

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kevin W. Hines, Chairman
Thomas Faggione, **Kevindaryán Luján**, Rob Sassi,
Joel Sierra, Kathy A. Stegenga, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Wayne C. Booth, Director of Operations and Cost Control
Mary Pat Smith, Assistant to the County Executive
Robert Conflitti, Executive Assistant District Attorney
Donna McCarey, Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Paul Arteta, Deputy Sheriff/Captain
Anthony Mele, Corrections Administrator, Orange County Jail
Lawrence Catletti, Jail Administrator
Allen Wierzbicki, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Services/
Emergency Communications
Deborah Slesinski, Deputy Budget Director

Chairman Hines opened the meeting at 3:40 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Faggione moved the request to create one (1) Executive Assistant District Attorney, Management Grade 27, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Mr. Conflitti stated that being there is an opioid crisis in the county and around the nation, it is requiring that the District Attorney as well as law enforcement to expend additional resources to deal with it. They are required to gather additional evidence to support investigations and prosecutions in that area which needs supervisory capacity which is getting to the point where they need additional capacity to supervise the operations. In addition, the grants for anti-gun violence also need executive level presence. He does not do the work, but he has been standing in as the executive level presence. The person they have in mind for this position is Leah Canton who does do the work in that area. Furthermore, having her in this position would help streamline operations for the District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Hines asked how many executive level employees are in the office.

Mr. Conflitti replied Mr. Hoovler, Mr. Borek, and then there are three others at the executive level including himself.

Mr. Hines clarified that there will be four grade twenty-seven employees.

Mr. Conflitti stated that is correct.

Mrs. Bonelli mentioned that at budget time the District Attorney's Office requested additional personnel which the legislature approved. She asked if that is this position.

Mr. Conflitti replied the position was for a Crime Analyst, not legal staff.

Mr. Hines asked what the staffing currently consists of.

Mr. Conflitti replied that they are three openings and then they have 42 assistants and the district attorney.

Mr. Cheney asked whether the current assistants are involved in executive functions.

Mr. Conflitti replied yes, some do.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved the request to Re-introduce Resolution calling for New York State Legislative action to classify as controlled substances certain Fentanyl "Analogues" that are responsible for opioid overdose deaths (Resolution No. 330 of 2018 Dated: December 20, 2018), seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Vero moved the request to accept and appropriate grant funds from New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. These funds will be utilized to offset the cost of Phase 3 of the construction portion of the Radio Communications Project. These funds will be applied to the construction costs of the towers on the Maplebrook and Schunnemunk sites, \$802,256.00, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Mr. Wierzbicki stated that this is a grant that the State gives back to the county for the monies that were collected from surcharges for phones. It is a formula grant that consists of \$40 million throughout the State. He added that the funds will go toward the two towers they are currently building.

Mr. Hines asked if these are additional funds from the State.

Mr. Wierzbicki replied yes, these are additional funds.

Mr. Hines then asked the total monies received in grant funds for the project.

Mr. Wierzbicki replied the total is \$7.5 million.

Mr. Faggione asked when the total project will be done.

Mr. Wierzbicki replied that all the towers except Arden will complete by August/September.

Mr. Hines asked that this be added to the agenda next month for another update.

Mr. Sierra moved the request to accept and appropriate grant funds from the State and Municipal Facilities Program. Funding would be used to perform upgrade projects for WiFi at the Sheriff's Office and paving at the firearms range, \$50,000.00, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved the request to accept and appropriate grant funds from the State Criminal Aliens Assistance Program. This is a reimbursement from the Federal Government for the housing of illegal aliens in our facility, \$84,166.00, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Undersheriff Jones stated that this request is not related to ICE prisoners, it is for other agencies that are housed throughout the year.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved to discuss the Corrections Report, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Undersheriff Jones pointed out that this report as well as the Sheriff's Report have triggers in them meaning there is data from 2018.

Mr. Mele stated the facility head count as of this morning is 680 and 175 are ICE detainees. There are also 17 Marshall boarders and the boarder revenue is \$8,805,871.00.

Mr. Faggione moved to discuss the Sheriff's Report, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Undersheriff Jones stated it was a normal month and the arrests are dispersed throughout the report. The agency made over 2,000 arrests in 2018, there are 78 deputy sheriff positions and 11 sergeant positions, and the pistol permits remain high.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.