

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
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
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control
Robert Conflitti, Executive Assistant District Attorney
Karen Edelman-Reyes, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Kerry Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner of Finance
Carl E. DuBois, Sheriff
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Jeremy Yela, K-9 Deputy Sheriff, DSPBA President
Anthony Mele, Corrections Administrator, Orange County Jail
Lawrence Catletti, Jail Administrator
Craig Cherry, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Svcs/Div. of Police Liaison Svcs
Vini Tankasali, Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Services/ Div. of Fire Services
Allen Wierzbicki, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Svcs/Emergency Comm.
Frank Cassanite, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Svcs
Greg Schmid, Director of Operations, Emergency Svcs/Emergency Comm.
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Chairman Hines opened the meeting at 3:31 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Sassi moved to adopt a resolution of the Orange County Legislature supporting New York State Senate Bill S7280, the Emergency Responders Privacy Protection Act, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Conflitti stated this is the Legislature's resolution that he has asked to comment on. This is a requirement that the prosecution provide certain contact information for first responders. Under the current law, for most witnesses, they are required to turnover to the defense a name as well as adequate contact information for a witness with the exception of police officers who are required to turnover a name and an agency affiliation. These two bills (S7280 & S9107) would exempt first responders from those requirements.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Mr. Mele stated that as of this morning the facility headcount was at 460, of that 123 are ICE detainees and 85 are Marshals. The total revenue for the year is \$838,317.00. He pointed out that there are ten vacancies and after a study of the last five pay periods this year compared to last year, they are roughly \$136,000.00 higher in overtime.

Mr. Hines asked if the vacancies are there because they were not approved, or a class is not ready to go.

Mr. Mele replied the vacancies were not approved.

Mr. Hines asked Mr. Bloomer to convey that information to the County Executive.

Sheriff DuBois stated this was mentioned at last month's committee meeting and Ms. Smith was going to convey it as well.

Mr. Lujan asked if there are drastic changes or decreases in the population since the new law began.

Mr. Hines replied they are down 120 inmates.

Mr. Mele stated the housing units are still open; therefore, they are still running the same operation.

Mr. Sierra asked if a consolidation of units is possible.

Undersheriff Jones replied no, because they are in different classifications for a purpose.

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

Undersheriff Jones stated it was an average month and pistol permits are exploding as they are printing seven days a week. As of right now, the wait time for fingerprinting is three months.

Mr. Sassi moved the request to accept and appropriate grant funds from the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. These funds will be utilized to offset the costs of the final implementation of the Radio Communications Project. The funds will be applied to infrastructure, equipment, lease payments, microwave maintenance and fiber connections, \$822,055.00, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Wierzbicki explained this is a non-competitive grant that the State provides through a formula which is given back to the county through the cell phone charges. He added that the grant helps them maintain the equipment.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The last agenda item was an update regarding the Radio Communications Project.

Mr. Wierzbicki stated that 50 out of 100 radios are complete.

Mr. Hines asked if it that is on the fire side.

Mr. Tankasali replied no, there are 26 on the fire side.

Mr. Hines clarified that the paging is at 100% on the new system.

Mr. Tankasali stated EMS will be finished tomorrow.

Mr. Cherry mentioned the biggest challenge they are having is the vendors and what they are doing with the installers such as keeping them on track and making sure there are enough to finish the task.

Mr. Hines asked if there is a completion date.

Mr. Wierzbicki replied they are hoping for April.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.