

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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
Janet Sutherland, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Karen Edelman-Reyes, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Brendan R. Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
Craig Cherry, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Services/ Police Liaison Services
Allen Wierzbicki, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Services/
Emergency Communications
Frank Cassanite, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Services/Medical Services/EMS
Deborah Slesinski, Deputy Budget Director
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Chairman Hines opened the meeting at 3:32 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Faggione moved to request confirmation of reappointments to the Orange County Police Advisory Board (J. Gottstine, W. Worden, B. Casey), seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Casey stated that Jennifer Gottstine is the zone commander who holds his former position in Monroe and William Worden is the Police Chief in Port Jervis who does an amazing job.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Casey, Mr. Wierzbicki and Mr. Cassanite addressed the committee with a brief discussion regarding the Municipal Certificate of Need for EMS.

Mr. Casey stated the purpose of having this on the agenda was to keep everyone updated on what is happening with EMS and the county.

Mr. Hines asked Mr. Casey if he would like to pass a resolution today.

Mr. Casey replied that they will first review the pros and cons.

Mr. Sassi moved to discuss the Municipal Certificate of Need for EMS, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Mr. Casey stated that this has been an ongoing problem with EMS coverage within certain parts of the county. They did a report last year and sent it to the municipalities so they can look at what is happening in their community because some communities do not have any issues and others do. One example is Minisink, because it takes at least 25 minutes for ALS. In December, he was contacted by the Tuxedo Volunteer Ambulance Corps stating that they will no longer go on the Thruway and service the town that goes through Tuxedo. There are a couple of issues related to it, but it primarily is due to safety concerns. He explained that they feel that the fire department does not respond to all medicals, so if there is a medical call unrelated to a fire, they respond to the thruway with just the ambulance. They are basically unwilling to respond in that area. He met with them as well as all of the emergency providers along the Thruway and there are some problems for EZPass reimbursement, call reimbursement and the safety aspect. He wrote a letter to the Thruway Authority, NYS DOT, and some local state officials explaining what is happening but also addressed the legalization of marijuana which will make it even more dangerous out on the roads. It is an ongoing problem; therefore, the Thruway Authority and NYS DOT should allocate resources. This is an unusual situation that needs to be resolved. Furthermore, Rockland Paramedics has a contract with Tuxedo to provide them with a paramedic and a fly car which means they cannot transport, it is an SUV. They have a special Certificate of Need that carves out that little area, so they would like to get into Orange County, but they would need a certificate for the whole county. The main problem with getting a Certificate of Need and bringing Rockland Paramedics into Orange County is Orange County holds the certificate and is responsible for the billing. It ties the county into an area that he does not know he wants to get into which means they are back to square one. He stated that he does not know what the answer is and the purpose of bringing this up today is that everyone is kept in the loop because it could rear its head again.

Legislator Lujan left the committee meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding different areas of service to the county and monies that are needed to provide the services.

Mr. Casey reiterated that he will keep the committee posted on any developments or changes that occur.

Mr. Faggione moved to discuss an update on the Radio Communication Towers, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Casey explained that the project is moving a long well, the two construction towers; Skunneunk and Maplebrook are just about done and the last piece of the puzzle is Arden which is the tower above Woodbury Commons. They have a solution for it but first they need to get contracts in place. The infrastructure of the system should be ready by the summer and all vehicles are being prewired. He added that they are hoping to begin with the eastern part of the county and then it will be rolled out by zone by August. There are no major obstacles anticipated.

Mr. Wierzbicki commented that it is moving very well.

Mr. Sassi moved the request for supplemental appropriation to restore Alive@25 unexpected revenues that were rolled into the General Fund at the end of 2018, \$16,586.52, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Cherry stated this is an annual request for teen drivers to take a four-hour course for driver safety.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Undersheriff Jones stated the facility head count is 697 and 155 are ICE detainees. There are also 17 Marshall boarders and the boarder revenue is \$798,272.00 which is consistent with the target number.

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

Undersheriff Jones explained that January was a slow month, school security remains at a plus one (49 deputies, 19 buildings) and everything else was normal.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.