

SPECIAL SESSION, TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021

SPECIAL SESSION

March 30, 2021

The Legislature convened in Special Session at 4:15 p.m. today.

The Legislature was called to order by Acting Chairwoman Bonelli with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence and remembrance of all those affected by the Coronavirus and the families of those who have unfortunately passed away.

On roll call, all members were present with the exception of Chairman Brescia who was absent.

The Clerk read the Notice of Special Meeting. On motion the same was received and ordered placed on file.

Public Participation will be postponed to a future Legislative Session but the public is invited to send their written comments via email to Jramppen@orangecountygov.com

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE:

Sponsors: Hines, Stegenga, Vero, Faggione, Sierra, Sassi, Luján

Co-Sponsors: Tautel, Tuohy

RESOLUTION NO. 63 OF 2021

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES, PURSUANT TO SECTION 99-h OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW AND SECTION 4.09 OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER.

WHEREAS, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services has offered grant funds in the amount of \$1,685,928.00 for the Criminal Justice Discovery Reform Grant for fiscal year 2021. Said funds support local law enforcement agencies with reimbursement of expenses related to the implementation of discovery and bail reforms that took effect on January 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature does wish to accept and appropriate said grant funds for the Orange County District Attorney's Office as indicated above.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED, as follows:

1. That the County Executive, in conjunction with the Orange County District Attorney, be and hereby is authorized to accept and appropriate grant funds from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$1,685,928.00 for the Criminal Justice Discovery Reform Grant as stated above.

2. That the 2021 budget for the District Attorney's Office is hereby amended and supplemented as shown below, and the Commissioner of Finance, together with the Director of Budget, be and hereby is authorized to make such amendment and supplementation forthwith.

3. That the County Executive be and hereby is authorized to execute all necessary documents and assurances necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution subject to the review thereof by the County Attorney for purposes of form and content.

Revenue:

1010	116501	430891	State Aid	\$1,685,928.00
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Expense:

1010	116501	585115	Capitalized Computer Equipment and Software	\$1,685,928.00
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Seconded by Mr. Vero.

District Attorney Hoovler thanked the Legislature for calling the special meeting. The resolution before them today was so the county can accept \$1,685,928.00 for the Criminal Justice Discovery Reform Grant. Mr. Hoovler stated that these funds were taken from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office by the State and \$40 million was given to the upstate communities. Orange County received \$1.6 million which will be used for Discovery Reform to get a new records management system to replace the impact system for all the local municipalities. This will allow uniformity for all police departments to receive the same records and reports. He added this will be a multi-year project so in the future the county will have to spend additional funds to complete the system. This is the first step, once they accept the \$1.6 million, it will take 18 to 24 months and there will probably be another \$1.4 million required in addition to this to bring the system to fruition. The money needs to be accepted by March 31st and forwarded to the state, and that is why they are holding the special meeting today.

Acting Chairwoman Bonelli shared that this went before the Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee meeting last Thursday but pointed out that the District Attorney stressed that it was time sensitive.

Mr. Paduch noted that the resolution states that the funds support local law enforcement agencies. He asked if we were working with the municipalities and if there was a list of how much money each municipality is getting.

Mr. Hoovler explained that they are working in conjunction with municipalities and are looking at a one license solution. Each municipality has their own system and their own way of doing things. This will put everyone under one records management system that is controlled by the county. All of the police departments, all the municipal agencies and the state police will all have a uniformity of data storage and data collection. There is no exact share going to each police department, it will benefit all the municipal police departments, the Sheriff's Office, the Department of Probation and the District Attorney's office.

Mr. Paduch asked if the municipalities need to spend any money to be in the system.

Mr. Hoover responded no but down the road there might be some maintenance, like the Impact System. The Impact System they have now is a failure because it is old, and many departments are on different systems such as Impact I and Impact II.

Mr. Paduch confirmed that this would be new equipment to the municipalities and will not cost anything.

Mr. Hoover responded that it was a one license solution by the county and will work like a cloud-based system, they will need access to the cloud. There are small maintenance fees which can be worked out down the road, it will not be any more than what they spend on the system they presently use which does not work.

Mr. Paduch asked if training would be needed and is there a fee for that.

Mr. Hoover stated that the municipalities will need to learn how to use it but there will be project managers and a work group put together. The idea of this is to create uniformity.

Mr. Tuohy recalled Mr. Hoover talking about the impacts from the Reform that came a few years ago and he was happy he is getting what he needs. He was also happy that the local agencies will be a part of it too.

Mr. Paduch asked if there was a cost to the county or does this grant money cover it all.

Mr. Hoover explained that it covers the first portion of the buildout which needs to be purchased for the county. The second part of the system which will be the automated system that will allow the District Attorney's Office and others to query and search all information related to a defendant or arrest which is the second part. The project will take 18 to 24 months to finish, then a second part of the project will probably cost about \$1.4 million. That system cannot operate without this system. He felt it was a good expenditure for everyone. In the future they will need to create a capital project and put aside money to finish the project. The days of municipalities being on their own and under the Criminal Justice Reform cannot exist anymore.

Mr. Paduch asked if the new system can store video.

Mr. Hoover responded that it will have that capability once it is completed.

The vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Bonelli, Paduch, Amo, Anagnostakis, Benton, Cheney, Faggione, Hines, Kulisek, Luján, Minuta, O'Donnell, Ruszkiewicz, Sassi, Sierra, Stegenga, Sutherland, Tautel, Tuohy, Vero

Absent: Brescia

Ayes 20;

Noes 0;

Absent 1;

ADOPTED.

On motion of Ms. Tautel, seconded by Mr. Paduch, the Legislature adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

ADJOURNED.

Jean M. Ramppen, Clerk