

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kevin W. Hines, Chairman
Thomas Faggione, Kevindaryan Lujan, Joseph J. Minuta,
Joel Sierra, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Laurie R. Tautel, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Mary Pat Smith, Assistant to County Executive
Steve Gross, Commissioner, Human Resources
Carl E. DuBois, Sheriff
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Anthony Weed, Assistant Undersheriff
Paul Arteta, Deputy Sheriff/Captain
Capt. Anthony Mele, Acting Corrections Administrator
Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
Craig Cherry, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Services/Police Liaison Services
Deborah Slesinski, Deputy Budget Director
Mike Ventre, Budget Analyst
Anthony Curcio, Supervisory Special Agent, U.S. Department of Homeland Security/
Homeland Security Investigations
Rick J. Patel, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Homeland Security/
Homeland Security Investigations

Chairman Hines opened the meeting at 3:33 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with exception of Legislators Sassi and Stegenga who were absent.

Mr. Faggione moved the request to accept NRA Foundation grant award for range ammunition to be used to provide deputies with the familiarization of new equipment and to ensure competency and efficiency in the use of new patrol rifles, \$3,652.50, seconded by Mr. Sierra.

Sheriff DuBois stated this is a grant for range ammunition to be used so that deputies can become familiar with new equipment.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved the request to create one (1) additional Program Integrity Officer in the Sheriff's Office, seconded by Mr. Sierra.

Undersheriff Jones stated that for several years the Professional Standards and Compliance (PS&C) Bureau which is an element of the Sheriff's Office has been staffed with two Program Integrity Officers and two Correction Officers. One of the Correction Officers took the test for deputy and will be entering the academy in the fall which will leave the Sheriff's Office short one person; therefore, there are two options. The first option would be to take another Correctional Officer from the jail to staff the squad and the other would be to create a new position of Program Integrity Officer. He added that they chose Program Integrity Officer because it is cheaper now and in the long-term.

Mr. Hines clarified that the correctional officer is detailed to the program integrity officer.

Undersheriff Jones stated that is correct.

Mr. Hines asked if they receive additional compensation.

Undersheriff Jones replied if they are designated as an investigator, they receive 3% more than the existing salary.

Mr. Hines clarified that the Program Integrity Officer does not have rank or investigative titles while they are a correctional officer.

Undersheriff Jones stated they have an in-house title of Investigator but the actual title is Correctional Officer.

Mr. Hines asked the salary of the person who was currently in the position.

Undersheriff Jones replied she has lower seniority so she had a salary in the mid-70's and was an exception to the rules because she was extremely gifted.

Mr. Hines asked why she cannot remain in the position as a deputy.

Undersheriff Jones replied it would be bad practice to take a rookie coming out of the academy and place them back into an internal affairs position.

Mr. Hines stated that it is the same person and asked why she would be considered a rookie.

Undersheriff Jones replied yes, she is a rookie deputy. He then read a handout (see original minutes) in regard to Missions Assigned to Professional Standards & Compliance (PS&C) for the Sheriff's Office and Jail and Other Departments of County Government.

Sheriff DuBois added that since they have been accredited, the Sheriff's Office has saved over a million dollars in risk management fees. The money saved in various capacities well exceeds the cost of this new position.

Mr. Sierra asked if it is cheaper to hire a new employee rather than have overtime.

Undersheriff Jones replied yes, it is cheaper to hire someone new.

Sheriff DuBois stated they are looking to hire someone who has investigative experience and preferably supervisory experience. He added that he likes to hire people who have seen everything and can be self-directed with minimal supervision.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved the request for supplemental appropriation to restore \$60,000.00 of the \$250,000.00 Emergency Services Intel Center funding which was appropriated in the 2017 Police Services Administration budget. \$50,000.00 will be utilized for the procurement of equipment for the ES Intel Center and \$10,000.00 for training/travel for the Crime Analyst, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Mr. Casey explained that they received \$250,000.00 as part of a settlement from litigation that the county had and at that time the county decided to put the monies in the budget to support the regional Intel Center that is being built on the lower level of the Emergency Services Center. He added that the State will reimburse some of the costs.

Mr. Cherry stated they got a late start on the project due to the settlement money and the MOA needing to be signed by the State.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Mr. Mele stated that as of this morning the facility head count is 685 and the ICE boarder revenue is \$700,981.00.

Sheriff DuBois added that a month ago he was approached about boarding some of the prisoners from Rikers Island and he turned them down.

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

Sheriff DuBois congratulated Mr. Sierra for being observant last week when he spotted a fire and responded quickly. He stated there is nothing new to report besides a few retirements/promotions and he would like all legislators to pay attention to the Raise the Age issue and the anticipated costs that may occur.

Regarding the Active Shooter Program, Mrs. Bonelli asked if any school districts or organizations have taken advantage of it.

Mr. Weed replied yes. He stated six school districts and a library took part in the program and there are ten more organizations signed up for next week.

The committee then had a brief discussion regarding Raise the Age and the next steps for a facility, transportation and the revenue. Sheriff DuBois stated that there is not much

information but he will keep the committee posted and they will have a further discussion next month.

Mr. Lujan moved to hear a presentation regarding Improvements to the Sheriff's Office Shooting Range and partnership with U.S. Homeland Security, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Anthony Curcio, Supervisory Special Agent, U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Homeland Security Investigations and Rick J. Patel, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Homeland Security Investigations addressed the committee regarding improvements to the Sheriff's Office Shooting Range and partnering with the U.S. Homeland Security.

Undersheriff Jones stated they are looking for a long-term partner for security trainings and there have been several discussions so that an arrangement can be made to have them in the building. He added that they would pay the Sheriff's Office for the use of the property.

Mr. Patel explained that they are the second largest Homeland Security Investigative Agency besides the FBI so there are a lot of law enforcement officers that are mandated to qualify four times a year which requires them to go to various ranges. They would like to partner with Orange County so that they do not need to go to other counties to qualify and have a centralized location.

Mr. Hines asked if they have teams in this area.

Mr. Patel replied yes, this is their jurisdiction; therefore, they cover the area.

Mr. Hines asked if they are a current resource in the event of an incident.

Mr. Patel replied yes, they are happy to assist in any capacity.

Sheriff DuBois pointed out that there needs to be a memorandum of understanding, a contract and a lease so this will not happen overnight; however, he would like to begin the process because it will be a state of the art facility with training and cutting-edge technology. He stated that he does not see any downside to this partnership which will not only be for the Sheriff's Office but all the agencies within Orange County. Furthermore, there are no additional funds needed at this time.

Mr. Hines clarified that they will have their own instructors.

Mr. Patel stated that is correct. They will have their own instructors, special response teams and rapid response teams which they would like to share.

Mr. Hines asked if they would allow the local police agencies on the facilities.

Mr. Patel replied for training purposes, yes.

Sheriff Dubois stated this will be a state of the art facility that all agencies can utilize that will have endless potential.

Undersheriff Jones added that this facility will have all the “bells and whistles.” He explained that it is a lease and the Sheriff’s Office would make it available once there are leftover days for other agencies.

Sheriff DuBois stated that it will not be difficult to enter into an agreement.

Undersheriff Jones added there will be a small charge to use the facility.

Mr. Cheney commented that he would like to see a formalized Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) so that the legislature has a good understanding and can evaluate it on the basis of costs involved.

Undersheriff Jones stated they will do that and want the legislature involved in the process.

Sheriff DuBois stated they have had many successful partnerships with outside agencies and is looking forward to this one. He reiterated that this will keep the county ahead of the curve.

Mr. Minuta moved to adopt a resolution of the Orange County Legislature urging the New York State Legislature and the Governor of the State of New York to enact legislation amending New York State General Municipal Law Section 72-c to provide reciprocal reimbursement to County Sheriffs by other municipal corporations for all reimbursable expenses relating to police training school for its members who have terminated employment and commenced employment with a municipal corporation, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Chairman Brescia stated that this passed yesterday at the Rules Committee meeting but since then he is having reservations in regard to the police chiefs in Orange County; therefore, he would like to withdraw this request and bring it back to committee next month.

Mrs. Reed pointed out that the resolution would be generic to the county and to remember that this is a New York State General Municipal Law Section 72-c.

Mr. Hines clarified that they would only bill police officers who were leaving the county.

Mrs. Reed stated that is correct.

Chairman Brescia stated the county absorbs a lot of costs and the Sheriff’s Office provides details at special events and they do not have to do it but still do. He added that he would like to get more input.

Undersheriff Jones commented this would allow the county to get some money back.

Chairman Brescia clarified that they would not conduct the field training over 160 hours.

Undersheriff Jones stated that is correct.

Mr. Vero stated he voted in favor of this yesterday and will support this today.

Undersheriff Jones stated this is important because municipalities are stealing and staying and the Sheriff's Office is not getting any manpower from it. This resolution will level the playing field.

Sheriff DuBois pointed out that while these people are in the academy other municipalities are hiring them.

Undersheriff Jones reiterated that this will help recoup the training costs.

Chairman Brescia stated he will move forward with this but it needs to be made clear to municipalities that this county shares the taxes and funding is given in large measure.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception
of Legislator Lujan who voted against.leg

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.