

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: JULY 30, 2012

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Wood
Girard
Bentley
Thomas
Conover
Frasier
Strainer

Others Present:

Bud York, Sheriff
Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator/Director, Office of Emergency Services
Karen Putney, Administrator, Fire Safety & Building Code Enforcement
Tom McKinney, Fire Safety Inspector
John Pagano, Fire Safety Inspector
Paul Dusek, Administrator
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Kevin Geraghty, Budget Officer
Supervisors: Kenny
Loeb
Mason
Monroe
Taylor
Vanselow
Don Lehman, *The Post Star*
Thom Randall, *Adirondack Journal*
Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist

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. Strainer and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the prior Committee, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Karen Putney, Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Administrator, who requested that the pending item regarding fleet vehicles be carried forward. Providing a brief update, Mrs. Putney stated that department revenue had increased by 40% from the prior year due to ongoing fire safety inspections, and building permit issuance had decreased by approximately 5%. Mrs. Putney distributed copies of the Fire Safety Facts sheet, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. She summarized the fact sheet as follows:

▶ 2011: Revenues from Fire Safety Inspections	\$14,100
▶ 2012: Revenues from Fire Safety Inspections	\$25,350
▶ Revenues: Fire Safety Inspections 06/01/11 - 05/31/12	\$29,475
▶ 2011: Total Fire Safety Inspections	265
▶ 2012: Total Fire Safety Inspections to date	313
▶ Fire Safety Inspections 06/01/11 - 05/31/12	479

Mrs. Putney said her goal was to complete 500 Fire Safety Inspections by year end, which would exceed the current record of 479 for a one year period.

Mrs. Putney introduced Fire Safety Inspectors Tom McKinney, a Volunteer Firefighter for the Town of Lake George, and John Pagano with the Glens Falls Fire Department. She commended them for their work in carrying out the inspections and establishing and maintaining a positive rapport with the general public making the inspection program well received overall.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Tom McKinney, who said their mission included three priorities; to first address businesses which were congregate sites, to confirm or establish emergency evacuation procedures, and to make the area as safe as possible for firefighters in the event of an emergency. Mr. McKinney advised that inspections included an educational approach to businesses and their staff, for long term results.

Privilege of the floor was extended to John Pagano, who explained that high hazard facilities and seasonal businesses were addressed first. He concurred that education was an important aspect of their overall mission, and noted that many businesses had not been inspected in the past. Mr. Pagano expounded the core issues were primary hazards, evacuation, sources of ignition, and basic public safety.

In terms of findings, Mr. Pagano said a common hazard was overcrowding in apartments adjoined to business premises. He noted that some items, such as fire sprinkler system repairs required immediate correction, where additional time could be allowed for other matters.

Mr. McKinney advised that detailed reports were reviewed with the business owners and the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Office served as a resource for customers. Moving forward, he stated, their plan included the inspection of multi unit structures, such as large apartment complexes and storage buildings, and work was underway to develop a service vendor list as an additional resource for businesses. Mr. McKinney stated they also hoped to carry out presentations for fire chiefs and firefighters.

Mrs. Putney thanked Messrs. McKinney, Pagano and Martin Fitzgerald, who was not present today, for their dedication and hard work. Mr. Strainer inquired about sprinkler systems and general follow-through and Mr. McKinney explained that sprinkler systems were not mandatory for all buildings and requirements depended on occupancy loads; however, he said, buildings with sprinkler systems in place were required to maintain them. In terms of follow-up, Mr. McKinney stated follow-up visits were made for routine problems which required correction, such as exit lighting and expired extinguishers and he noted additional time could be granted based on the hazard level.

Mr. Girard asked if there was a database used by the Department and Mrs. Putney stated that inspection records were maintained in paper files and hand carried to the inspection sites. Mr. Pagano cited the database used by the Town of Queensbury which was impressive and he noted their staff had been notably helpful and informative during their start-up period.

Paul Dusek, County Administrator, praised Mrs. Putney and her staff for the measurable progress made in carrying out fire safety inspections and he commended them for their excellent approach to the process. He noted that this was a true success story, initiated by Mrs. Putney. Two years ago, he added, there were very few inspections completed due to the lack of necessary staff. Mr. Dusek recommended that Mrs. Putney communicate her software needs to the Committee for discussion and possible future action.

This concluded the Fire Prevention & Building Codes portion of the Committee meeting and privilege of the floor was extended to Bud York, Sheriff, who distributed copies of Sheriff & Communications agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is also on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented a request to extend the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Horicon for Marine Patrol coverage on Schroon Lake from May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013, for a total amount of \$2,500.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request for an intermunicipal agreement as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17, 2012 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Sheriff York presented a request for Michael Gates, Albert Maday, Marlo Barboza and Daniel Clifford to attend the New York State Sheriff's Association Jail Administration Continuing Training Program, in Saratoga Springs, NY, from September 25 - 27, 2012.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request for travel as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented a request to amend the 2012 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$1,600 to reflect the receipt of monies from the Sunkiss Balloon Festival (\$600) and Victim Impact Panel Law Enforcement (\$1,000).

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Bentley 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.*

Sheriff York informed that the New York State Department of Parks & Recreation had offered the Sheriff's Department the use of a 25 foot marine patrol vessel, for an open ended term, at no cost. Due to the fact that the boat had to be picked up within five days of the initial offer, he advised that he informed Chairwoman Wood prior to arranging the pick-up. Sheriff York stated the County could use the boat as long as needed and must return it when no longer used.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Thomas to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Parks & Recreation, for the use of a patrol boat.

A short discussion ensued with regard to insurance coverage and Mr. Dusek stated he would discuss the matter with the County's insurance agent.

Mrs. Wood called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve the use of a marine patrol boat on loan from the NYS Department of Parks & Recreation, for an open-ended term based on the needs of the Warren County Sheriff's Department, at no cost, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17, 2012 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York stated his final request was to discuss the purchase of two or three additional canines using Asset Forfeiture funds. The canines, he said, would be used at the jail, for patrol, and bomb detection. Mr. Dusek stated that activities associated with asset forfeiture monies were within the jurisdiction of the Sheriff, and he noted, the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) contract provided for multiple dogs as long as asset forfeiture funds were available. Sheriff York advised he would seek permission from the NYS Police for training which he anticipated for early 2013. He said the only cost to the County was an estimated \$400 for meals during the six month training period.

Mr. Girard cautioned that the priority use of asset forfeiture funds was for vehicles and Sheriff York explained that the purchase of vehicles was underway and the canine expenses would not interfere with or prohibit vehicle expenditures.

This concluded the Sheriff & Communications portion of the Public Safety Committee meeting and privilege of the floor was extended to Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator/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.*

Mr. LaFlure presented a request for Amy Drexel, Deputy Director, to attend the Enhanced Threat and Risk Assessment training in Oriskany, NY, from September 19 - 20, 2012. He said some expenses would be paid for by the State and the remainder through the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Strainer and carried unanimously to approve the request for travel as outlined. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaFlure presented a request for himself and James Schrammel, Hazard Materials Coordinator, to attend the 2012 Hazardous Materials Leadership Forum at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, New York, from September 7 - 8, 2012, with expenses paid for by New York State. He explained that the County's HAZMAT equipment which was stored in trailers and previously maintained by the State, would now be the responsibility of the counties, and the training would address same. Mr. LaFlure estimated the annual cost of equipment maintenance to be approximately \$3,000 to be paid for using State grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mrs. Strainer and carried unanimously to approve the request for travel as outlined. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

Pertaining to the new Training Center in the Town of Queensbury, Mr. LaFlure presented a request to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute an easement with National Grid for the proposed access road to pass under the National Grid power lines adjoining the Training Center property.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously authorizing the Chairman to execute an easement with National Grid as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17, 2012 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

The next request, Mr. LaFlure stated, pertained to a change in bookkeeping for grant records which resulted from a recent State audit. He presented a request to amend the 2012 County Budget to increase and decrease estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$33,202 as it was necessary to create three new general ledger account codes for the NYS Department of Homeland Security Grant funds for fiscal years 2008 through 2010, where funds had previously been co-mingled. Mr. LaFlure stated that Robert Lynch, Deputy Treasurer and Fiscal Assistant to the Administrator, assisted with the establishment of new budget codes.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request to Amend the 2012 County Budget to increase and decrease estimated revenue and appropriations in the amount of \$33,202 and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request to Amend County Budget is on file with the minutes.*

With regard to the new Training Center, Mr. LaFlure thanked the Committee for their support and stated the ribbon cutting event had been a success and noted positive feedback received from the Department of State. Mr. LaFlure said he would continue to pursue other grant opportunities and he informed that Standard Operating Policies had been sent to all fire chiefs. He noted the Town of Queensbury Fire Department had donated a generator to the Center.

Concluding his agenda review, Mr. LaFlure addressed the recent Boil Water Advisory pertaining to the Glens Falls City water supply. He said a conference call was held with key decision makers such as the New York State Department of Health and Glens Falls Hospital, who concluded by consensus that the public be notified. Mr. LaFlure said he proceeded to notify the public utilizing the Hyper-Reach notification system. He said the first notification caused some distress and confusion because it went not only to the City of Glens Falls residents, but also to the Town of Queensbury residents as some Queensbury residents use the City's water supply. He said a second, more specific message was transmitted which added clarity and alleviated concerns. He advised that in the future he would review a hand script with Mr. Dusek prior to transmittal. Reflecting on the positive aspects of the incident, he stated the Hyper-Reach public notification system had operated properly.

There being no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist