

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
GIRARD
BENTLEY
TAYLOR
FRASIER
STRAINER

OTHERS PRESENT:

NATHAN YORK, SHERIFF
BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS KENNY
LOEB
MCDEVITT
VANSELOW

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR MONTESI

AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
BENNETT DRISCOLL, GLENS FALLS COMMON COUNCIL
JAMES BROCK, GLENS FALLS COMMON COUNCIL
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. Strainer, seconded by Mrs. Frasier 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 Brian LaFlure, Director of the Office of Emergency Services (OES), 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 to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$7,516 to correct a bookkeeping error in connection with the Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) New York State Homeland Security Program grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2013 County Budget as outlined above and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request to Amend County Budget form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaFlure requested permission for Amy Drexel, Emergency Services Coordinator, to attend the Federal Emergency Management Association's (FEMA) Continuity of Operations Planning Train-the-Trainer course in Emmitsburg, Maryland from April 1 - 5, 2013, which would allow Ms. Drexel to attain her Professional Continuity Practitioner certification.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the out-of-State travel request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 15, 2013 Board Meeting. *Copies the resolution request and Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention forms are on file with the minutes.*

With regard to the Communications vehicle located in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. LaFlure advised that the vehicle pick up date had changed from 2012 to 2013 and therefore, he said, the funds set aside for

2012 had been returned to the general fund (\$2,300). He presented a request to transfer funds from Contingent Fund - Other Payments/Contributions, to Civil Defense - Travel/Education/Conference, in the amount of \$1,011.07 to cover the cost to transport of the Communications vehicle.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Strainer to approve request for a transfer of funds as presented.

Mr. Strainer asked if the money was needed immediately and Mr. LaFlure stated he could conduct further review in consideration of other bills coming due at this time. JoAnn McKinstry, Assistant to the County Administrator, stated the Contingent Fund was available for these types of unanticipated expenses that may arise throughout the year. A short discussion ensued.

Mrs. Wood called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds as outlined above and the to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request for Transfer of Funds is on file with the minutes.*

Addressing topics for discussion, Mr. LaFlure said he was very pleased with the new Communications/Command Center vehicle and he thanked the Board of Supervisors and the Purchasing Department for their support and assistance which was instrumental to the project. The current challenge, he stated, was to identify a storage space for the vehicle.

With regard to ice jams along the Hudson River, Mr. LaFlure informed that his Office conducted daily monitoring of the river and he noted there were road problems in Thurman.

Pertaining to the Training Center, Mr. LaFlure informed that Washington County had given another container to the Training Center on which a roof simulator would be installed within thirty days. Overall, he stated, usage of the Training Center was very good and the generator which was paid for with grant funds would be installed subsequent to the roof simulator installation.

Mr. LaFlure informed that at the request of Paul Dusek, County Administrator, he attended a public hearing on the Moreland Commission on Utility Storm Preparation & Response held earlier this week in Lake Placid, NY. He said the Governor had requested the hearing in order to determine the reason for operational inadequacies during Hurricane Sandy and to seek input from emergency services managers. The results, he said, would be available in several months. Mr. LaFlure said that the State wanted increased leverage over utility companies; thereby charging fines for errors and he cautioned that new fines would be subsidized by increased utility costs. He added that the State was also reviewing the operational integrity of the Public Safety Commission.

Sheriff York asked Mr. LaFlure, who was a member of the NYS Governance Board, if he would report on NYS 911 Interoperability Communications. Mr. LaFlure explained that the Governance Board was made up of the Governor's appointees whose purpose was to oversee the New York State Office of Emergency Communications which included grants and operations. After a long delay, he said, \$102 million in grant funds was awarded to counties for radio systems upgrades. He noted that Warren County had not applied for the radio systems monies; however, he advised, he had applied for the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) grant for 911 Back-Up Center upgrades, and was still awaiting the award notification. He said he anticipated an additional \$75 million in grant funds for Interoperability Communications to be awarded in June. Mr. LaFlure added that the State had retained the revenue from monthly wireless customer fees, which was originally intended for the counties to help maintain the 911 Centers.

This concluded the OES portion of the Public Safety Committee meeting and privilege of the floor was extended to Sheriff York, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Sheriff York presented a request for a contract with the Village of Lake George, for law enforcement services from May 24, 2013 through December 31, 2013, for a total amount not to exceed \$20,500.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the agreement as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 15, 2013 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented a request to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$250 to reflect the receipt of training funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2013 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.*

Next, Sheriff York presented a request for the five members of the Sheriff's Dive Unit to attend Aquatic Death & Homicidal Drowning Investigations Training, to be held in Rockland County, NY on March 5 & 6, 2013, at a room rate of \$105 per room per night.

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

Next, Sheriff York presented a request for Investigator Comeau to attend the Asset Forfeiture Training in Quantico, Virginia, from February 25 - March 1, 2013.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, 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 15, 2013 Board Meeting. *Copies of the resolution request and Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention forms are on file with the minutes.*

Pertaining to the consolidation of police services with the City of Glens Falls, Sheriff York read Resolution No. 68 of 2013, adopted by the Glens Falls Common Council at their meeting held on February 12, 2013:

Resolved that, the Common Council hereby request that Warren County and the Warren County Sheriff's Office develop a non-binding, conceptual study as to the manner in which comprehensive Police staffing would be provided to the City of Glens Falls by the Sheriff's Office and the anticipated cost thereof; and further requested the Sheriff prepare this study at no cost to the City and that Sheriff York provide the City with the current net cost to City taxpayers of the present Sheriff's Road Patrol.

Sheriff York explained that the study was essentially bi-lateral and in addition to his report, would include a no-cost conceptual study by the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), which could take six to eight months for completion. Mr. Taylor expressed his support for the study, which would provide necessary information for City residents. Sheriff York stated that his Office could compile information with regard to the staff required to carry out the work currently done by the Glens Falls

Police Department (GFPD). He cautioned that a cost-study would be extremely complex due to the GFPD and the Warren County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Police Benevolent Association (PBA) negotiated contracts which included benefits and possible mergers/settlements. Therefore, he said, he could not provide cost estimates but could compile staff numbers. He further explained that the WCSO could not take over paid operations from an employed union without negotiations. Sheriff York recommended that the County seek grant funding for more extensive consolidation and implementation studies which would include information on union negotiations and noted that Chautauqua County received between \$60,000 and \$80,000 for their studies and \$400,000 for the consolidation implementation.

Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, stated that he had a copy of the report from the Center for Government Research, Inc. (CGR), completed for Jamestown, NY. He noted review of the comprehensive and detailed report offered a better understanding of the cost. He said the study would cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000 and include an emphasis on union labor and benefits costs, as well as provide various scenarios, models and options. He advised that subsequent to the receipt of the DCJS report, in concert with the staffing report from the WCSO, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the consolidation study could ensue. Mr. Auffredou noted there were grant funds available for such consolidation studies.

James Brock, Glens Falls Common Council, stated that he proposed the idea and noted there was a strong interest in the City of Glens Falls to maintain the same level of protection and also reduce taxes. The level of interest, he asserted, warranted the studies. Mr. Brock further advised that the facts were necessary for the City residents to review, and a phased-in consolidation effort over many years could be considered. The current operational costs of the GFPD, he said, is \$3.9 million.

A discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to authorize the Sheriff to compile a comprehensive police staffing report, and to initiate a conceptual consolidation study from the DCJS, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 15, 2013 Board Meeting.

Lastly, Sheriff York informed that City of Glens Falls Mayor Diamond had requested assistance from the WCSO for weekend foot patrols in the City. The Sheriff said he advised the Mayor that due to limited manpower, it would be necessary to charge for services, and he noted the Village of Lake George paid for foot patrol services.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Strainer and seconded by Mr. Bentley, Mrs. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist