

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY (INCLUDING FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CODES, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, SHERIFF & COMMUNICATIONS)

DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS VANNESS
BENTLEY
O'CONNOR
BELDEN
SOKOL
GIRARD
THOMAS

OTHERS PRESENT:

BUD YORK, SHERIFF
SHANE ROSS, CHIEF DEPUTY
BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES/FIRE COORDINATOR
AMY MANNEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
CHAIRMAN MONROE
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY
HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL SERVICES
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISORS: STRAINER
TAYLOR
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of the Public Safety Committee, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Bud York, Sheriff, who distributed copies of the Agenda to the Committee; a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Agenda Item 1, Sheriff York apprised, referred to the State Alien Assistance Program Management. He stated that the County had received \$20,705 in revenue from the Federal Government for boarding illegal aliens in the Warren County Correctional Facility.

Sheriff York advised that Agenda Item 2 pertained to an update on the Department of Social Services (DSS) Fraud Investigations. He noted that the County would be seeking \$55,125 in restitution from 25 of the 33 cases that had been investigated. Mr. VanNess pointed out that when individuals were convicted of welfare fraud they were no longer eligible to receive benefits.

Agenda Item 3, Sheriff York stated, was a request to continue the contractual relationship with Global Tel Link Corp (GTL) for a term commencing January 1, 2010 and terminating December 31, 2015. He explained that GTL, supplied the inmate block phones within the Warren County Correctional Facility.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to authorize the continuation of the contractual relationship with GTL and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 20, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York advised that Agenda Item 4 was a request to fill the vacant position of Senior Account Clerk, base salary of \$31,323, Employee No. 10695, due to resignation. He explained that this position was vital to the Department, as it ensured that the required checks and balances of financial records was completed.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Girard to fill the vacant position of Senior Account Clerk. The motion failed due to a lack of 2/3 majority vote necessary to approve personnel requests.

Paul Dusek, County Attorney, interjected that he felt that it was imperative that the position be filled, as it was essential to ensure that proper accounting procedures were being followed. He noted the County could be in danger of losing its accreditation with the State. Mr. Sokol asked if the position would be filled from within the County and Mr. Dusek replied affirmatively.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to fill the vacant position of Senior Account Clerk, base salary of \$31,323, Employee No. 10695, due to resignation and forward same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position is on file with the minutes.*

Agenda Item 5, Sheriff York apprised, were requests to fill the following vacant positions:

- 1) Correction Officer, base salary of \$32,400, Employee No. 10060, due to resignation; and
- 2) Correction Officer, base salary of \$32,400, Employee No. 10919, due to resignation.

Chairman Monroe entered the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Sheriff York noted that these positions were mandated by the State and that the funds were included in the budget. Mr. VanNess apprised that he had discussed whether filling the positions would reduce the amount of overtime necessary with the Budget Officer and Sheriff York. He said that they had determined that it was more cost efficient to fill the positions than to continue to pay the overtime required due to the vacancies.

Mr. Belden asked whether the Sheriff felt the overtime could be reduced if only one position was filled and Sheriff York replied in the negative. He mentioned that if the New York State Department of Correctional Services determined the Jail was operating below mandated staffing numbers they could change the classification of the Jail. He said that if the classification was changed revenues would be decreased, as boarding of inmates from other counties would not be allowed.

Mr. VanNess interjected that the amount of overtime used had exceeded the 2009 budgeted amount by an estimated \$65,000. He reiterated that it was essential to fill the positions, as this would aid in reducing the amount of overtime.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to fill the vacant positions of Correction Officers as outlined above and refer same to the Personnel Committee. *Copies of the Notices of Intent to Fill Vacant Positions are on file with the minutes.*

In response to a request made by the Committee Chairman, Sheriff York advised that Agenda Item 6 referred to an explanation of services provided to the City of Glens Falls by the Sheriff's Office. He stated that a listing of all services provided to the City of Glens Falls in 2008 was included with the Agenda. He noted that the City of Glens Falls boarded the second highest number of inmates in the County Jail, as well as having the Sheriff's Office supply them with the greatest number of inmate transports for 2008.

Mr. O'Connor noted that the City of Glens Falls residents that were boarded in the County Jail were also Warren County citizens. Sheriff York advised that he had supplied the information to counter the statement that was made that the City of Glens Falls did not utilize the services provided by the Sheriff's Office.

Concluding the Agenda review, Sheriff York requested an executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105 (e) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 10:23 a.m. to 10:33 a.m.

Committee reconvened. Pursuant to executive session, Mr. Dusek recommended that a resolution be presented to the full Board entering into an agreement with the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) with regards to the exclusivity of the part-time Fraud Investigator position.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to enter into an agreement with the PBA with regards to the exclusivity of the part-time Fraud Investigator position and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 20, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Sokol inquired whether a designated location could be set aside during the Adirondack Car Show to allow for a smoke show and he questioned whether a fee could be charged to attendees. Mr. Thomas suggested using the Airport for the event. Sheriff York apprised that he was unsure. Mr. Dusek interjected that he would research the legality of the matter and report back to the Committee.

Mr. O'Connor asked Sheriff York if he was pleased with the performance of the new patrol vehicles and he responded affirmatively. Mr. VanNess interjected that there were six vehicles in reserve and that Sheriff York was not permitted to purchase any new vehicles until 2011. Mr. Belden questioned if the vehicles had been changed to propane powered and Sheriff York replied in the negative.

The Sheriff and Communications portion of the meeting concluded at 10:38 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brian LaFlure, Director of the Office of Emergency Services/Fire Coordinator, who distributed copies of the Agenda to the Committee; a copy which is on file with the minutes.

Pending Item 1, Mr. LaFlure apprised, referred to leasing indoor storage space for the hazardous materials (HAZMAT) vehicles. He said that as of yet they had been unable to secure the necessary space. Mr. O'Connor queried why they had been unable to secure the indoor storage space located in Glens Falls and Mr. LaFlure replied that it was due to the space not being large enough to accommodate the vehicles.

Pending Item 2, Mr. LaFlure stated, referred to discussion from the Support Services Committee regarding Flood Insurance and the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Amy Manney, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Services, advised that the Plan would not provide any additional information on flooding in the County. She pointed out that the Plan would not be completed for four years; therefore, she said, it would not provide the information necessary with regards to Flood Insurance.

Mr. VanNess advised that the contractor hired to develop the Hazard Mitigation Plan was the Friends of the North Country, Inc. He said that Scott Campbell, Executive Director of the organization, had attended the Board meeting and apprised that they were having difficulties contacting the Highway Superintendents for the municipalities in Warren County. Chairman Monroe voiced his concern that they were not taking the proper steps to gather the information they needed to develop the Plan.

Discussion ensued.

Pursuant to further discussion on the matter, it was determined that a representative from the Friends of the North Country, Inc. would be requested to attend the next Committee meeting.

With regards to Pending Item 3, Mr. LaFlure requested that the discussion regarding the unfunded 3rd Deputy Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator position be removed from the list.

Pending Item 4, Mr. LaFlure advised, referred to the appointment of the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator. He requested that this item remain on the listing of pending items until it was resolved. Mr. Thomas asked if a job description existed for the position and Mr. LaFlure said he was unsure. Mr. VanNess suggested they request that the County Attorney's Office recommend what process was necessary to have someone appointed as the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator and the Committee concurred. Mr. O'Connor suggested contacting Civil Service with regards to a job description for the position, as well.

Moving along to new business, Mr. LaFlure requested permission to apply to the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) for the 2009 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) commencing October 1, 2008 and terminating September 30, 2009 for an amount not to exceed \$26,918.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to authorize the submission of the application to SEMO for the 2009 LEMPG as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 20, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Agenda Item 2, Mr. LaFlure stated, referred to the Emergency Services Training Center (ESTC). He apprised that Patricia Nenninger, Second Assistant County Attorney, was working on the application for an extension on the Shared Services Grant with the Department of State, which had been approved at the October 16, 2009 Board meeting.

Mr. LaFlure advised that he was actively seeking funds for the second phase of the project and had met with Congressman Scott Murphy and representatives for Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. He said that he was hopeful they would include appropriations for the project in next years budget.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. LaFlure apprised that the multi agency HAZMAT drill conducted at Finch Pruyn had been a success. He stated that they may be eligible for additional grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security for leasing property or space to store the HAZMAT vehicles.

Mr. VanNess advised that it was necessary for the Committee to discuss some concerns with regards to the Building Code Enforcement. He stated that Karen Putney, Administrator of Fire Prevention and Building Code Enforcement, had informed him that she was concerned that some of the municipalities in Warren County would be taking over their own Building Code Enforcement. He asked that if any municipality was considering this action that they contact the County so that any change could be accounted for in next years budget.

Chairman Monroe stated that he had received many complaints from contractors with regards to the amount of time it took to have an inspection completed. Mr. VanNess apprised that he had spoken to an individual who had made the same complaint; however, he noted, he had arranged for two inspectors to complete the inspection the following day and they were denied access to the property by the individual that had made the complaint.

Mr. VanNess commented that he felt that the issue may have arisen from the fact that more thorough inspections were being completed than what had been done in prior years, which may upset the contractors.

Discussion ensued.

Pursuant to further discussion, it was determined that the matter would be discussed with Ms. Putney at the next Committee meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Sokol and seconded by Mr. Belden, Mr. VanNess adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist