

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
WILBER, FARWELL, OBERACKER, FRAZIER, STAMMEL
OCTOBER 15, 2020
12:00 p.m.**

Under the current COVID-19 emergency/Executive orders, this committee meeting was not physically open to the public at the County Office Building. The meeting was streamed via facebookLIVE.

Members: Representative Wilber- present, via zoom
Representative Farwell- present, via zoom
Representative Oberacker- present, via zoom
Representative Frazier- present, via zoom
Representative Stammel- present, via zoom

Also present via zoom: Ellen Coccoma, County Attorney, Penney Gentile, Personnel Officer, Representative McCarty and Kim Firenze from Building Services

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER - SARAH PURDY via Zoom

Sarah Purdy requested approval to accept and sign the OCFS grant of \$122,548 for fiscal year 10/1/20 – 9/30/21. Ms. Purdy stated a new 5-year contract (C028981) starts this year with OCFS. Representative Oberacker moved for approval. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

Sarah Purdy requested approval to accept and apply for a federal grant from the National Children's Alliance in the amount of \$50,000 to support and maintain direct core CAC services to re-create the Victim Advocate Position. Representative Oberacker moved for approval. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

Sarah Purdy requested approval to accept and apply for a federal grant from the National Children's Alliance in the amount of \$25,000 to provide access to CAC services in previously unserved or underserved areas and to create a satellite Child Advocacy Center in Oneonta or another appropriate location. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

PROBATION – DAN NAUGHTON via Zoom

Dan Naughton requested approval for the following budget transfer:

Transfer from Probation 3140.4900-A Contracts \$1,850
Transfer to Probation 3140.4100-A Telephone \$1,850

Representative Oberacker moved for approval. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

Dan Naughton asked if the committee if they had any questions regarding his budget. No questions were asked.

Representative Wilber acknowledged the committee has received the petition related to the Second Amendment, is under review and will be discussed in the future.

Representative Oberacker briefed the committee of the proposal Mike Trosset brought forth at the Public Works meeting.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – MIKE TROSSET and REBEKAH TALBOT via Zoom

Mike Trosset proposed to upgrade the Public Defender's office space by establishing an office in Fly Creek. Mr. Trosset mentioned advantages of improving the image and making the office more efficient. ILS likes this idea but needs more details. Mr. Trosset would like feedback from the committees and board members. Representative Oberacker stated after the Public Works Committee meeting, he looked at other advantages of this proposal and the Committee approved to move forward with Mr. Trosset's request in getting more data, comparable costs and having ethics look at it. Representative Wilber supports this idea. Representative Stammel suggested looking at different sites in population centers like Oneonta or Cooperstown. Ellen Coccoma requested Mr. Trosset to send her his summary and list of pros and cons. Mr. Trosset will forward the requirements from ILS.

Board Chair Bliss joined the meeting via Zoom.

Treasurer Ruffles joined the meeting via Zoom.

SHERIFF - RICH DEVLIN, CAM ALLISON and LIEUTENANT O'CONNOR via Zoom

Sheriff Devlin noticed Representative McCarty present and asked him if he had any questions regarding the part-time worker positions at the jail. Sheriff Devlin stated the two (2) part-time worker positions that were approved, will not have any impact on the schedule until late December or early January due to the hiring process and training. Lt. O'Connor stated the next training will be scheduled once the individuals are hired but is waiting for the list.

Sheriff Devlin mentioned they had their second meeting on the Executive Order Police Review Committee and would have liked to have seen more stakeholders representing the villages and towns from the county that they represent. At the meeting, there was a power point presentation outlining the Sheriff's office and the review conducted. Sheriff Devlin invited all committee members to see this presentation at the Sheriff's office.

Sheriff Devlin said that five board members have toured the Correctional Facility in the past two weeks. The staff noticed and appreciated the interest; and suggested to pass along their experience to get others interested to tour the facility.

Sheriff Devlin commended the corrections division as they have dealt with a partial shutdown for renovations, a full shutdown due to an unmaintained roof, a pandemic and the implementation of Centralized Arraignment, which has added additional duties to the staff. Sheriff Devlin stated that the staff has acted professionally and with pride through all this and have gone above and beyond for the County and asked to restore to the 2007 staffing levels to give the division the needed resources to conduct their jobs properly and safely.

Representative Oberacker moved for an executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person to also include Penney Gentile.

The Committee reconvened.

Sheriff Devlin stated there is a need for increased mental health services and medical issues at the jail and does need long-term assistance. Sheriff Devlin stated that COVID has compounded the issue but the issues have been there for a long time. Representative Wilber stated if Sheriff Devlin documented, in a logical method, how COVID has compounded the issues, that they could apply for a possible COVID related reimbursement.

Representative Farwell asked Sheriff Devlin in regards to the New Lisbon event if there would be an after-action review meeting. Sheriff Devlin stated the event will be discussed and reviewed. After various questions and discussion with the committee, the Sheriff agreed to initiate an after-action review meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Representative Oberacker moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.