

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: APRIL 22, 2010

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS PRESENT:
SUPERVISORS VANNESS	AMY MANNEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
BENTLEY	FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
SOKOL	PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY/COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
THOMAS	& FISCAL SERVICES
MCDEVITT	JOAN SADY, CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
	SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:	KENNY
SUPERVISORS GIRARD	LOEB
CONOVER	MCCOY
	GOODSPEED
	DON LEHMAN, THE POST STAR
	THOM RANDALL, ADIRONDACK JOURNAL
	JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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Mr. VanNess called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:36 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2010 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Amy Manney, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Services, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mrs. Manney presented Agenda Item 1, a request to ratify the actions of the Chairman of the Board to execute a grant application for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), for the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, for a minimum amount of \$2,930. She noted that the funds were used to develop and update the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request to ratify the actions of the Chairman as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 21, 2010 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Agenda Item 2, Mrs. Manney stated, was a request to amend the 2010 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$6,994, to reflect the receipt of all remaining 2009 LEPC grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2010 County Budget as outlined above and to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request to Amend County Budget is on file with the minutes.*

Mrs. Manney presented the third item, a request to extend the contract with Friends of the North Country for consulting services, for completion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan through December 31, 2010. She advised that she had sent the necessary request to the State for approval and if approved, would proceed to the Federal level for approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request to extend the contract as outlined above pending State and Federal approval.

Addressing the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator position, Mr. Thomas suggested that the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District be considered for the responsibility, for which they had experience and Mr. VanNess concurred. Mr. VanNess noted that Brian LaFlure, Director of the Office of Emergency Services, was currently serving as the temporary Coordinator in order to maintain grant funding qualifications. He apprised that a group of County department heads and their committee chairs had convened to address the vacant position and Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, had advised that a job description had been completed. Mr. VanNess explained that Jamie Schrammel was the Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Coordinator which included issues such as chemical spills, as opposed to the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator whose efforts included the mitigation of flooding and damage to Town infrastructures. Mr. Bentley expressed his support for the suggestion that the Soil and Water Conservation District assume the Hazard Mitigation responsibilities.

Mrs. Manney presented a request for the appointments and reappointments of various members to both the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Fire Advisory Boards, and referred to the attached lists which were included with the agenda.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request to appoint members to the EMS and Fire Advisory Boards and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the May 21, 2010 Board meeting. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

Mr. VanNess informed that a letter had been sent to the State Legislators regarding the levying of fines for texting while driving. The issue, he said, was now in the hands of Legislators.

Mr. VanNess announced the upcoming retirement of Chief Deputy Shane Ross effective May 1, 2010. As information only, he noted that Chief Deputy Ross had offered to remain on a part-time basis, for an annual salary of \$20,000, in order to carry out the grant writing duties of his position which had generated up to \$2.4 million in grant funding. He further noted that Sheriff York had met with the Budget Officer to discuss the feasibility of the part-time position and the annual salary of \$9,000 was the maximum amount determined to be available. Mr. VanNess explained that the position was originally created to facilitate the transition of the new Sheriff, and the Sheriff would like to maintain the full-time position. Mr. VanNess stated that according to Civil Service Law, when an individual vacated a tested Civil Service position to assume a non-tested position, he or she was not guaranteed a return to the same position level. Mr. VanNess advised that the Sheriff had requested that the Personnel Officer order the examination for the Chief Deputy position.

Mr. Loeb cited this as a prime example of how government could potentially grow uncontrollably and he pointed out that the Chief Deputy position was originally created as a temporary position.

Mr. VanNess stated although it was not up to the Committee to determine whether the position was Civil Service or not, the Committee could decide whether to retain or abolish the position. He noted that the matter should be discussed with the Sheriff at the next Committee meeting. Mr. Goodspeed asked if it was possible to make a temporary appointment prior to the next Committee meeting and Mr. VanNess replied affirmatively and explained that the Sheriff could make a provisional appointment pending the results of the civil service examination.

Mr. Thomas noted Chief Deputy Ross's service and dedication to Warren County and added that his work had immeasurable value. Mr. VanNess concurred and stated that he felt \$20,000 per year was a reasonable part-time salary for an employee with his extensive experience in pursuing grant funding.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Mr. VanNess adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist