

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kevin W. Hines, Chairman
Thomas Faggione, Joseph J. Minuta, Rob Sassi, Joel Sierra,
Kathy A. Stegenga, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Langdon Chapman, County Attorney
Carl E. DuBois, Sheriff
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Paul Arteta, Deputy Sheriff/Captain
Capt. Anthony Mele, Acting Corrections Administrator
Lawrence Catletti, Jail Administrator
Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
Allen Wierzbicki, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Services/
Emergency Communications
Derek Miller, Director of Probation
John Jordan, Department of Public Works/Jail

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 with the exception of Legislator Lujan who was absent.

Mr. Sassi moved the request for confirmation of appointments and reappointments to the Orange County Fire Advisory Board (E. Pavlich, K. Duggan, R. Moorhead, R. Dorrman, J. Galu, T. Sullivan, W. Russo, J. Cross, G. Southard, B. Petrick), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Casey stated that Mr. Tankasali oversees this board and these men and woman who serve volunteer in their home districts as well as volunteering as members on this board.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Lujan who was absent.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request to accept federal funds in the amount of \$165,658.00 from NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the 2018 Public Safety answering Points Grant. Monies of \$159,658.00 will be utilized to offset Public Safety Dispatcher

overtime costs and \$6,000.00 will be utilized to purchase dispatcher chairs, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Wierzbicki explained that they received a grant in the amount of \$165,000.00 which was set by the State to use for specific items such as; salary, things needed in the call center, chairs, desk, etc. The monies that are not utilized will go toward overtime costs.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Lujan who was absent.

Mr. Faggione moved the request funding for funding for the completion of the construction of Capital Project No. 376 (Public Safety Communications) \$3,839,500.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Sierra.

Mr. Casey stated this is the last piece of the project and in order to go to bid these monies need to be bonded. He added there is a little over \$1 million in contingency in case they need it.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Lujan who was absent.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request to accept donation from Mobile Life Support Systems, Inc. of a 2013 Chevrolet ambulance to the Orange County Sheriff's Office, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Undersheriff Jones stated that from time to time they receive donations to augment the Special Operations group and this ambulance will replace the current one.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Lujan who was absent.

Mr. Faggione moved the request for supplemental appropriation to the Capital Projects budget for buildings equipment replacement at the Orange County Jail, \$150,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Catletti explained this request is to replace antiquated equipment for the hot water heaters, rolling refrigerators, and heating cabinets in the kitchen area. The two water heaters are currently failing.

Mr. Hines clarified that the equipment is 19 years old.

Mr. Catletti stated that is correct, it is the original equipment.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Lujan who was absent.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request for supplemental appropriation to the Capital Projects budget for buildings capital improvements at the Orange County Jail, \$250,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Catletti stated this request is also to replace antiquated equipment that is failing because it is original to the building. This includes replacing doors in the lobby at the Sheriff's Office, and put tile in the carpeted areas.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Lujan who was absent.

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

Mr. Mele stated as of this morning the facility head count is 705 inmates and of that 198 are ICE Detainees. The boarder revenue is \$2,114,757.00.

Mr. Sassi asked what the average stay for ICE inmates is.

Mr. Mele replied their average stay is 38.7 days.

Mr. Sassi then asked if they are released to a specific place when the sentence is expired.

Mr. Mele replied they can be sent back into population or deported.

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

Sheriff DuBois stated that the marine boat is completely repaired at no cost to the county and it is ready to go in the water. He added that the Sheriff's Office was accredited in March and the certificate was received the other day which now helps to maintain liability costs from increasing.

Mr. Sierra moved to discuss an update on the Probation Department, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Miller addressed the committee with a handout regarding a **Description of the Probation Department** (see original minutes) which included a **Mission Statement** that read, "The Mission of the Probation Department is to "improve public safety." Population Served, Staffing, Major Services Provided, Adult Criminal Unit, Misdemeanor Alternative Sentencing Program (MASP), STOP-DWI (Special Traffic Option Program for Driving While Intoxicated), Family Services Division, Crime Victims Assistance Program (CVAP), Significant Events/Accomplishments in 2017, and Goals for 2018.

Ms. Stegenga asked if the probation officers are armed.

Mr. Miller replied yes, there are 15-armed staff. He explained that there are safety trainings and the equipment used for the officers are tasers, pepper spray and handcuffs.

Mr. Sierra asked what the transition period is from the time of arrest to the Probation Department.

Mr. Miller replied the judge can order release under supervision at the time of arraignment and then the Probation Department picks up the case. He stated there are about 150 to 200 cases on an annual basis where things happen this way. Furthermore, the vast majority of people who are under the supervision of the probation department are sentenced or disposed in family court then there is a pre-disposition investigation done to determine whether or not the case will be supervised by the department.

Mr. Sierra clarified that the investigation is done in-house by the Probation Department.

Mr. Miller stated that is correct. He then pointed out that the goals of the department for 2018 are to expand firearms issuance to selected qualified officers, migrate to a new financial system, expand the use of remote alcohol monitoring, expand training curriculum to include newer trends in community supervision and crime and initiate "Raise the Age" supervision and programming.

Regarding expanding the use of remote alcohol monitoring, Mr. Hines asked if that is the car sensors.

Mr. Miller replied that is the bracelets that go on the wrist or ankle so the drinking can be monitored. It measures epidural alcohol release meaning it comes out of the skin.

Mr. Hines asked if this bracelet transmits to the department or if is downloaded to a program.

Mr. Miller replied it gets downloaded and tells the department after the person has been drinking, not while they were drinking.

Mr. Sierra asked if the Probation Department will have any impact on the "Raise the Age" issue.

Mr. Miller replied yes, the department will have an impact and plans will have to be made as they go along. From what he is told, the county is "light years ahead" compared to other counties in the State.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.