

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DATE: JUNE 22, 2020

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SEEBER  
LEGGETT  
BEATY  
DIAMOND  
DRISCOLL  
MCDEVITT  
SHEPLER

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE ASSIGNED COUNSEL OFFICE:  
JOY LAFOUNTAIN, ADMINISTRATOR  
ROBERT GREGOR, ESQ., SUPERVISING ATTORNEY  
REPRESENTING THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT:  
ROBERT IUSI, DIRECTOR  
AMY SECOR, JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISOR  
FRANK E. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER  
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER  
CONOVER  
FRASIER  
HOGAN  
SIMPSON  
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
CHRIS HANCHETT, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
GINELLE JONES, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES  
JIM LAFARR, WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF  
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

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Please note, the following contains a summarization of the June 22, 2020 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:

<https://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2020/criminal/>

*Note: As per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1: "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed". All Committee members attended the meeting by video conference, aside from Supervisors Diamond, McDevitt and Shepler who were physically present.*

As Vice Chair, Mr. Leggett called the meeting of the Criminal Justice Committee to order at 9:02 a.m. Mr. Leggett noted that although Ms. Seeber was present and listening in on the Zoom meeting, she was unable to Chair it and had asked him to do so for her. Ms. Seeber confirmed this was correct and thanked Mr. Leggett for stepping in.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Driscoll and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the Assigned Counsel and Probation agendas were distributed to those Committee members in attendance, those participating remotely accessed the agendas via the County website; copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Joy LaFountain, Assigned Counsel Administrator, who commenced her agenda review by presenting a request to amend the Supervising Attorney Contract (*authorized by Resolution No. 419 of 2019*) to increase the not to exceed amount from \$14,320 to \$28,800 to account for Year 2 funding, as well as to modify the account from which

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these funds are paid (*change from A.1170 440 to A.1170 470*).

Motion was made by Mr. Beaty, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Ms. LaFountain presented a request to amend the County Budget to accept funding provided by the OILS (*Office of Indigent Legal Services*) for Contract C#100052, Distribution #10, in the amount of \$23,648.50. Mr. Leggett inquired if the funding was for five years and Ms. LaFountain replied in the negative, informing the request was for grant funds. She noted the funds were used to pay the annual contract with the Legal Aid Society in the amount of \$15,000, as well as for purchases, membership fees and training.

Motion was made by Mr. Beaty, seconded by Mr. Driscoll and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request to amend the County Budget is on file with the minutes.*

There being no further Assigned Counsel business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Robert Iusi, *Probation Director*, who noted there were no action items to address and he provided an update on the Rainbow Project in the Juvenile Unit. He mentioned they did a great job with public relations and the program was going well, noting the majority of the work was done by Amy Secor, *Juvenile Probation Supervisor*, who was a hard working innovative employee. He advised in the past few years they had changed the way they did business which had helped during the COVID-19 pandemic. He turned the floor over to Ms. Secor, who remarked the program began during the third week of quarantine and she had acquired with Mr. Iusi if their meetings could be on Skype or Zoom and with his assurance she spoke to the County Attorney and she began the process. She informed by seeing the children on-line they could observe the condition of their homes and really determine how they were doing. She explained the Juvenile Unit had worked extensively on implementing restorative justice and circle type work with their youth and families. She said the PINS (*Person in Need of Supervision*) meetings were managed restoratively in a circle, adding the kids were used to circle work and were familiar with all of the officers in the unit. She indicated working in a circle provided a sense of community for them that helped them engage. She reported the Zoom meetings were held weekly and began with five youths, and after a few weeks the youths had asked if they could do something for the nursing homes and health care workers. She advised the kids had a good time painting the rainbow signs which they had received a lot of positive feedback for. She indicated she was going to make a collage of all the paintings and display it in the Juvenile Unit office.

Mr. Leggett inquired if Ms. Secor would speak about the restorative portion of the program. Ms. Secor informed they worked with Mediation Matters who trained all of the staff on restorative practices which she wanted to infiltrate into schools because it was evidence based to reduce recidivism rates, to restore the harm that was caused by a teacher or a victim of a crime. She indicated a key goal was to have the offender become part of the community rather than feel excommunicated from their environment. She apprised they were working with the City of Glens Falls School District on training with Mediation Matters by holding Zoom meetings, adding they were working hard on trying to make them a restorative justice schools. She explained all of her officers had to be involved and committed to make it work, expressing the program worked well and they would continue to do well.

Mr. Leggett thanked Ms. Secor for all of her hard work and Mr. Iusi did, as well.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee, Mr. Leggett declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board  
*As transcribed by Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist*