

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
BENTLEY
THOMAS
FRASIER
STRAINER

OTHERS PRESENT:

BUD YORK, SHERIFF
BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
AMY DREXEL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
KAREN PUTNEY, ADMINISTRATOR, FIRE SAFETY & BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT
DANIEL STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
MASON
LOEB
MCDEVITT
WILLIAM VANNESS, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY
JON ALEXANDER, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS GIRARD
CONOVER

Mrs. Wood called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, 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.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Karen Putney, Administrator of Fire Safety & Building Code Enforcement, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Addressing Monthly Reports, Mrs. Putney stated that as of February 24, 2012, the number of permits issued had declined from the prior year by 44%; and revenues had increased by 3% due to the number of fire safety inspections completed. She noted that in order to meet projected budget revenue, an 18% increase must be realized. With regard to the Budget Performance Report for 2011, she reported revenues were only slightly under projections and she explained that a correction from the Treasurer's Office with regard to salaries had been necessary; thereby resulting in a negative part-time salaries figure, as a transfer of funds was no longer possible.

Mrs. Putney advised that a copy of the mandated New York State Division of Code Enforcement & Administration Report was included in the agenda packets.

Continuing with her agenda review, Mrs. Putney summarized the report of 2011 Building Inspections; a copy of which is on file with the minutes. She reported that the three part-time inspectors were working hard and averaged 21 Building inspections per day.

Further regarding Fire Safety Inspections, Mrs. Putney stated that an informational letter had been sent to businesses summarizing inspection requirements and fees, and she explained that up to three phone calls would be made to those not responding to the letter; followed by a visit to the place of business of non-responders.

As there was no further business for Fire Safety and Building Codes, privilege of the floor was extended to Brian LaFlure, Director for 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 requested permission for Amy Drexel, Deputy Director, to attend the second segment of a two-part training at the Federal Emergency Management Association's (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama from May 6 - 10, 2012, the cost of which was covered by FEMA.

Motion was made by Mr. Strainer, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request for out-of-state travel as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 16, 2012 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaFlure presented a request for a contract with Emergency Vehicle Upfitters for vehicle equipment installation services, for the term commencing March 16, 2012 and terminating with 30 days written notice by either party, at a rate of \$60 per hour.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Strainer and carried unanimously to approve the request for a contract as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 16, 2012 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. LaFlure presented a request to submit the Local Emergency Interoperability and Terrorism Preparedness Grant to the New York State Homeland Security Office, for the term commencing September 1, 2012 and terminating August 31, 2014, for a total amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request to apply for the Local Emergency Interoperability and Terrorism Preparedness grant as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 16, 2012 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaFlure presented a request to amend the 2012 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$4,586, to reflect the receipt of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Strainer and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2012 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.*

The final item, Mr. LaFlure stated, was the Emergency Services Center update. He thanked the Committee for their support of the project and stated the Center was expected to be completed on time. Mr. Thomas asked the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Washington County and Mrs. Wood stated a meeting was scheduled for later today and the MOU was expected to be completed on time.

Interjecting, Mr. Loeb referenced the Distracted Driving initiative presented recently by the District Attorney's Office with regard to cell phone use, and he opined that the County lacked sufficient incentive in terms of enforcement and ticket issuance, as the State collected the majority of the revenue from such fines. Mr. Loeb suggested an analysis be made in order to determine the highest State revenue collected from fines within a three year period. Subsequently, he said, the high figure could be set, and an amount such as 5% be established, which would represent the portion of the revenue which the County would collect for revenues above the established amount. As a result,

he said, the State would not lose money, and the County would have the incentive to issue more tickets for the purpose of maintaining optimum public safety standards.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Sheriff York who presented a request to fill the position of Cook Manager, Base salary of \$34,648, Employee No. 9426, due to retirement. He stated it would also be necessary to backfill any position resulting from the promotion.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill the vacant position of Cook Manager as outlined above and to refer same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position is on file with the minutes.*

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Wood adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist