

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
WILBER, FARWELL, FRAZIER, STAMMEL, MICKLE
July 15, 2021
1:00 p.m.**

This meeting was streamed on Facebook Live.

Absent: Representative Farwell, Representative Stammel

Also present: Board Chair Bliss and Representative Kennedy in Board Chambers; Allen Ruffles, Treasurer and Penney Gentile, Personnel Officer via Zoom

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – JOHN MUEHL

John Muehl explained and discussed issues they are having with the new discovery rules. Mr. Muehl proposed a plan including position adjustments, salary changes, being budget neutral and to contract with Oneonta City for prosecution services. The committee agreed with the proposed plan. Mr. Muehl will confer with the County Attorney and Treasurer.

Representative Farwell arrived at the meeting during the above discussion.

John Muehl stated that the new uninsured motor vehicle Diversion Program will be up and running within 6-8 weeks.

TREASURER – ALLEN RUFFLES via Zoom

Allen Ruffles requested approval of a credit card for the District Attorney through the new program. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Mickle. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

SHERIFF – RICH DEVLIN via Zoom

Sheriff Devlin mentioned the EMS shortage stating it has been an issue for years and is getting worse; we should gather great information from adjoining counties and make a decision that is best for our resident's needs.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to sponsor a resolution to contract with Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES for a Deputy Sheriff to be assigned as a School Resource Officer for the 2021-22 school year. Representative Farwell moved for

approval. Seconded, Mickle. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to amend Resolution No. 220-20210505 for body cameras to refer to the Sourcewell Contract #01072AXN. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to sponsor a resolution to contract with Bassett Hospital for Jail medical services \$80,000 annually. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval for training to authorize sending a deputy to Instructor Development School in the amount of \$300. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to fill (5) vacant, funded Corrections Officer FT positions. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin asked for the committee's consideration to not have to go to the parent committee for approval and resolution on Corrections Officer positions. This will be discussed further at the Administration Committee Meeting.

Sheriff Devlin gave a brief update on the SMRT stating they were on site about two weeks ago and there is another appointment scheduled just waiting confirmation to do follow up on another site visit with additional questions and items that need to be checked. Building Services is not involved as of yet but they will get a copy of the report.

Sheriff Devlin mentioned he may be asking for a PT Nurse position for weekend coverage in the 2022 budget. Sheriff Devlin mentioned that a new deputy started the Law Enforcement Academy on Monday (July 12th).

Representative Wilber mentioned an email received from a town supervisor. Sheriff Devlin stated the email was well-written, accurate, the issues will be addressed in budget discussions and will provide the committee a better understanding of what is going on. Sheriff Devlin mentioned since the Criminal Justice Reform and Discovery changes came about, they may need additional staff as road deputies are now sitting for hours doing paperwork.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – MIKE TROSSET and BILL YOUNGS

Mike Trosset requested approval to amend last month's approval for Distribution 8 as it was incorrectly labeled, as it is for their Legal Aid Defense (Legal Aid Foundation) not Rural Law. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Mickle. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

Bill Youngs, Grant Administrator, gave a brief review, explaining claims he has submitted and is working on for state reimbursement; has submitted 7 claims for \$348,000 (with 3 being in the payment-stage). Mike Trosset mentioned he is working with the state on getting confirmations that they have actually received the money and will update and inform the Committee every month.

Mike Trosset gave an overview of the Hurrell-Harring State Expansion Grant (award of 2.5 million dollars to be used to enhance and upgrade the Public Defender's Office) and explained his challenges. His office space has been the major component for Year 3, which has been challenging. Mr. Trosset will have a proposed lease for his space and the ethical review completed for the Administration Committee Meeting next week and will bring it back to PS&LA Committee Meeting in August and ideally take it to the Board. Mr. Trosset sought guidance from the Committee on how to spend the balance of the excess money. Further discussion included but not limited to salaries, increasing staff and office space.

TREASURER – ALLEN RUFFLES via Zoom

Allen Ruffles requested approval of a credit card for the Probation Department through the new program. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Mickle. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

COUNTY ATTORNEY – DENISE HOLLIS, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY via Zoom

Denise Hollis requested approval for a payment of \$36 for supplemental materials to legal research books and approval to reimburse Ellen Coccoma \$100 for her attendance at the 2021 County Attorney Annual Conference both from budget line A-1420-546500 Subscriptions/Dues. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Mickle. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY SERVICES – VICTOR JONES

Victor Jones submitted mileage reports for June 2021.

Victor Jones mentioned concerns for the Hall of Fame Induction Day as the Hall of Fame is expecting 30,000 - 50,000 people which he feels is conservative: Security of the EOC, when Building Services moves forward with the project for the new entry system, Mr. Jones asked for a cost analysis for locking down the EOC similar to 911 mainly because of the sensitive information and not being notified by the guard station when random people are coming in and out. And, parking for first responders (Fire and EMS), as this is the first induction in the middle of a work week causing a problem, historically they have used the Annex and Courthouse parking lots. Continued discussion included the possibilities of having employees work remotely or a half day, using the Doubleday parking lot, contacting the court about using the Annex parking lot, coordinating with the DA about using their lot, Cooperstown schools may be closed, Bassett employees using the Clark Sport Center parking lots, shuttles and utilizing the Dreams Park parking lots .

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND E911 – VICTOR JONES and ROB O'BRIEN

Victor Jones, Rob O'Brien and the Committee had a detailed discussion relating to the collapsing EMS services in Otsego County. Representative Wilber moved for approval to purchase (2) two fully-equipped ambulances from the Rescue Fund in the amount of \$434,000. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.

There was further discussion about personnel/staffing and creating the very competitive (8) eight Advanced Life Support Technician and (8) eight Basic Life Support Technician positions with (2) two per diem for each that will be presented at the next PS&LA Committee Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Representative Mickle moved to adjourn. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,963; Absent- 523 Stammel. Motion carried.