

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 05, 2022

Members Present: S. Havey, J. Rumpfelt, G. Barnes, A. Cyr, K. Demick, B. Harris, D. Healy, P. Stockin

Other Present: R. Anderson, T. Boyde, B. Budinger, J. Burdick, J. Carter, S. Cicirello, P. Curran, A. Cyr, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, G. Greene, G. Hanchett, C. Ivers, C. Knapp, S. Lamphier, T. Linn, J. Luckey, D. Marsh, J. McKnight, T. Miner, B. Perkins, S. Pullen, B. Reynolds, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, T. Ross, R. Starks, J. Swales, R. Whitney

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Public Safety Committee Chairman Steven A. Havey. Mr. Havey opened by thanking Legislator Healy for having chaired the committee for a number of years, and that he is pleased to take it over from him.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried to approve the minutes of December 1, 2021.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Public Defender J. R. Santana Carter attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Carter stated that numbers are up again compared to last year when everything was shut down, but still lower than years 2017, 2018, and 2019. Mr. Carter stated that in 2018, they opened with an average 1,300 criminal cases compared to a little more than 900 this year. Mr. Carter stated that could be a good sign that crime might actually be going down. Mr. Carter stated that they continue to see increases in family court cases since last year. Legislator Healy asked if the current trend was due to COVID-19. Mr. Carter stated that numbers are up because of increased activity with the courts opening up since COVID-19, but the numbers are actually down from all prior years excluding COVID-19.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & FIRE

Emergency Management & Fire Director Jeff Luckey attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

WebCAD Training

Mr. Luckey stated that they had hosted training in December for area fire and EMS personnel with the updated WebCAD system.

Recent Fires

Mr. Luckey recalled the eight-apartment fire in Wellsville on December 16, where one resident that was rescued right away and returned from Strong within three days. Mr. Luckey stated that six of the eight apartments suffered no fire damage, and residents were able to retrieve most of their things. Mr. Luckey stated that a young gentleman will likely be recognized later at this year's Fireman's Convention, as the fire discoverer that responded to the fire alarm and made the 911 call. Mr. Luckey stated that this gentleman is part of one of the County assisted programs, and he will be named a citizen of the year. Mr. Luckey remarked on the great response of the Wellsville Police Department assisting with people during the emergency. Mr. Luckey recalled a similar fire on December 28, where the resident was rescued, transported, and in the process of recovering, stating that there had been minimal structural damage. Mr. Luckey stated that they had two great saves through quick actions by all. Mr. Luckey recalled the previous day's, January 4, fire at the Almond 7-Eleven, stating that the employee did a great job keeping the door closed

and calling 911. Mr. Luckey stated that a responding fireman was able to knock the fire down with a fire extinguisher before the fire department arrived. Mr. Luckey concluded that this was another great save, that the business would only be down for a few days with minimal damages, noting a great response from code enforcement and 7-Eleven. Legislator Harris asked if the Emergency Management and Fire office coordinates relief of displaced people. Mr. Luckey stated that the first call is always made to the Red Cross, and that they typically provide a debit card for approximately \$500 that can be used to pay for temporary lodging and replacing of items. Mr. Luckey stated that the Red Cross also provides a kit to the displaced. Legislator Harris asked how local the Red Cross response is. Mr. Luckey stated that while they have lost their brick and mortar places, they have approximately 10 to 12 dedicated people within the County that respond for the Red Cross. Legislator Healy asked if there were any issues that they should be made aware of, and Mr. Luckey stated that hospital diversions are "hot on our plate." Mr. Luckey stated that they have incorporated a real-time dashboard that was developed by Cattaraugus County. Mr. Luckey stated that this dashboard gives them real-time information every four hours, and that they have been working with the 911 center to push that out as well. Mr. Luckey stated that they are still looking at the EMS crisis situation as far as numbers available, and direction of ambulances. Mr. Luckey stated that they are very interested in looking at a task force. Legislator Healy suggested a sub-committee or task force to look at several of the issues that first responders, medical services, EMS, and 911 dispatchers are dealing with, and that this would be a good endeavor to see how we can best serve our constituents, and the public with the best service at the least cost.

Unusual Accident

Mr. Luckey stated that a car went off the median on I-86 near oil creek, went into the water and floated down stream behind the Tractor Supply. The individual was able to make a 911 call and Cuba responded. Mr. Luckey stated that Cuba called the Allegany water rescue team out of Cattaraugus County, but was able to utilize a ladder to rescue the individual before the rescue team arrived. Mr. Luckey stated that this was another great save, and that it is good to hear these stories.

Mask Delivery Sites

Mr. Luckey stated that they had been challenged through Governor Hochul to distribute masks, and that they had received approximately 20,000 KN95 masks on December 23, that they delivered to area mask distribution sites. Mr. Luckey stated that they had already held a distribution event in Alfred, and another is scheduled for tonight in Houghton and Canaseraga. Mr. Luckey stated that there are plans for other areas, and that they have partnered with the Southern Tier Library System for future distribution sites. Mr. Luckey stated that Towns without a library will go through the Town Clerks. Mr. Luckey stated that home test kits are here, that they do not know the exact number on the pallet they received today, but that the kits will be tied in with the mask distribution once they receive the guidelines. Mr. Luckey stated that all schools received a home test kit for each child, but he was not sure how the schools were distributing them. County Administrator Carissa Knapp asked how the first distribution in Alfred was received. Mr. Luckey stated that it went well, and that they distributed approximately 900 masks. Mr. Luckey stated that he is using his fire districts as coordinating districts for the mask distributions, which includes six towns. Mr. Luckey stated that Alfred will be holding another mask distribution on Saturday, January 8, 2022. Committee Chairman Havey stated that he is proud and pleased with the first responders, and the citizens that have responded to everything going on. Legislator Rumpfelt asked what time the mask distribution would be on Saturday, and Mr. Luckey stated from 9:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m., and that they were in the process of publishing the details now.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Allegany County District Attorney Keith Slep was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Assistant District Attorney Ian Jones attended the meeting and answered a few questions. Legislator Healy asked if they had been able to handle the workload. Mr. Jones stated that they are currently down one Assistant District Attorney that they are actively searching to fill, but even when they are fully staffed the workload is overwhelming, mostly due to the newer discovery obligations. County Administrator Carissa Knapp reminded Mr. Jones that the request to fill the Assistant District Attorney is outstanding and will need to be brought back before the Committee for approval. Legislator Healy thanked the District Attorneys' office for all of their efforts dealing with the menagerie of legalities upon us.

STOP-DWI

Stop-DWI Coordinator Brian Perkins attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Perkins stated that a mask distribution was scheduled in Andover for Tuesday, January 11, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Victim Impact Panels

Mr. Perkins stated that the next victim impact panel is scheduled for February 22, 2022, in the public safety facility. Mr. Perkins stated that space is limited, but they have not approached the numbers that would restrict who is able to attend in person.

Traffic Safety Board

Mr. Perkins stated that they did not have the December 2021 Traffic Safety Board meeting, and that the State has requested digital reporting.

Mr. Perkins pointed out that the word "STOP" was an acronym for Special Traffic Options Program. Legislator Rumfelt asked if there had been an increase in trends with DWI and marijuana use. Mr. Perkins stated that he had not seen the numbers broken down yet, but there have been many discussions as to how that might impact the STOP-DWI program, because you can have someone perform the same impairment tests as for alcohol, but there is not a definitive field test for marijuana. Legislator Healy asked if there is a standard test for marijuana. Mr. Perkins stated that he was not aware of one, but there are very few Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) in our area, and the training course that is offered to law enforcement officers is very intensive because they not only have to identify what drug is in a person's system, but will also be called to testify in court. Mr. Perkins stated that there are a lot of things that need to be worked out with marijuana and impaired driving.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Probation Director Robert Starks attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

Allegany County Peer Program

Mr. Starks stated that he attended the Allegany County Peer Program Development meeting on December 21, 2021, with DCJS, the Sheriff's Office, and a few of the Police Chiefs in the County. Mr. Starks stated that there had been discussions to bring some training to the County for the Peer Support Program to be able to provide some help for first responders and law enforcement agencies when they respond to certain issues, including how to debrief and process them, and this will be a good thing for the County to look into going forward. Mr. Starks stated that the training will be free through DCJS, and that they will come to Alfred to provide this training.

Crisis Intervention Training

Mr. Starks stated that two of his officers have completed a crisis intervention peer support training, and their services were called to help a few EMT responders that had responded to a serious accident. Mr. Starks stated that MTS reached out to them, and his officers; Carrie Brown and Jessica McKnight met with them. Mr. Starks stated that this was very helpful, and he is glad to see that we have this help for the County.

Investigations

Mr. Starks stated that investigations are down due to the courts still catching up with individuals appearing in person to court, as well as orders getting to them for investigations and probation supervision cases. Legislator Barnes asked if the Probation Department gets involved when those that are arrested are given a court date and do not show up. Mr. Starks stated that if the court puts them under pre-court supervision they will get involved, but if individuals do not show up for court, they may issue a warrant and then release them into their supervision. Legislator Healy asked if there has been an increase in the number of supervised pre-trial releases since the new no bail reforms. Mr. Starks stated that they have seen more than what he anticipated, because with the bail reform they are supposed to release the individuals with the least restrictions, but part of the reason that pre-trial numbers are up is because cases are not getting into court, so they are staying on longer, and it is taking longer to get their case disposed. Legislator Healy stated that ultimately that is due to those reforms. Mr. Starks stated yes, and due to COVID-19.

Request for Agreement with Catholic Charities-Multi-Systemic Therapy

Mr. Starks requested a resolution approving an agreement between Catholic Charities of Buffalo (MST), 741 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209, and the Allegany County Probation Department to provide Multi-Systemic Therapy services for youth and their families. The agreement shall be from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. The Allegany County Probation Department shall pay to Catholic Charities of Buffalo a sum not to exceed \$155,724 for their services. Funds have already been budgeted and should be appropriated as follows:

Appropriations Account: A3147 447
Revenue Account: A3147 3310.00

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Rumpfelt, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request for Agreement with R.E.D.Y.-Mentoring Services

Mr. Starks requested a resolution approving an agreement between Rehabilitating & Empowerment Disadvantaged Youth (R.E.D.Y.) of 180 N. Park Ave., Suite C, Warren, OH 44481, and the Allegany County Probation Department to provide mentoring services for youths involved with the Probation Department. The agreement shall be from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. The Allegany County Probation Department shall pay to R.E.D.Y. a sum not to exceed \$95,000 for their services. The funds have been budgeted as follows:

Appropriations Account: A3147 448
Revenue Account: A3147 3310.00

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Rumpfelt, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Request to Accept Ignition Interlock Device Monitoring Program Grant

Mr. Starks requested a resolution to accept the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services renewal grant for an allocation from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to be used toward our Ignition Interlock monitoring program. The amount of the award is \$2,141. The grant time period is October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. These funds will be included in our 2021-22 budget. The funds appear in the following budget line items:

Appropriations A 3140.101 Probation Personnel
Revenues A.3140 3310.07 Ignition Interlock

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Rumpfelt, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Weights & Measures Director Gilbert Green attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Rick Whitney attended the meeting and submitted his monthly reports to the committee for review. Sheriff Whitney stated that four officers are currently off with COVID-19. Legislator Barnes asked what the maximum capacity typically is versus the current population. Sheriff Whitney stated that the maximum capacity is approximately 164. Legislator Barnes stated that they are down approximately 100. Sheriff Whitney stated that the maximum capacity with COVID-19 guidelines is closer to between 150 and 154. Legislator Barnes asked how that affects the budget with outside Federal and County prisoners. Sheriff Whitney stated that they are down from years ago, but that they are right around where they had budgeted. Sheriff Whitney stated that they rarely receive out of County prisoners, but continue to have a pretty good flow of Federal prisoners.

Request to Fill Corrections Officer

Sheriff Whitney requested permission to fill one full-time Corrections Officer (Council 82 Bargaining Unit, Grade 55, Step: Base) in the Civil Division. This position is being requested to replace a full-time corrections officer that resigned. The annual salary of this position is \$46,941.02 with benefits estimated at \$18,339.86. This position is funded 100 percent with County funds. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Demick, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request to Fill Accountant

Sheriff Whitney requested permission to fill one full-time Accountant (PEF Bargaining Unit, Grade 7, Step: Base). This position is being requested to replace a full-time Accountant that resigned. The annual salary of this position is \$47,194.42 with benefits estimated at \$18,438.86. This position is funded 100 percent with County funds. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Rumpfelt, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request to Accept FY2020 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant

Sheriff Whitney requested a resolution to accept and establish a capital project for the appropriation of the New York State 2020 Statewide Interoperable Communication Grant (SICG).

This grant has been awarded to Allegany County in the amount of \$723,865. These monies shall be used to upgrade the 911 communications system and should be appropriated as follows:

Appropriation	* H 3033.200	\$ 723,865
Revenue	* H 3033.3097.00 St Aid	\$ 723,865

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Demick, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

New Business

Legislator Rumpfelt stated that he wanted to talk more about forming the task force that Legislator Healy suggested, and that EMS is in dire need to do something sooner rather than later. Legislator Rumpfelt stated that there is no longer an EMS council in the County, and they need to do something. Legislator Rumpfelt stated that everyone in the Public Safety Committee is invited to the EMS Chiefs meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. held at the Crossroads. Legislator Harris echoed what Legislator Rumpfelt had to say and agreed whole heartedly, and looked forward to seeing this as an agenda item sooner rather than later.

Good of the Order

Legislator Healy thanked Committee Chairman Havey for his kind remarks at the beginning of the meeting, and welcomed new members. Legislator Healy wanted to point out that Legislator Rumpfelt and Legislator Demick bring approximately 30 years or more of combined knowledge and experience to the committee. Legislator Healy thanked them for their service, and thanked Chairman Stockin for their appointments to the committee. Legislator Healy stated that he is looking forward to working with them. Committee Chairman Havey stated that on behalf of the committee, they are delighted to have such talent, and to be prepared because they plan to use them.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Rumpfelt, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators