

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

April 6, 2022

Members Present: J. Rumfelt, G. Barnes, B. Harris, D. Healy, P. Stockin, (Absent: K. Demick, S. Havey)

Other Present: B. Budinger, J. Burdick, A. Carrow, J. Carter, S. Cicerello, P. Curran, P. Degnan, L. Greene, R. Hall, G. Hanchett, C. Ivers, C. Knapp, S. Lanphier, T. Linn, J. McKnight, B. Perkins, J. Ricci, J. Ricketts-Swales, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, T. Shaw, R. Starks, R. Swarthout, B. VanHousen, R. Whitney

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Public Safety Committee Vice-Chairman James Rumfelt.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to approve the minutes of March 2, 2022.

STOP-DWI

Stop-DWI Coordinator Brian Perkins attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Perkins stated that the Traffic Safety Board is becoming a more active group, and are planning some projects that they will need the support of the Legislators down the road. Mr. Perkins gave several "talking points" about the background of the Traffic Safety Board. Mr. Perkins explained that as part of their bylaws, the Traffic Safety Board is made up of all Allegany County residents that meet with a common goal of ensuring the County roadways are safe. Mr. Perkins explained that representatives come from varied backgrounds such as: law enforcement, first responders, County and State highway departments, STOP-DWI, Ardent Solutions, public school transportation, public school resource officers, retired DPW, to name a few. Mr. Perkins stated that they meet monthly to address or identify areas they may be able to assist with. Mr. Perkins stated that they have helped with crosswalks, speed zones, and current road projects to identify potential issues. Mr. Perkins explained that they receive feedback from representatives from all of the County districts with problem areas. Mr. Perkins stated that there are a few committees they are accessing such as: The Accident Location and Analysis Committee, The Public Relations and Education Committee, The Political and Legal Committee, a Public Safety Group, The Slow Moving Vehicle Committee, and an Application Review and Evaluation Group that would review grants that may become available and make sure they are getting approved and moving forward. Mr. Perkins stated that they also create visibility to the public with various venues and events such as: a booth at the fair during fair week with the County Town Highway Superintendents Association, where they setup a bicycle raffle for children along with bicycle helmets and various other safety items. Department of Public Works Superintendent Justin Henry explained that he was elected as President of the Traffic Safety Board, and that one of their goals will be to provide the Board of Legislators with updates during the STOP-DWI portion of the monthly Public Safety Committee meetings. Mr. Perkins stated that the Traffic Safety Board meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the County Jail, Public Safety Hall at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Henry stated that he will forward meeting information to the Clerk of the Board for distribution.

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 next month he should have a new Public Defender Assistant to help answer a lot of the on-call arraignment. Committee Vice-Chairman Rumfelt thanked Mr. Carter's office because he has observed other Public Defender offices, and he feels that Mr. Carter's Public Defenders appear to actually care about their defendants. Mr. Carter thanked Legislator Rumfelt. Legislator Harris asked for an update of the council of first appearance status funding. Mr. Carter replied that they are still acting off of the Indigent Legal Services (ILS) funding in order to fund that position and supplemental funds for other attorneys that cover the weekend bases. Mr. Carter stated that the

Centralized Arraignment Plan at the jail is still in the works with administration, to go over jail staffing figures to be able to present a final comprehensive proposal for the Board to approve. Legislator Harris asked if this plan is universally "liked." Mr. Carter stated that it definitely seems to be liked by law enforcement because it eliminates the need for law enforcement officers to provide transportation after arraignment and release. Legislator Healy stated that there is no obligation for law enforcement to provide transportation upon release after arraignment. Mr. Carter replied, yes, but often times a justice will commonly ask law enforcement to provide transportation to their residence. Legislator Healy asked if there could be some liability if they are not in custody. Mr. Carter stated that is why centralized arraignment is necessary.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & FIRE

Emergency Management & Fire Assistant Director Bonnie VanHousen attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review.

Medical Director

Ms. VanHousen stated that they have been diligently working to find someone to replace Dr. Edwards who is eager to retire in June 2022. Ms. VanHousen stated that she had the opportunity to meet the new Medical Director, and that Dr. Lisa Ryder is very willing and she is a very good fit for our system.

Alfred Stated College EMT Class

Ms. VanHousen stated that she has been working with Alfred State College in order to provide an EMT class taught by one of our instructors at the college because they have to be a Certified Instructor Coordinator (CIC) through us in order to instruct a class. Ms. VanHousen stated that they will try to encourage college faculty, staff, and students to take the class.

EMT Classes for High School Juniors and Seniors

Ms. VanHousen stated that she has been working with the Wellsville Superintendent of Schools to assist with information to apply for a grant to provide an EMT class for Wellsville High School Juniors and Seniors in the next few years.

EMT Classes for BOCES

Ms. VanHousen stated that the Recruitment and Retention Committee from the Fire Advisory Board is working toward providing an EMT class into the BOCES system that would benefit all of Allegany County Schools. Ms. VanHousen stated that this would be an EMT Fire Program that High School graduates could become a paid firefighter, or paid EMT to encourage a career in our area.

Request for Contract with University of Rochester for EMS Medical Director

Emergency Management & Fire Director Jeff Luckey requested a resolution to enter into a contract with the University of Rochester Medical Center for Medical Director services for the Office of Emergency Services. The services will be provided by a physician with knowledge and experience in the delivery of emergency medical care and will include advice on the development of protocols, policies, and training. The cost of the contract has been included in the 2022 Budget under account A8751.492. County Attorney Allison Carrow explained that there is an attached draft resolution that can be changed. Ms. Carrow stated that the contract is for a one-year term to facilitate any changes that may need to be made. Ms. Carrow also explained that the agreement is with the University of Rochester Medical Center so that if for some reason that the primary Medical Director could not be available, the University of Rochester Medical Center could send a qualified replacement. Committee Vice-Chairman Rumpfelt stated that he has had the opportunity to work with Dr. Lisa Ryder, and that she is wonderful to work with, that

she is a paramedic and knows the EMS system very well. Legislator Burdick stated that the fiscal impact line in the MOE is blank, and asked if we knew how much this would cost. Ms. VanHousen stated that the final amount has not been provided yet, but that Dr. Lisa Ryder told her \$10,000. Legislator Harris asked how that compares to our previous contract. Ms. VanHousen stated that we have never paid a Medical Director in the past. Committee Vice-Chairman Rumpfelt stated that Dr. Edwards provided his services out of the goodness of his heart, and you are not going to find anyone for free anymore. Legislator Healy stated that \$10,000 per year seems reasonable to him. Committee Vice-Chairman Rumpfelt stated that it is also required by the State. Ms. VanHousen stated that they also require a Medical Director to oversee their EMS classes. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Allegany County Administrator Carissa Knapp requested a resolution creating an EMS Advisory Board pursuant to County Law Section 223-b for the purposes of acting as an advisory body to the county government and the county EMS Coordinator. In addition, the EMS Advisory Board will cooperate with appropriate state and local agencies in relation to programs for EMS training, EMS-related activities, and mutual aid. The Allegany County EMS Advisory Board will replace the former Allegany County EMS Advisory Council, which was an informal body constituted for a similar purpose that operated in Allegany County from the mid-1970s through 2020. Legislator Harris asked the question regarding the second resolved paragraph from the attached draft resolution, if it indicated that there will not necessarily be a member of the Board of Legislators on this committee. County Attorney Allison Carrow stated that generally in the past, there have been some legislators as members of these EMS Advisory Boards however, there has been some case law indicating that legislators or members of the governing bodies should not be included on these advisory boards, so she will have to do some more research to answer that question fully. Ms. Knapp stated that typically an advisory board is for the purpose of providing advice to the Board of Legislators, but they may be able to explore the potential for legislators as an ex-officio member. Committee Vice-Chairman Rumpfelt thanked Ms. Knapp and Ms. Carrow for their hard work with getting this advisory board started over the last couple of months, because this was very important to him when he was elected. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Cyr, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Allegany County Assistant District Attorney Peter Degnan attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Degnan stated that crime is up which is an excellent reason for the request to create and fill the 3rd Assistant District Attorney. Mr. Degnan commented that the number of felonies and the seriousness of crimes have been so much more than he has ever seen and surmised that it is so hard to institute consequences. Legislator Harris stated that he read somewhere that there is a proposal to start funding District Attorneys' offices to support them in the changes to discovery. Mr. Degnan stated that he had not read that, but that he had received some information that they were going to increase the assigned council rates along with talk about changing bail reform laws. Mr. Degnan stated that there is a lot of things that they do not have firm information on because it has not passed yet, but they are going to make some changes. Legislator Harris asked if Mr. Degnan believed that if funding is provided, could that funding be used toward payroll. Mr. Degnan stated that obviously if that is an available avenue, they would utilize it similarly to what the Public Defender does with ILS.

Request to Create and Fill 3rd Assistant District Attorney

Allegany County Assistant District Attorney Ian Jones requested permission to create and fill one full time 3rd Assistant District Attorney (Section IV bargaining unit) in the District Attorney's Office. The Salary and Cost of Benefits is to be determined. The 3rd Assistant District Attorney will be assigned several Town and Village courts and be responsible for prosecution of all cases, including felonies through final resolution. Additionally, this position will have an emphasis on compliance with discovery

obligations that create a tremendous time and resource burden on the District Attorney's Office, which cannot be adequately addressed with the current staff. There is no funding available from external sources. However, while this is a new position, it is replacing an already existing part-time position, and currently vacant position which is budgeted at \$70,000. It should be noted that the \$70,000 salary was for a part time position. Accordingly, we are seeking a salary higher than what is currently budgeted. This position will be funded with 100 percent County funds. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Refer to Personnel**

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Probation Director Robert Starks attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Starks stated that there was an error on his report for the Meals on Wheels ride along, that it was something that should have been removed as it occurred the previous month. Legislator Burdick asked how the large number of people recently released from probation would affect his staffing. Mr. Starks stated that the individuals were parolees, and not from probation. Mr. Starks stated that it would indirectly affect staffing because there are still a lot of pending cases. Legislator Healy asked for an update on Youth Court. Mr. Starks stated that they had hired a Youth Court Coordinator, but he did not have permission to release the name because they contract with ACCORD to provide those services.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Weights & Measures Director Gilbert Green was unable to attend the meeting but had previously 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.

Request to Fill Corrections Sergeant

Sheriff Rick Whitney requested permission to fill one full-time Corrections Sergeant and all subsequent vacancies (Local Council 82 Bargaining Unit, Grade: 88, Step: Base), in the Sheriff's Office. This position is required to meet minimum SCOC staffing requirements. The annual salary of this position is estimated to be between \$52,565.17 and \$64,648.48, with benefits estimated to be between \$22,939 and \$28,218.60. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds, and the current amount in the 2022 Budget for this position is \$52,565.17. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Cyr, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means.**

Request Permission to Apply for NYSDHS Cyber Security Grant Program

The Allegany County Sheriff's Office requested a resolution to apply for the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services 2020 Cyber Security Grant Program. The Cyber Security Grant Program (CSGP) is designed to aid local jurisdictions in enhancing their ability to identify, protect, detect, respond to, and recover from cyber incidents as well as enhance the cyber security posture of government organizations within New York State's counties and local municipalities. The County is responsible to maintain equipment purchased through this grant once the grant has expired.

FISCAL IMPACT: Total Grant – Up to \$50,000
Exact amount is unknown until the award is announced.
Total COUNTY SHARE of grant: \$0.00
Grant Fiscal Year: From Date awarded through August 31, 2023

The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Cyr, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators