

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: JUNE 2, 2011

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS BENTLEY  
GIRARD  
THOMAS  
CONOVER  
MCCOY  
MONROE

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

BUD YORK, SHERIFF  
BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
KAREN PUTNEY, FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT  
ADMINISTRATOR  
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY/ADMINISTRATOR  
DANIEL G. STEC, CHAIRMAN  
JOAN SADY, CLERK  
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER  
SUPERVISORS KENNY  
TAYLOR  
STRAINER  
LOEB  
MCDEVITT  
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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**COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT:**

SUPERVISOR VANNESS

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, Mr. Bentley, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

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

Mr. Monroe entered the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Karen Putney, Fire Prevention and Building Code Enforcement Administrator, who presented a request to transfer a surplus vehicle from the Sheriff's Department to the Office of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement.

Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the transfer of a vehicle as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 17, 2011 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Bud York, Sheriff, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.* Sheriff York presented a request to accept grant funds in the amount of \$49,401 from the Statewide Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (SLETPP).

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and refer same to the Finance Committee. **(Note: Subsequent to the meeting the request was withdrawn by the Sheriff as the revenue from the grant was already included in the Sheriff's 2011 Budget and no further action was required.)**

Sheriff York presented a request to ratify the actions of the Committee Chairman in executing the authorization for Civil Supervisors training attended by Sergeant Kevin Scellen in Saratoga, NY, on May 17 and 18, 2011.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. McCoy and carried unanimously to approve the request to ratify the actions of the Sheriff and the Committee Chairman in executing the travel request as outlined. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented a request to create a trust account for donations received for the Project Lifesaver Program and authorize the Sheriff to expend and /or use said funds for enhancement of the program by submitting a written statement to the Treasurer's Office.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. McCoy to approve the request for a trust account for the Project Lifesaver Program.

Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator explained that the current process was cumbersome as it required a budget amendment and authorization by the full Board for each donation received and expended. It was determined that a trust account could be set up; thereby making Board resolutions unnecessary. He further explained that the funds would go directly into the trust account and the expenditure of funds would require approval from the Treasurer.

Mr. Bentley called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve the creation of a trust account for Project Lifesaver. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing with Action Items, Sheriff York presented a request to amend Resolution No. 213 of 2011, for the Hyper-Reach Notification system, to add google maps for pinpoint capabilities, for an additional amount not to exceed \$3,000. He stated the expense was included in the budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend Resolution No. 213 of 2011 as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 17, 2011 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Proceeding with personnel items, Sheriff York presented requests to fill two vacant positions as follows:

- ◆ Correction Sergeant, base salary of \$44,674, Employee No. 9621, due to retirement; and
- ◆ Correction Officer, base salary of \$33,534, due to promotion.

Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the two requests to fill the positions outlined above. *Copies of the Notices of Intent to Fill Vacant Position are on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented a request for a transfer of funds from Contingent Fund, in the amount of \$39,937 to correct an error whereby the appropriations for grant funding had not been included in the budget. Mr. Dusek explained that although the revenue for the grant was budgeted, the appropriations for same were not correctly reflected and he recommended that the funds be transferred from the Contingent Fund.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve the request to transfer funds as outlined above and refer same to the Finance Committee. **(Note:**

**subsequent to the meeting the Sheriff advised that funds were available to purchase the necessary radios and equipment using the Asset Forfeiture monies and the request for a Contingent Fund transfer was withdrawn).**

With regard to the Homeland Security Grant previously submitted, Sheriff York stated it was determined that a request was necessary to ratify the actions the Chairman in executing the grant agreement with the NYS Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for Statewide Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (SLEPTT) grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve the request to ratify the actions of the Chairman in executing the grant application and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 17, 2011 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Bentley stated that an executive session would be necessary to discuss matters leading to the dismissal of an employee.

Mr. Taylor recognized the work of the Sheriff's Department by citing the example of a neighbor who had been approached by a scam artist. He stated the work of the Sheriff's undercover Officer was very professional and put the resident at ease.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to enter into executive session pursuant to Section (f) of Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 9:44 a.m. to 9:52 a.m.

Upon reconvening Mr. Bentley announced that no action was necessary pursuant to the executive session.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brian LaFlure, Director of the Office of Emergency Services (OES), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaFlure presented a request to amend the 2011 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$1,375 to reflect the carryover of grant funds from 2010 to 2011.

Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2011 County Budget as outlined above and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request to amend county budget is on file with the minutes.*

Under Old Business, Mr. LaFlure addressed the issue of the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator responsibilities and Mr. Thomas informed that the Soil & Water Conservation District requested \$16,000 per year to carry out the duties of the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator. Mr. LaFlure stated the duties would include on site natural disaster assessments and related grant funding activities and he noted that the Hazard Mitigation Plan was now in effect.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve a stipend of \$16,000, for the Soil & Water Conservation District Manager to carry out the duties of the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator and refer same to the Finance Committee to determine a source of funding.

Mr. LaFlure reported that flooding which occurred in May had caused significant damage in the County estimated at between \$3 and \$4 million. He said the damage occurred in the Towns of Bolton, Chester, Thurman, Stony Creek and Warrensburg. He informed that he was in contact with the State and it was unknown whether a Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) disaster declaration would be made. Mr. LaFlure explained that flood damage could not be fully assessed until water levels receded and more information was received from the Towns. Mr. Thomas stated the estimated cost of damages for the Town of Stony Creek were \$135,000. In terms of repairs, Mr. LaFlure stated a determination would need to be made regarding the use of contractors or County staff to carry out the necessary repair work, a decision which depended upon FEMA funding outcomes and he noted the risk involved in using private contractors in the absence of a FEMA declaration. Mr. Geraghty inquired about the State disaster declaration threshold and Mr. LaFlure stated it was \$26 million. Mr. LaFlure urged the municipalities to submit figures for flood damages to him as soon as possible.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Jamie Schrammel, Fire Chief for the City of Glens Falls, who requested endorsement from the Board for their request for a permanent Certificate of Need and operating authority from the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) in order to continue ambulance services provided by the Glens Falls Fire Department. The ambulance services, he said, had replaced private agency services in 2009 and evidenced inter-municipal cooperation which was in line with Emergency Medical Services' (EMS) philosophy. He said the collaboration of services was cost effective and efficient, thereby improving public health and safety. Furthermore, he apprised, it offered the best use of resources throughout the region and as Fire Chief, allowed him the ability to apply the control required to ensure adequate EMS services for the long term. The Certificate, he noted, must be changed from a municipal Certificate of Need to a Standard Certificate, necessitating a public hearing.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously endorsing the request from the City of Glens Falls Fire Department for a permanent Certificate of Need and operating authority from the NYS DOH, in order to provide a comprehensive EMS system in the City of Glens Falls.

Pertaining to staffing, Mr. LaFlure asked the Committee to review the position of OES Director for full-time status. He stated he had met with Mr. Dusek and Sheriff York to discuss the matter which was critical to the operations of the Department. Mr. Dusek stated that cost was the mitigating factor and he acknowledged the challenges faced by the Department operating with insufficient staff, which could not continue indefinitely. Mr. LaFlure stated that the Department would manage until the next budget process, when he urged that the issue be addressed and resolved. Mr. Thomas expressed his support to move the issue forward and Mr. Monroe suggested that a small group be formed to brainstorm ideas to bring to the Committee. Mr. Loeb asked why the matter could not be advanced at this time and Mr. Geraghty advised that the departmental structure had been unsatisfactory; unanticipated circumstances had arisen; and the position had evolved significantly from its original design. Mr. Girard recognized Mr. LaFlure's myriad skill set and pointed out that he had consistently and professionally carried out his duties. He said it would be challenging to supplement all of the duties Mr. LaFlure handled including both with the Sheriff Communications and the OES. Mr. Girard noted the comparison to Washington County's OES, and he cited Mr. LaFlure's broad knowledge and consistent efforts which effectively solved many communications problems for Warren County.

With regard to the Conklinville Dam scenario, Mr. LaFlure noted complaints received by Mr. Stec's Office. He advised that the OES had decided that Warren County residents need not be notified of

the situation. He stated that Fire Departments and Town Supervisors were notified per the Dam's Emergency Action Plan. He explained that the notification decision was made by himself, Sheriff York, Amy Manney, Assistant OES Director, and those supervising the dam at the time. Mr. LaFlure informed that some residents with properties on the water voiced their preference to be notified in this circumstance. Sheriff York noted that Hyper-Reach services were instrumental in this type of scenario.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Girard, Mr. Bentley adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist