

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DATE: JULY 20, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: SEEBER
LEGGETT
BEATY
DIAMOND
DRISCOLL
MCDEVITT
SHEPLER

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE:
ROBERT IUSI, PROBATION DIRECTOR
AMY SECOR, JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISOR
REPRESENTING THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE:
MARCY FLORES, PUBLIC DEFENDER
ERIN BROTHERS, ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
REPRESENTING BIG BROTHERS & BIG SISTERS OF THE SOUTHERN
ADIRONDACKS:
BILL MOON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MEGAN FARRELL, PROGRAM SPECIALIST
FRANK THOMAS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN E. MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
RYAN DICKY, SECOND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
BRUNO
HOGAN
FRASIER
MAGOWAN
SIMPSON
STROUGH
MIKE COLVIN, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
TAMMIE DeLORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CHRIS HANCHETT, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
JIM LaFARR, WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
GINELLE JONES, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES
JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the, July 20, 2020 meeting of the Criminal Justice 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 of the Committee members in attendance participated via video or teleconference except for Supervisors Diamond, McDevitt and Shepler who were physically present.

Ms. Seeber called the meeting of the Criminal Justice Committee to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Copies of the Probation and Public Defender agendas were distributed to those in attendance and those participating virtually accessed the agendas via the Warren County website; *copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert Iusi, *Probation Director*, who presented a request to extend the contract with AutoMon for case management software maintenance and support in an amount not to exceed \$8,835.56 for the term commencing August 18, 2020 and terminating August 17, 2021, as well as to authorize automatic annual renewals so long as the contract cost does not exceed \$10,000. He explained every year there were user and maintenance fees which increased the contract cost. Mr. Leggett inquired if they would go out to bid for competitive pricing and Mr. Iusi replied AutoMon was the only vendor in the State that offered the software.

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21st Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. Iusi introduced a request extend the memorandum of understanding with the Warren County Employment & Training Administration for the Raise the Age Employment & Training program in an amount not to exceed \$114,464 for the term commencing September 1, 2020 and terminating March 31, 2021. He explained the program was for Raise the Age youth ages sixteen to eighteen who received educational and employment training along with real time work. He apprised the program was very worthwhile to continue and was funded through Raise the Age. He advised last year they received many referrals through this program, but noted that in light of the current pandemic it was unlikely that they would expend the full contract amount. Mr. Leggett inquired if the youth that were involved in the program were enrolled in school at the same time and Mr. Iusi replied most were in school, but there were some that were not currently enrolled in school because some youth were not cut out to succeed, which was why a vocational education was very important.

Motion was made by Mr. Driscoll, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21st Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the discussion items, Mr. Iusi spoke about the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks program, noting that Bill Moon, *Executive Director, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks*, was present via video conference. He mentioned the program focused on getting their members involved with the youth on probation in order to provide a positive role model; he added that any adults assigned through the agency to interact with youth were properly vetted and were required to have background checks. Mr. Moon commented there were extraordinary individuals that worked in the Warren County Probation Department and they were grateful to partner with them. He indicated they assisted children who needed services and advocacy mentors, advising there were youth with low needs, social issues, having trouble making new friends, single parent households up through very high needs children that were involved with the Court system. Next, Mr. Moon spoke of advocacy and volunteerism regarding remote towns in the County. He indicated the goal was to have the Warren County Supervisors residing in the northern portion of the County advocate for him to help gain volunteers that would serve a wider range of youth. Mr. Leggett asked if there were any social media items that the Towns could post on their websites and Mr. Moon replied affirmatively, advising that a flyer could be generated which would be

specific to each Town. He explained there was a new program they were working on with the Warren County Sheriff's Office called "Bigs in Blue" where they would work with volunteers in all aspects of the Sheriff's Office. He said the goal of the program was to work on law enforcement relationships to help children in under-developed communities where there was negative law enforcement interaction. He thanked the County and the individuals that were on call for the work they did for the community. Ms. Seeber thanked him and his organization for their efforts, as well.

Mr. Iusi advised the State had amended the law regarding Criminal Justice Reform and Bail Reform. He explained they continued to receive RUS (*Release Under Supervision*) Cases from the County Court that they helped supervise, noting they currently had sixty cases. He mentioned there were articles that mentioned the violence that occurred in different cities such as Albany and Rochester, New York, adding a contributing factor could have been Raise the Age and Bail Reform where children may not go to jail for committing crimes.

There being no further Probation business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Marcy Flores, *Public Defender*, who presented the following requests:

- 1) To authorize a contract for outside expert services to be provided on a case by case basis at the rate of \$250/hour, not to exceed the total amount of grant funding budgeted for consulting services.

Ms. Flores explained there was no cost to the County and she did not know what professionals she would need in the future. Mr Driscoll inquired what would become of the funds that were not expended by the end of the year and Ms. Flores replied they would be rolled into the following year.

- 2) To authorize a contract for outside investigative services to provide private investigation on court cases at a rate of \$55.00/hour, not to exceed the total amount of grant funding budgeted for consulting services;
- 3) To authorize a contract for outside interpreter services to provide private language interpretation to clients for their court cases as needed at the rate of \$75.00-\$150.00/hour, not to exceed the total amount of grant funding budgeted for consulting services; and
- 4) To authorize a contract for outside social worker services to provide assistance to clients with their court cases, on an as needed basis, at the rate of \$75.00/hour, not to exceed the total amount of grant funding budgeted for consulting services.

Motion was made by Mr. Driscoll, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously to approve all four of the above referenced requests and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the August 21st Board Meeting. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

Continuing, Ms. Flores introduced a request to fill the vacant position of Coordinating Assistant Public Defender, Base Salary \$94,475. Ms. Flores asked that the position remain open until the current pandemic was over.

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mr. Driscoll and carried unanimously to approve the request and to forward same to the Personnel & Administration Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Finally, Ms. Flores presented a request to fill the vacant position of 8th Assistant Public Defender, *Annual Salary \$69,891*, advising the position was fully grant funded.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously to approve the request and

forward same to the Personnel & Administration Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Discussion Items portion of the agenda, Ms. Flores spoke regarding leasing office space in the Travelers Building located in downtown Glens Falls for office space for staff she was unable to find room for in her existing space. Ms. Flores explained the lease costs would be fully funded by NYS OILS (*New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services*) which included heating and cooling, office furniture and computers and she confirmed that the positions she had requested filling would be filled once the office space was obtained.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to refer this matter to the Personnel & Administration Committee for discussion under the County Administrator's items, as suggested by Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*.

Concluding the agenda review, Ms. Flores informed County Court cases were currently being handled via video conference and if an individual was not able to participate in this manner, there was a place for them to appear at the County. She read aloud a listing of when each Town Court was scheduled to open, adding all the local Courts were open in person and were limiting the number of individuals allowed in at one time. She mentioned not all Courts had plexiglass dividers installed, but they did have thermometers to take the temperatures of those coming in for appointments; she reported she was not aware of there having been any issues with these practices and those present in person were required to wear a mask. Mr. Leggett inquired if the Public Defender's Office coordinated with the District Attorney's Office and Ms. Flores replied in the negative.

Ms. Seeber asked if there were any public comments and Don Lehman, *Director of Public Affairs*, replied there were none.

As there was no further business to come before the Criminal Justice Committee, on motion made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mr. Driscoll and carried unanimously, Ms. Seeber adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist