

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: APRIL 28, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
GIRARD
TAYLOR
FRASIER
BROCK
SEEBER
SIMPSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

BRIAN LAFLORE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
AMY DREXEL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
BUD YORK, WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SAMANTHA HOGAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Bud York, Warren County Sheriff, who distributed copies of his agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the Sheriff's agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the Agenda review, Sheriff York presented the following requests:

- 1) Request to authorize out-of-State travel for Sargent DiFiore and Patrol Officers Carpenter, Swan and St. John to attend the NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Tech Conference in State College, Pennsylvania on June 24-26, 2014, with the travel costs to be covered by grant funding.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the travel request, as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 16th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 2) Request to transfer ownership of a 2000 Ford Taurus Station Wagon from the Warren County Sheriff's Office to the Glens Falls Police Department at no charge; Sheriff York noted that the Glens Falls Police Department would assume all insurance and repair costs for the vehicle.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Brock and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 16th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 3) Request to amend County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$600 to reflect the receipt of funding from the Warren-Washington County Victim Impact panel for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) enforcement and training.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 4) Request to amend the County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in

the amount of \$425,000 to reflect the transfer of unused 2013 Interoperable Communications Grant funding to the 2014 Budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Ms. Seeber and carried unanimously approve the request and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 5) Request to extend the intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Horicon for Marine Law Enforcement on Schroon Lake for the term commencing May 1, 2014 and expiring December 31, 2014 at a cost of \$2,500.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to extend the agreement, as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 16th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 6) Request to fill the vacant positions of: Senior Communications Officer #2 (annual salary \$47,648), due to retirement; Communications Officer #1 (annual salary \$35,766) due to resignation; and Communications Officer #15 (annual salary \$35,766), due to promotion.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the requests to fill all three vacant positions and refer same to the Personnel Committee. *Copies of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position forms are on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Topics for Discussion section of the Agenda, Item 1, Sheriff York stated that no Correction's Officer positions had been filled since the last meeting. Item 2, Sheriff York stated, pertained to a donation received from the Ben Osborne Fund, which a number of schools within Warren County, as well as some from the Greenwich School District, had contributed to, for the purchase of a protective vest for Canine Officer Ozzie of the K-9 Unit. Sheriff York stated that \$4,562.12 had been collected and donated, which exceeded the cost of the vest. He advised that on April 27, 2014 the Ben Osborne Fund held their annual fund raiser, where he was presented with another check in the amount of \$42.00. Sheriff York said that they would need to amend the County Budget to appropriate the monies to the K-9 Unit fund and he noted that the Budget included a Code for local donations.

Paul Dusek, County Administrator, opined that a new account should be created because donated funds could only be used for a specific purpose. He suggested that Sheriff York speak with Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, to review the rules relative to this situation and possibly speak with the Attorney General and the State Comptroller's Office, if necessary, to be sure that the County Treasurer established the appropriate account for the funds. Mr. Dusek said that a resolution should be prepared to properly address this matter at the next Board meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the County Budget to include the funds donated to the K-9 Unit and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Wood noted that area children had become very involved in this effort and said she had seen letters and pictures sent to Ozzie and the K-9 Unit; she added that Ozzie would be visiting the schools.

This concluded the review of the Sheriff's Agenda. 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 OES agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the Agenda review, Mr. LaFlure presented the request to reappoint members to the Warren County Emergency Medical Service Advisory Board, as per the chart included in the agenda, for a term commencing May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 16th Board Meeting; *a copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was then extended to Amy Drexel, Deputy Director of the OES, who advised the Committee that through the Codification Project, Resolution No. 64 of 1974, which pertained to establishing a policy in relation to shelters for nuclear fallout, had been brought to her attention. She said that after a few months of research and discussions with Mr. Auffredou and various State Officials and Department of Public Works (DPW) and OES staff, it was determined that this policy no longer had any merit and the resolution should be rescinded.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to rescind Resolution No. 64 of 1974 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 16th Board meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Item 3, Mr. LaFlure stated, included a request to apply for FY2014 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) funding in the amount of \$29,797. He advised this was a 50/50 matching grant and noted that the County's share of the funding was included in the 2014 Budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize the request as presented above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 16th Board meeting; *a copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Item 4, Mr. LaFlure said, was a request for funding in the amount of \$2,500 to be transferred to Budget Code A.3410 210 (Fire Prevention & Control, Furniture/Furnishings) for the purchase of new office furniture. Mr. LaFlure explained that he had recently spent ten days in the hospital due to a back injury, following which he had reached out to Mike Needham, of Needham Risk Management, to conduct an ergonomic survey of Mr. LaFlure's workspace, which had determined that his work station needs to be replaced in an effort to reduce the potential for further injury. He stated that he contacted Charlie's Office Furniture and the cost to replace the furniture in his office would be \$2,500.

Mr. Girard asked if the \$2,500 was available within the existing Departmental budget, and Mr. LaFlure answered in the negative, stating that he was requesting additional funding. Ms. Seeber commented that she had noticed a significant amount of the furniture used throughout the Municipal Center Building was outdated; she said she felt that the County, as a whole, should look into updating some of the furnishings in an effort to be more proactive, rather than reactive, to avoid more of these types of injuries.

Mr. Brock asked if there were any grant opportunities available for in funding a study of this nature and he pointed out that it would likely incur a considerable cost to upgrade the furniture used by staff throughout the entire Municipal Center Building. Ms. Wood suggested referring the matter to Amy Clute, Self Insurance Administrator, to see if she might have some suggestions.

Motion was made by Ms. Seeber, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds, as outlined above and to refer same to the Finance Committee to determine a source of funding. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to Item 5, Mr. LaFlure presented a request for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$3,950 from Budget Code A.3645.4004 423, FY12 State Homeland Security Program-Telephone, to Budget Code A.3645.4004 250, State Homeland Security Program-Technical Equipment. He added that a transfer was needed to continue the purchasing process relative to the FY12 State Homeland Security Program Grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds, as outlined above and to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaFlure stated that the item listed under the Old Business section of the Agenda pertained to his prior request for the determination of a source of funding to conduct a shelter to house OES vehicles and equipment, the cost of which had been estimated by the DPW Engineering Division to be \$120,000. He explained that this request had been referred to the Finance Committee to determine a source of funding, but was tabled and then referred back to the Public Safety Committee. Mr. LaFlure said that he felt it would be helpful if he had some sketches or diagrams to provide to various vendors in seeking better estimates for the structure.

Ms. Seeber commented that OES and DPW staff should both put forth the effort to work together and develop building plans with a smaller price tag. Mr. LaFlure stated his opinion that the DPW staff did not seem interested in assisting with this project. Ms. Seeber asked Mr. Dusek to provide his opinion on the matter. Mr. Dusek stated that he felt part of this process was becoming confused in the Committee structure and said what should be happening was that the Public Safety Committee should vote on whether or not they felt that the building should be built and for what price, following which the issue would be referred to the DPW Engineering Division to determine if such a structure could be built for the price desired and plans drawn up accordingly. Once the plans were complete, Mr. Dusek advised this issue would be presented to the County Facilities Committee for approval and then to the Finance Committee to determine a source of funding. Mr. Dusek reiterated that the first step would be for the Public Safety Committee to determine what should be built and at what cost.

Mr. Girard stated he did not feel that the DPW Division was disinterested in assisting with the project. He noted that the DPW Engineering Division had established an estimate of \$120,000 for the structure which was presented to the Finance Committee; he added that the issue had been tabled by the Finance Committee due to the large expense. Mr. Girard apprised that he had visited other potential storage sites available and said that these could be considered as an alternative shelter for the time being. Mr. Girard stated one of the alternative sites suggested was the Perkins Recycling Building which would fit the needs for housing the OES equipment.

Mrs. Frasier stated that the Committee was in favor of building the new structure, but said \$120,000 was a little more than they wanted to spend. She stated that she believed the Finance Committee had tabled the issue because there were so many other unanticipated costs drawing from the Contingent Fund already.

Mr. LaFlure stated that he had spoken to some vendors seeking quotes for the structure and the prices he had received were much lower than the \$120,000 cost estimated; he added that he was not an engineer and would need assistance in developing structural plans. Mr. LaFlure said he would be happy to work with Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, to revisit this issue in an attempt to lower the construction costs. He said that if it was the wish of the Committee, he would be happy to comply with a decision to park the equipment at one of the storage locations currently available.

Ms. Wood stated that the Committee would like to revisit the issue of constructing a pole barn or some form of structure to house the OES equipment; she asked the Committee if they would like to

refer this issue to the County Facilities Committee, with the addendum that Mr. LaFlure be involved in the drafting of plans for the structure, as well as in contacting vendors to get more information for the Committee's review.

Mr. Brock said that he thought the Finance Committee had decided to delay this project until later in the year so that they could determine whether the County was fiscally able to finance the project. He stated there were major concerns regarding the decreasing funding available in light of many unanticipated expenses; however, he added, he felt the Committee should sort out the OES storage needs so that plans would be available if funding became available in the future.

Mr. Simpson requested more information about the Perkins Recycling location and Mr. Girard answered that the structure had formerly been used by a recycling company that had since left the location. He advised that another company was renting half of the building, leaving the other half available for storage of the OES equipment. Mr. Girard advised some walls would need to be constructed, lighting issues addressed and some exterior work completed to meet the storage needs, primarily relating to the ability to pull the OES trailers in and out of the space. Mr. Girard said that he and some DPW staff had visited the site and determined they could do some excavation to accommodate the trailers. He re-stated that he did not feel that DPW Division was not interested in the project and he noted that the lack of funding for the construction was the problem. Mr. Girard said he felt that at this time they should move forward in making preparations to store the OES equipment at the Perkins site so that the equipment was no longer exposed to the elements.

Ms. Seeber agreed she felt that utilizing the Perkins site was a good short term solution until the County was in a better financial position to consider construction of a new structure. She suggested that in the meantime, meetings between Mr. Dusek, Mr. LaFlure and Mr. Tennyson could be held to collaborate and get the ground work accomplished. She said that this would be a good use of time and resources to make progress on the future project the Committee had agreed upon.

Mr. Dusek asked if the Committee was in agreement that a structure was needed, and if so, what the cost for construction should be; alternatively, he said there were other available storage sites to consider, such as the Perkins Building. Mr. Dusek said that guidance, and a more defined request from the Committee, were necessary to present the matter to the County Facilities and Finance Committees. He stated that all three of the Committees would have to vote in favor of this initiative, and he said that as County Administrator, he was prepared to assist. He added it was his understanding that the Finance Committee had found the \$120,000 cost proposed to be very expensive and he said that if the structure could be built for the \$60,000 figure originally presented to the Public Safety Committee, the plans would probably be more likely to receive approval.

Mr. LaFlure stated that he had some reservations about storing the OES equipment at the Perkins Building because he felt the building's access points were not suitable. He asserted that he understood some excavation could be done to address this problem, but said he was also concerned that the Building was located further south in the County, which would make it difficult for him to work on the equipment and still be accessible in his office.

A discussion ensued, following which Chairman Geraghty stated that he would mediate between the two departments and provide a report to the Committee at their June meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee on motion made by Mrs. Frasier and seconded by Mr. Girard, Mrs. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Legislative Office Specialist