Deputies are on light duty

- There are 2 Deputies that have completed Field Training
- Communications:
 - 3 vacant E911 Dispatcher positions. Will be 4 once Will Ellis transfers to EMO.
- Records:
 - There is currently 1 vacant position
- Administration:
 - All positions are filled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- License Plate Reader – a resolution is being presented for authorization to purchase. This is for one car only.
- Inmate population is 52.
- K9 Unit – discussion took place regarding starting a K9 Unit. There is a significant upfront cost of approximately \$53,000, which includes: sending a Deputy to training; cost of the dog; equipment for the car; and \$10,500 yearly going forward. They would work a night shift, as that is where most complaints and activity occur. Legislator Flesher would be in favor of this; Chair Sauerbrey would like this to be brought up at budget time next year; Legislator Standinger would be in favor if it is feasible for 2026 not 2025; Legislator Roberts agrees with this as well. The committee agreed to look at it for 2026 this way it can be discussed further and allow time to find the money for it.

RESOLUTIONS:

- **Approve 2025 STOP DWI Plan**
A resolution was presented requesting approval of the 2025 STOP DWI plan.
- **Approve Sole Source Purchase Motorola Solutions License Plate Recognition System**
A resolution was presented requesting authorization to purchase a License Plate Recognition System from a sole source vendor Motorola Solutions.

(Committee agreed to move these resolutions forward)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

County Attorney Peter DeWind requested an Executive Session. Legislator Standinger made a motion to go into Executive Session at 3:17 PM to discuss personnel matters; seconded by Legislator Roberts. Legislator Standinger motioned to adjourn Executive Session at 3:34 PM, seconded by Legislator Roberts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Rockwell

Diane Rockwell
Secretary to the Sheriff
9/3/24