

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **SHERIFF & COMMUNICATIONS**

DATE: **APRIL 26, 2007**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS PRESENT:
SUPERVISORS BENTLEY	SHERIFF CLEVELAND
VANNESS	HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE &
O'CONNOR	FISCAL SERVICES
BELDEN	PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MASON	JOAN SADY, CLERK
HASKELL	SUPERVISORS CAIMANO
	GERAGHTY
COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:	KENNY
SUPERVISOR STEC	TESSIER
	TODD LUNT, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
	AMANDA ALLEN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Bentley called the meeting of the Sheriff & Communications Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Haskell, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2007 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Larry Cleveland, Sheriff, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff Cleveland apprised that agenda item number one pertained to a resolution request asking for an amendment to Local Law No. 2 of 2001 entitled "A Local Law Providing for the Mandatory Routing of All Wireless 911 Calls", to add language prohibiting unattended auto-dialers from using the 911 system. He explained that while he wanted to make the 911 system available to both wireless and wirelines, he felt the use of unattended auto-dialing machines should be prohibited, because once these systems were activated it was very difficult to disconnect from them.

Mr. O'Connor asked if these measures had been taken previously and Sheriff Cleveland replied that they had; however, he explained, new auto-dialing system technology had arisen and the Sheriff's Office had no current authority to enforce their removal from the accepted calls.

Mr. VanNess asked if these auto-dialer systems were similar to the Lifeline system and Sheriff Cleveland replied that they were not. He apprised that the Lifeline system maintained live operators who contacted the 911 Call Center when help was needed by their clients and there was no issue with that system. Mr. Caimano asked if the Sheriff's Office was able to clearly differentiate between the auto-dialer and Lifeline systems and Sheriff Cleveland replied affirmatively.

Mr. Haskell asked if the amendment would eliminate responses to automatic burglar and fire alarm calls as well, and Sheriff Cleveland replied that these calls would be addressed; however, they should not be presented by an unattended auto-dialing system. Sheriff Cleveland explained that all home alarm alerts were supposed to be sent to a private vendor who would then contact the 911 Call Center via a live operator. He said that the issue arose from the availability of auto-dialing systems which could be purchased and programmed by the consumer to dial the 911 Call Center if an emergency, such as a fire, arose while they were not at home. In these cases, Sheriff Cleveland apprised, the auto-dialer would continuously dial 911 with only an automated message when answered, and these automated systems were typically very difficult to disconnect from.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve the resolution request to amend Local Law No. 2 of 2001 to add language prohibiting unattended auto-dialers from using the 911 system and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 18th Board meeting. *A copy of the Resolution Request is on file with the minutes.*

Proceeding with the agenda review, Sheriff Cleveland stated that the Town of Warrensburg had offered space in the Warrensburg Senior Citizens Center for use as a Sheriff's Station. He explained that manpower and vehicles would be reassigned to this location and the only cost to the County would be for telephone and computer necessities. Sheriff Cleveland advised that the Town of Warrensburg would fund all of the utility and renovation costs for the additional Station and they hoped the new site could be established prior to the upcoming Memorial Day holiday.

Motion was made by Mr. Haskell, seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried unanimously to authorize Sheriff Cleveland to move forward with the addition of a Sheriff's Station in the Town of Warrensburg.

Agenda item number three, Sheriff Cleveland advised, pertained to the 2006 Annual Statistical Report for the Sheriff's Office and he distributed copies of this report to the Committee members. *A copy of the Report is on file with the minutes.* Sheriff Cleveland noted that overall most of the statistical numbers reflected in the report had risen from the prior year. Referring to the Correction Division portion of the report, Sheriff Cleveland pointed out that the average daily population of the jail was 153 persons. He noted that had the new facility not been built, they would have been forced to board-out inmates due to space constriction, and he estimated those costs would have been in the neighborhood of \$1.7 million.

Mr. Belden asked Sheriff Cleveland if any inmates had been boarded-out and Sheriff Cleveland replied that it had been necessary only for special cases where they were required to send inmates to the Forensic Medicine Unit in Albany. Mr. Mason asked if there was any issues with space for female inmates and Sheriff Cleveland replied in the negative.

Mr. Haskell stated that accounting for the \$844,784 received from the boarding of prisoners from other Counties and the \$1.7 million saved by not having to board-out inmates approximately \$2.5

million had been saved which was remarkable.

Mr. Belden asked if the Essex County facility had been re-opened and Sheriff Cleveland replied that it had not and their prisoners were still being boarded in the Warren County Jail; he added that a time frame had not been estimated for the re-opening of the facility. Sheriff Cleveland noted that they had begun boarding inmates from Hamilton County in the past week also.

Mr. O'Connor stated that extensive conversation had been held in the past with respect to constructing an additional pod for inmate housing and he said that from the statistical report once could surmise that the additional space was not needed immediately. Sheriff Cleveland agreed and he noted that it would be at least five years before they would experience space constriction such that it would limit the number of prisoners boarded-in from other Counties, and a few years after that before they would have to consider boarding-out Warren County inmates.

Referring to the portion of the report entitled Security Services, Mr. Caimano asked what the 'Clients Screened' caption pertained to and Sheriff Cleveland advised that these numbers represented the flow of visitors passing through the security stations upon entry of the Social Services Building and the Assigned Council Department in the Municipal Center. He stated that these numbers did not necessarily reflect the actual number of individuals visiting the Departments, as some returned several times, requiring additional trips through the magnetometers located at each point. Sheriff Cleveland asked the Committee to review the numbers and descriptions listed in the 'Incidents' portion of that page, which reflected that between the two security stations there had been twenty unruly subjects, seven arrests, one weapon confiscated and on thirty-four occasions a law enforcement agent was required to monitor client interviews as the Warren County employee was not comfortable dealing with these people alone. Mr. VanNess stated that these figures represented that the concerns voiced by the Warren County employees with respect to their safety had been valid. Mr. Caimano suggested that this report be made public in some manner to reflect that the security concerns voiced, and opposed by some parties, had been well founded.

Mr. O'Connor stated that in the prior County Facilities meeting held to disclose the needs of the proposed Health and Human Services Building, this security information had not been available. He suggested that it might be worthwhile to disclose these figures at the next public meeting to impress the need for increased security in County buildings.

Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative and Fiscal Services, asked if these figures would increase with the use of the magnetometer by the Probation Office, which was scheduled to begin shortly, and Sheriff Cleveland advised that they most assuredly would. Mr. Caimano stated that from the report it was very hard to determine what catastrophic events had been avoided by the increased security, although he was sure that some had. Sheriff Cleveland agreed, stating that the one weapon confiscated had actually been a firearm. He added that the number of knives, scissors, razors and other such items confiscated was in the hundreds; however, they were not listed because these items were not considered deadly weapons until used with the intent to harm.

Discussion ensued.

Returning to the agenda review, Sheriff Cleveland apprised that item four referred to the Budget Performance Report which had been mailed to each of the Committee members on April 16th; *a copy of this information is on file with the minutes*. He noted that he had brought additional copies of the Report to the meeting if any of the Committee members were interested in obtaining another copy. Sheriff Cleveland stated that the Sheriff's Office was under Budget in all codes.

In closing, Sheriff Cleveland advised that a short executive session was necessary to discuss employee contract negotiations.

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

Executive session was declared from 9:46 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.

Committee reconvened. Pursuant to executive session, motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to authorize the County Attorney to act as the designated representative of the County for the PBA (Police Benevolent Association) negotiations.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Mason and seconded by Mr. VanNess, Mr. Bentley adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Allen, Legislative Office Specialist