

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: JUNE 20, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS GERAGHTY
GIRARD
BROCK
SIMPSON
BRAYMER
SEEBER
MACDONALD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR MONTESI
VANSELOW

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

BUD YORK, SHERIFF
SHAWN LAMOUREE, UNDERSHERIFF

REPRESENTING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

JASON M. CARUSONE, ACTING DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MATT BURIN, 2ND ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PAULETTE HAYES, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

BRIAN REICHENBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISOR FRASIER

MCDEVITT

SOKOL

LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the June 20, 2017 meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2017/criminal/>

In the absence of Committee Chairman Montesi, Supervisor Geraghty, as Vice Chairman, called the meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee to order at 11:43 a.m.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Girard, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Shawn Lamouree, Undersheriff, who distributed copies of the Sheriff's agenda to the Committee; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Undersheriff Lamouree presented the following requests:

- 1) To amend the 2017 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$4,230.30 to reflect the receipt of two insurance recovery payments.

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

- 2) To fill the vacant position of Patrol Sergeant #7, Base Salary \$70,456, due to retirement.

- 3) To fill the vacant position of Patrol Officer TBD, Base Salary \$42,409.50, due to promotion.

Motion was made by Ms. Seeber, seconded by Mr. Simpson, and carried unanimously to approve both of the requests to fill vacant positions and forward same to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *Copies of the Notice of Intent to Fill Position forms are on file with the minutes.*

Continuing, Undersheriff Lamouree reviewed the Topics for Discussion portion of the agenda, as follows:

- A) Vacancies - Undersheriff Lamouree apprised there were currently five vacant Corrections Officer

positions and two vacant Corrections Sergeant positions; he informed they were awaiting Civil Service testing results to commence with the hiring process for these vacancies.

- B) Body Cameras - Undersheriff Lamouree informed the Patrol Division had been testing body cameras for the last two and a half years while researching and monitoring the costs for this equipment. He said they had obtained quotes from three of the largest camera providers: Safari Land (\$181,000); Axon Enterprise Inc., formerly Taser International (\$271,000); and Launch Guard (\$215,000). He advised that in addition to the equipment cost, an IT (Information Technology) employee would need to be hired and employed for five years in order to man the video footage, but noted funds were not available in the budget for such an expense. Given this information, Undersheriff Lamouree asked for the Committee's recommendation on whether or not to pursue the body cameras.

Mr. Girard said he was not interested in pursuing the matter at the present time in light of the County's other financial obligations. Ms. Braymer concurred with Mr. Girard's opinion. Ms. Seeber thanked Undersheriff Lamouree for researching the project and said it would be beneficial if the funding was available. She then asked if this would be a mandate in the future and what the State-wide recommendation was. Sheriff York replied that he was not aware of this being mandated equipment; he added the findings showed this effort was labor intensive and very costly. Mr. MacDonald commented there was a lot of national exposure with respect to body cameras due to multiple incidents, but there did not appear to be a big demand for them in Warren County. He suggested holding off until there was a need to make the purchase and Mr. Simpson concurred.

Mr. Brock advised he would like the study continued, as he said the standard had become using body cameras even though the cost was a big impediment; he suggested a trial use of the cameras. Undersheriff Lamouree responded that the Sheriff's Office had been testing the equipment and noted he did not foresee prices decreasing. He added that many agencies were doing away with the cameras due to the expense involved. Sheriff York pointed out that Undersheriff Lamouree's focus was on a national level. Ms. Braymer remarked since Warren County had not had any incidents that warranted body cameras they did not seem necessary. Mr. Sokol suggested removing the item from the pending items due to the cost involved and given that technology was changing. It was the consensus of the Committee to remove the item from Topics for Discussion.

Next, Undersheriff Lamouree said there was a question raised by Supervisors Braymer and MacDonald pertaining to the concern by the Mayor of Glens Falls about police presence and patrols at the Glens Falls Watershed properties. Mr. MacDonald questioned the recent party activity during Americade weekend and Sheriff York replied the incident he believed Mr. MacDonald was referring to included 20 kids having a bonfire; however he noted, there was no alcohol involved. He informed he sent a report to Mike Mender, Assistant to Glens Falls City Mayor, which included the narrative report from the officer indicating the party was cooperative and the Breathalyzer tests administered were negative, following which the officer was called away to a more emergent situation. He added that Mike Colvin, IT Director, had provided them with assistance so that moving forward they could track complaints for that location.

Mr. Geraghty apprised of the recent Chiefs show in Syracuse over the past weekend, during which there was information about the I Am Responding Software which was informative. He commended the County for purchasing the program.

Sheriff York reported he had obtained some figures pertaining to revenues and output for EMS, but he was not able to obtain all of the revenue information. He added it appeared to him as though the revenue outweighed taxpayer money for the County. Chairman Conover added that the Town of Bolton had a year-end report which showed a breakdown of all revenue for the rescue squad and he pointed out the fire department housed the rescue squad. A discussion ensued, following which Sheriff York indicated once he had obtained the final numbers he would provide them to Mr. Thomas.

Ms. Seeber thanked Sheriff York for allowing the Performance Evaluation Team the opportunity to meet

with an elected official and for the information he provided for crime statistics, as well as finances impacted by the "Raise the Age" initiative which had been emailed to all of the Board members.

Mr. Thomas inquired about the status of hiring a consultant for the radio tower construction. Undersheriff Lamouree replied the work had been delayed by the RFP development through the Purchasing Office; however, he said, he had just reviewed the revised RFP which would be going out shortly.

Ms. Braymer announced there would be a meeting on Thursday morning regarding the "Responsible Boating Initiative" she was working on along with Sheriff York and Jason Carusone, Acting District Attorney. She added that in collaboration with their initiative the Lake George Park Commission would also have a meeting during the weekend before July 4th. Sheriff York added the Sheriff's Department would be providing night patrol along with the Lake George Park Commission to watch for boaters under the influence.

There being no further Sheriff's business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Jason Carusone, Acting District Attorney, who distributed copies of two requests from the District Attorney's Office to the Committee; *copies of the requests are on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Carusone explained that Kate Hogan, District Attorney, had been appointed to the higher office of State Court of Claims Judge and therefore had subsequently resigned from her position of Warren County District Attorney. He advised the first request presented was for authorization to fill the District Attorney position, Annual Salary \$183,400, due to resignation.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Ms. Braymer, and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. Carusone presented a request to decrease the salary of First Assistant District Attorney from \$99,920 to \$93,000, effective retroactive to June 20, 2017 as well as to fill the vacant position due to promotion. He explained he planned to promote Matthew Burin to the First Assistant position and expounded upon Mr. Burin's accomplishments. Mr. Carusone explained he was requesting a reduction in the current salary in recognition of the difference in experience between himself and Mr. Burin.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the Table of Organization and Salary Schedule, as well as to fill the vacant position, and forward same to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Brock asked if the District Attorney's Office was short staffed due to Ms. Hogan's departure and Mr. Carusone replied in the affirmative; he added it was possible the District Attorney's Office could lose other attorneys that might move to the State level with Ms. Hogan.

Ms. Seeber thanked Mr. Carusone for being mindful of the County's efforts in trying to maintain a minimal budget as reflected by his consideration of years of experience, along with workload, when evaluating position salaries.

There being no further business to come before the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Girard and seconded by Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Montesi adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board