

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**May 3, 2023**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Public Safety Committee Chairman Steven Havey.

**Roll Call:** S. Havey, A. Cyr, G. Barnes, K. Demick, D. Healy, P. Stockin, B. Harris (Absent: J. Rumfelt)

**Other Attendees:** T. Boyde, J.R. Carter, R. Christman, S. Cicirello, S. Decker, P. Degnan, D. Fanton, K. Francisco, S. Grantier, G. Green, G. Hanchett, I. Jones, M. Kelley, J. Luckey, W. Mackney, J. McKnight, A. Moore, J. Ricci, J. Ricketts-Swales, B. Riehle, D. Root, M. Short, B. VanHousen

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Demick, seconded by Legislator Stockin, and carried to approve the April 5, 2023, Public Safety Committee minutes.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Emergency Medical Services Coordinator Bonnie VanHousen attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. VanHousen spoke about a recent training exercise held at Cuba Memorial Hospital that included the simulation of an intake of patients from another facility in an emergency. Another exercise at Cuba Memorial Hospital is being planned to include more local fire and EMS agencies. Ms. VanHousen will be making visits around the County to fire and ambulance companies to assist with the EMS study for the County.

### **Authorization to Apply for Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) FY 2023 Grant**

Emergency Management & Fire Director Jeff Luckey requested authorization to apply for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) FY 2023. The Period of Performance is October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2025. The grant will be used for expenses related to attending training, planning, and conducting training exercises, developing, and enhancing resource management plans (evacuation plans, alerts, warnings, etc.), and rent for the Emergency Services offices. Any remaining grant money will be used to purchase equipment for Emergency Management Operations. The total County share of the grant is \$21,869. The revenue account will be established when the grant is awarded. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Stockin, and carried.

### **Refer to Ways and Means**

### **Authorization to Apply for Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) 2023 Grant**

Emergency Management & Fire Director Jeff Luckey requested authorization to apply for the Homeland Security Grant Program HSGP 2023. This grant includes the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) & State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (SLETPP). The Period of Performance is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2026. The details of the grant application are as follows:

- The funding is to support regional preparedness for the County. The approximate amount is \$59,750, with a minimum of 30 percent earmarked for the four national priority areas that DHS/FEMA requires. These include Cyber Security, Soft Targets/Crowded places, intelligence and information sharing, and emerging threats. Another 35 percent of this is the SLETPP and must be directed to the Sheriff's Office. The remaining is to be used by the Office of Emergency Services to enhance the preparedness for the County to respond to emergencies.

The total grant is approximately \$59,750:

- \$17,925 (30 percent) SLETPP

- \$20,913 (35 percent) SHSP
- \$20,912 OES

The revenue account will be established when the grant is awarded. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Demick, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Assistant District Attorney Ian Jones attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Jones spoke briefly about recent changes to bail reform. The District Attorney's office is planning to put together some information for local law enforcement agencies on how these changes will impact them.

## **PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Public Defender J. R. Santana Carter attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Carter remarked on the recent approval of the State budget saying funding for his office is secure due to a five-year contract they have with the State.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & FIRE**

Emergency Management & Fire Director Jeff Luckey attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Luckey stated he had recently met with the Planning Office regarding the solar eclipse that is set to occur on April 8, 2024. Many people are expected to come to the area to view the eclipse which will include 100 percent blockage of the sun for one minute and 45 seconds. Mr. Luckey has continued to meet with BOCES regarding an EMT class that is planned for this fall. They have decided to limit the class to 18 participants. There are still some details to work through and they are hoping that grant money will be available for the program. He spoke about recent fires in Wellsville. Wellsville fire departments and those that assisted did a great job knocking out the fire in both buildings, and there were no injuries reported in either fire. He also commended 911 Dispatch for their assistance. Chairman Havey expressed his thanks to those involved in fighting the fires. Legislator Barnes asked if any of the fires were deemed suspicious, noting there have been a lot of fires in Wellsville in recent months. Mr. Luckey stated that investigations were conducted, and the occupied structure fires were determined to be accidental; they are still investigating the most recent apartment fire. Legislator Healy stated that both Amity Rescue Squad and Belmont Fire Department are looking at acquiring new buildings. He suggested that it may be beneficial to have them located next to BOCES.

## **CONFLICT DEFENDER**

Conflict Defender Peter Deganan attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Deganan said they've been able to expand the assigned counsel list and continue to work with potential additional attorneys. They now have attorneys available for everyone who is currently incarcerated. He noted that the rate for assigned counsel recently increased to \$158 per hour, and he hopes the State can help supplement some of that cost.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Probation Director Scott Grantier attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Grantier said he expects their numbers to increase over 2022. His staff has managed to take on the extra workload. A Peace Officer training is going to take place at Alfred State College during the months of May and June.

Mr. Grantier spoke about the transition of the STOP-DWI Program to Probation. He thanked former STOP-DWI Coordinator Brian Perkins as well as the County Attorney, County Administrator, and County Treasurer for their assistance with the transfer. He also thanked Probation Supervisor Jessica

McKnight for her help in taking on the STOP-DWI Program. He said there are a lot of trainings available, and he's confident they will be in good shape soon.

### **Request to Create and Fill Probation Officer Assistant**

Mr. Grantier requested permission to create and fill one full-time Probation Officer Assistant (AFSCME Bargaining Unit, Grade: 13, Step: Base to 7) in the Probation Department. The annual salary of this position is estimated to be between \$39,420.47 and \$47,959.37, with annual benefits estimated to be between \$15,563.20 and \$18,934.36. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds and is included in the 2023 Budget. Legislator Barnes asked if it was a new full-time position and if the reason for the position is due to increased workload. Mr. Grantier stated the position is new and will help cover the extra workload the department is experiencing. Mr. Barnes asked if the personnel numbers had increased in the office over the past three years. Mr. Grantier stated that they've had some vacant positions that have remained unfilled. They will submit a budget request to the State in October and he's hoping it will cover 50 percent of the cost of this position. Board Chairman Harris stated he's glad to hear there are opportunities for outside funding. He thinks the STOP-DWI opportunities will pay for the position. Legislator Healy remarked that he shares concerns about increased cost for taxpayers but said this request has been approved by the County Administrator and Personnel Officer. Legislator Stockin asked if the Budget included money to cover the cost. Mr. Grantier stated there has been a great deal of discussion, and they are in good shape with the Budget. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Demick, seconded by Legislator Cyr, and carried. **Refer to Personnel to Create and Ways and Means to Fill**

### **Probation Fees Bill Overview - Bill # S6282 -Probation Administrative Fees**

Mr. Grantier stated there has been movement of a bill in our state legislature to eliminate the ability of probation offices to collect fees. This bill is strongly opposed by the Probation Administrators Association and will have an enormous impact on probation offices statewide. Legislator Healy suggested the Board could draft a letter to support probation offices. Board Chairman Harris stated a letter had already been signed by him and Public Safety Committee Chairman Havey and sent due to the timely nature of this. He suggested a resolution opposing this change could be adopted as well.

## **WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

Weights & Measures Director Gilbert Green attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Green stated he had been moving his office to the County Landfill.

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Scott Cicirello attended the meeting and submitted his monthly reports to the committee for review. Sheriff Cicirello stated his office has been working on recruitment and retention of staff. There is not a large immediate need, but a significant percentage of their workforce will be eligible for retirement in the coming years. They've been working with both Alfred State and BOCES to find candidates.

Sheriff Cicirello said the Public Safety Facility was recently inspected by court administration as part of the process of having centralized arraignment located there. They have an anticipated start date of September 1 but hope to have it in place before then. Sheriff Cicirello explained that the facility will be used as a holding area for all law enforcement agencies in the County and persons will be held until an arraignment can be done. It will be beneficial for several reasons and will allow representatives from various offices to all be present for arraignments. He noted it is difficult to get judges to come out in the early hours of the morning for an arraignment. Sheriff Cicirello stated that all law enforcement agencies in the County are looking forward to having this in place. Legislator Barnes asked if this plan was put together at the local level. Sheriff Cicirello stated that there is a boilerplate policy that is used across the State. They have toured the Steuben County facility to see how it operates, but Allegany County will have slightly different policies partly due to the fact we're in a different judicial district. Public Safety

Committee Chairman Havey stated this is a huge step in the right direction. Legislator Healy asked if the Sheriff could plan to give a more thorough presentation at a future meeting.

### **Request to Fill Part-Time Cook**

Sheriff Cicirello requested permission to fill one part-time Cook (Non-Unit, Grade: 33b, Step: Base) in the Sheriff's Office. The hourly pay rate for this position is \$20.30. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Demick, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

### **Request to Fill Corrections Officer**

Sheriff Cicirello requested permission to fill one full-time Corrections Officer (Sheriff's Bargaining Unit) in the Sheriff's Office. The annual salary of this position is estimated to be \$48,837.36, with annual benefits estimated to be \$19,280.99. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds and \$47,879.72 is included in the 2023 Budget. Legislator Healy asked if this is necessary to maintain minimum staffing requirements. Sheriff Cicirello confirmed that it is necessary. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Demick, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

### **Request to Create and Fill Radio Technician**

Sheriff Cicirello requested permission to create and fill one full-time Radio Technician (Sheriff's Bargaining Unit, Grade: 17) in the Sheriff's Office. The annual salary of this position is estimated to be between \$44,45.29 and \$55,513.74, with annual benefits estimated to be between \$17,531.21 and \$21,916.83. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds and is included in the 2023 Budget. Sheriff Cicirello clarified that the rationale for the position at the bottom of the Request to Fill form was not accurate; this position will assist Radio Technician Matt Evans, and there is currently no redundancy in this area. Chairman Havey stated he is entirely in favor of this, and it makes sense. Legislator Healy clarified that not only does the Radio Technician service the 911 center and towers, but also radios in the County vehicles, and for all fire and EMS volunteers throughout the County. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Cyr, and carried. **Prepare Resolution to Create and Refer to Ways and Means to Fill**

### **Request to Create and Fill Secretary**

Sheriff Cicirello requested permission to create and fill one full-time Secretary to the Sheriff (Non-Unit, Grade: one through P9) in the Sheriff's Office. The annual salary of this position is estimated to be between \$43,799.94 and \$62,450.02, with annual benefits estimated to be between \$17,292.22 and \$24,655.27. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds and \$36,504 is included in the 2023 Budget. Sheriff Cicirello stated that the position is currently a part-time position and is vacant. State pistol permit regulations require a great deal of administrative work that he would like this position to assist with. Additionally, there is a significant amount of work related to grants. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Demick, and carried. **Prepare Resolution to Create and Refer to Ways and Means to Fill**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
Allegany County Board of Legislators