

**PUBLIC SAFETY & LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
WILBER, FARWELL, OBERACKER, FRAZIER, STAMMEL  
May 12, 2020  
2:00pm**

This meeting was streamed on Facebook Live and recorded.

Please note the attendance as follows:

Present in person at the Otsego County Board Chambers, 197 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326:

Board Chair Bliss

Present remotely via video conference:

Representative Wilber  
Representative Farwell  
Representative Oberacker  
Representative Frazier  
Representative Stammel  
Representative McCarty  
Sheriff Devlin  
Undersheriff Allison  
Lieutenant O'Connor  
Attorney Michael Trosset, Public Defender  
Rebekah Talbot, Grants Administrator  
Tony Gentile, Code Enforcement Officer  
Attorney John Muehl and Attorney Christopher DiDonna, District Attorneys  
Art Klingler, Emergency Services Coordinator  
Rob O'Brien, Director of 911 Communications  
Dan Naughton, Probation Director  
Lorry O'Brien-DuBois, Administrative Aide  
Also Present throughout: County Attorney Ellen Coccoma, Treasurer Allen Ruffles, and Penney Gentile, Personnel Officer

**SHERIFF—SHERIFF DEVLIN, UNDERSHERIFF ALLISION, and LIEUTENANT O'CONNOR via video conference**

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to purchase ammunition in the amount of \$16,000, as included in the 2020 budget. Representative Oberacker motioned to approve the purchase. Seconded, Wilber. Roll call vote. Ayes: 1,524. Absent: 962—Frazier, Stammel. Motion carried.

Board Chair Bliss entered in person during the above discussion.

The Committee and Sheriff Devlin briefly discussed departmental budget cuts which the Sheriff has identified, and provided to the County Treasurer's office for consideration.

The Committee, Sheriff Devlin, and County Attorney Coccoma discussed the purchasing procedure for COVID-19 related emergency items including but not limited to personal protective equipment (PPE). The Committee suggested Sheriff Devlin also inquire with the Emergency Services department to see if that department has PPE they can share.

Representatives Frazier and Stammel entered during the above discussion.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to purchase one (1) Live-Scan Fingerprinting unit from Jail Equipment 3150-2000-A, in the amount of \$30,000. Sheriff Devlin noted this item is required for arrest and civil fingerprinting, and it is part of the health emergency re-opening plan. Representative Oberacker motioned to approve purchasing the Live-Scan Fingerprinting unit. Seconded, Frazier. Roll call vote. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to purchase three (3) kiosk temperature scanners in the amount of \$7,800, less shipping. The Committee discussed the following, including but not limited to: other areas on County-owned properties may benefit from purchasing additional temperature scanner units like these, possibly sourcing funding for the purchase through COVID-19 related resources, as the scanners were not budgeted for in 2020. Representative Oberacker motioned to approve purchasing one (1) temperature scanner unit in the amount of \$2,500, as an initial investment. Seconded, Frazier. Roll call vote. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested to meet with the Committee in an executive session. Representative Frazier motioned to enter into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or the matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, and invited the Sheriff, Undersheriff, Lieutenant O'Connor, and Penney Gentile to remain present for the discussion at 2:38pm. Seconded, Oberacker. Roll call vote. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

The executive session was held over phone conference bridge.

The Committee reconvened at 3:01pm.

Representative Oberacker motioned to approve a resolution to correct Personnel deficiencies in the Sheriff's department, as drafted by the Personnel Officer. Seconded, Frazier. Roll call vote. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin gave the following departmental updates, including but not limited to: the majority of inmates are back at the Jail from previously being boarded during renovation and repairs, space has been created to quarantine inmates as needed due to COVID-19, and are still currently boarding out female inmates due to spatial issues.

**COUNTY CLERK—REPRESENTATIVE WILBER via video conference on behalf of KATHY SINNOTT GARDNER**

Representative Wilber, on behalf of County Clerk Sinnott Gardner, stated that the Department of Motor Vehicles office located in Oneonta, NY will be closed as a cost saving measure for the County budget.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER—ATTORNEY MICHAEL TROSSET and REBEKAH TALBOT via video conference**

Attorney Michael Trosset emailed to the Committee prior to the meeting and gave the following departmental updates, including but not limited to:

- in the first four (4) months of 2020, the department has submitted claims for reimbursement through the Office of Indigent Legal Services (OILS) in the approximate amount of \$176,000
- the CAP protocol has been changed due to COVID-19 to include arraignments via video conference, and the County will see a savings in the form of CAP arraignment stipend payments decreasing due to the new protocol

Rebekah Talbot, Grants Administrator, emailed the Committee prior to the meeting and discussed a three (3) year plan to enter into contract with the Legal Aid Society of New York, Inc. for the County's conflict defender program. Representative Frazier motioned approve to entering into the three (3) year contract with the Legal Aid Society of New York,

Inc. as presented. Seconded, Oberacker. Roll call vote. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

**CODES—TONY GENTILE via video conference**

Representative Oberacker motioned to enter into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or the matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, and invited Tony Gentile, Treasurer Ruffles, and Penney Gentile to remain present for the discussion at 3:18pm. Seconded, Farwell. Roll call vote. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

Representative Farwell motioned to come out of executive session at 3:49pm. Seconded, Oberacker. Roll call vote. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES—ART KLINGLER via video conference**

Art Klingler, Emergency Services Coordinator, gave the following departmental updates, including but not limited to:

- emergency medical services training courses have been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- the department is receiving and distributing PPE to hospitals and nursing homes
- potential funding sources for COVID-19 related expenses

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY— ATTORNEY JOHN MUEHL via phone conference, and ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER DIDONNA via video conference**

Attorneys Muehl and DiDonna gave the following departmental updates, including but not limited to:

- considerations with regard to workload and/or staff reduction at the District Attorney's office including that there is increased workload related to recently enacted NYS criminal justice reform
- staff working in the office and working from home

**911 COMMUNICATIONS—ROB O'BRIEN via phone conference**

Rob O'Brien, Director of 911 Communications, updated the Committee on a potential lease proposal on the Morris cell tower site.

Rob O'Brien updated the Committee on the P25 encryption project, stating the cut over is scheduled for early June.

Rob O'Brien requested approval to charge a fee for the application of new 911 addresses: \$50 for new 911 addresses and \$30 for additional 911 addresses. The Committee discussed the fee schedule and work related to assigning the 911 addresses. Representative Frazier motioned to approve the fees. Seconded, Oberacker. Roll call vote. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 2,486. Motion carried.

Representative Farwell left the meeting during the above discussion.

#### **PROBATION—DAN NAUGHTON via video conference**

Dan Naughton, Probation Director, gave the following departmental updates, including but not limited to: working on planning, policies, and procedures moving forward to maintain social distance and also provide the correct levels of supervision and services for probationers.

The Committee did not set a date for their next meeting.

Representative Frazier motioned to adjourn. Seconded, Oberacker. Ayes: 1,983. Absent: 503—Farwell. Motion carried.