

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
WILBER, FARWELL, OBERACKER, FRAZIER, STAMMEL
JUNE 11, 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- absent
Representative Frazier- present, via zoom
Representative Stammel- present, via zoom

Others present: Representative Kennedy, Representative Basile, County Attorney Ellen Coccoma and County Treasurer Allen Ruffles via zoom.

SHERIFF- RICH DEVLIN, CAM ALLISON, LT. O'CONNOR via zoom

Sheriff Devlin stated that the purchasing policy is not clear and is asking for guidance on expenses over \$1,000, the spending freeze and emergency purchases.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to purchase uniforms at a cost not to exceed \$20,000. Representative Stammel moved for approval. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952; Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to purchase clothing for inmates at a cost not to exceed \$1,700. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952; Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Board Chair Bliss arrived via zoom.

Sheriff Devlin stated that he would be short about \$45,000 in his vehicle repair line this year due to the leasing of new vehicles was put off, in which he is requesting a budget transfer for but does not have a budget line with funding to transfer it from. Allen Ruffles suggested transferring money from either the county health insurance line or contingency. Representative Frazier moved approval of a budget transfer in the amount of \$45,000 from an account as determined by the Treasurer to Sheriff 3110.4515 vehicle repairs. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952; Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin stated that he has received FEMA forms for completion as related to the COVID pandemic; he has copies of expenses, overtime and other documents to submit but does not have staff available to complete the forms,

asking whom should he send his documentation of expenses to? After further discussion, Representative Wilber said that the committee would have to get back to him with an answer.

Sheriff Devlin stated that in connection to the reopening plan, extensive cleaning of the 40,000 sq. ft Public Safety building is required, and there is only one cleaner for the building and asked how the county plans on achieving such required cleaning noting that there are inmates in every section. Representative Wilber asked if inmates could perform cleaning duties. The Sheriff stated that exposure would occur and they are not trained. Lt. O'Connor stated that they do not have any trustees that have status to do that. After further discussion, Representative Wilber said that the committee would have to get back to him with an answer.

Sheriff Devlin read a statement concerning his responsibilities and regulations required by law and expressed concerns with discussions about the Jail are occurring without the Sheriff's input and asked for collaborate conversations to occur.

In response to Representative Wilber's request, Allen Ruffles shared Jail personal service costs and hours reported and overtime costs and hours reported from 2019-May 2020, noting that the Jail incurs an average of \$8,000 per week in overtime. Sheriff Devlin stated that overtime is needed for inmate hospital watches, constant watches of inmates and to cover vacancies. In the current state that the county is in fiscally, Allen Ruffles asked how that amount could be reduced? Sheriff Devlin stated that full staff is required even if the Jail was vacant for a period of time, for processing, transports to hospital visits, transports for court, etc. The Sheriff offered to set up a conference call or in person meeting with State Corrections to discuss further. The Sheriff noted that he currently has eight vacancies. (Five vacancies and three employees injured)

Representative Kennedy asked, if the Commission gave special permission to make cost savings measures/reduce financial stress, then how was that achieved if personal service was not reduced. The Sheriff stated that there is no cost savings available. Sheriff Devlin reiterated that the building never shut down even if there were no inmates housed in the building. Sheriff Devlin stated that 17 inmates were boarded out between August and November. Representative Kennedy asked if the Commission on Corrections' variance was for August thru November and for a copy of such. The Sheriff said that he would forward a copy of the variance on to the board, adding that the variance is no longer in place.

Based on 820 hours of overtime incurred during the month of May, Representative Frazier asked if the committee should look into filling current vacancies to reduce overtime spend.

Sheriff Devlin responded to questions sent to him via email from Representative Wilber concerning Jail staffing and operations.

Allen Ruffles offered to meet with the Sheriff and the Lieutenant to look for budget reductions.

Sheriff Devlin was asked to provide information/documentation from state corrections regarding the 2005 staffing requirements for the Jail.

The Sheriff stated that he is going to be short in his inmate boarding line and will need \$78,000 for the rest of the year but does not have a budget line with funding to transfer it from. The committee asked how many inmates are boarded out and why? The Sheriff stated that one inmate is in Montgomery County(may be able to bring back) two inmates are in Albany County(won't be back) and three inmates, two of which are females are in Delaware County. Representative Wilber suggested that inmates be tested and brought back to the facility accordingly. No action was taken as this needs to be discussed with the Treasurer.

Sheriff Devlin questioned resolution 175 as related to exemptions to overtime as questions have been raised as to whether the Jail is covered under the Sheriff as listed. The committee deferred the Sheriff to the Administration Committee for clarification.

EMERGENCY SERVICES- ART KLINGLER via zoom

Art Klingler stated he will be returning all employees back to the office.

Mileage reports for April and May 2020 were emailed to the committee prior to the meeting.

Art Klingler requested approval to pay for fencing at the training center in the amount of \$472.63 to Munsons, explaining that a PO was generated for the fencing in 2019, a RCT was completed and submitted for payment in December but payment was not processed and the PO got cancelled in error by another department in April. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952; Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Art Klingler requested approval to purchase CPR cards for classes that were completed before the pandemic and for upcoming classes at a cost of \$1,885.79 to the American Heart Association. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952; Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Art Klinger discussed proposed budget reductions.

Art Klinger discussed COVID-19 activities his office was involved in, such as assisting hospitals, nursing homes and healthcare facilities in obtaining supplies from the state, distributing and/or delivering, as well as, will be working on documentation to seek reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses.

CODE ENFORCEMENT- TONY GENTILE via zoom

Tony Gentile requested approval to pay \$480 to New York legal publishing for computer versions of the building code. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952; Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Tony Gentile discussed proposed budget reductions.

Tony Gentile distributed and discussed the May 2020 revenue report, noting that rental inspection fees are down approximately 40%.

Representative Wilber asked Mr. Gentile if he would accept applications if there was a drop box placed in the lobby. Mr. Gentile explained that applications are currently being dropped off to security and security brings them to the Codes office.

PROBATION- DAN NAUGHTON via zoom

Dan Naughton requested an exception to the spending freeze to allow for the purchase of ammunition at a cost of \$1,500 from his training line, as related to mandatory training that is required. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952; Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Dan Naughton stated that home visits will soon reconvene, requesting to purchase \$900 in drug screens (approx. 100 kits). Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Frazier. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952; Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Dan Naughton briefly discussed budget reductions, adding that because of the decrease in electronic monitoring during the pandemic that the electronic monitoring budget line could be reduced.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned.