

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)
THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021
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
Leigh J. Benton, Legislator
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Paul Ruskiewicz, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control
Karen Edelman-Reyes, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Steven M. Gross, Commissioner, Human Resources
Brendan R. Casey, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services
Craig Cherry, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Svcs/Div. of Police Liaison Svcs
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Lawrence Catletti, Jail Administrator
Timothy A. Davidian, Acting Director, Probation Department
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 approve the confirmation appointment of Timothy A. Davidian as Orange County Director of Probation, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Gross stated this request was passed unanimously by the Personnel and Compensation Committee on Monday. Mr. Davidian has been with the county since 1989 and has worked his way up through the Probation Department by starting off as a Probation Officer Trainee. They have searched far and wide and it led them to Mr. Davidian who is now the star candidate to become the next Probation Director of Orange County. Mr. Gross pointed out that Mr. Davidian has done a great job for the county and the County Executive has recognized this since he has taken over the role. More importantly, the State Deputy Commissioner and Director of Probation, Mr. Robert Maccarone, wrote a letter (see original minutes) supporting the selection of the candidate. He then asked that Mr. Davidian speak to the committee about his visions for the department.

Mr. Hines mentioned that the committee met Mr. Davidian when he was appointed Acting Director of Probation and they reviewed his qualifications and vision for the department already, but he is welcome to add to what he told them in the past.

Mr. Davidian briefly updated the committee regarding the Probation Department in the last couple of months. He stated that they have made great strides in returning to their training regimen with the Sheriff's Office and getting Probation Officers state mandated training. As he indicated to the committee back in January, his intention is not to make wholesale changes to the department. He believes they are on the correct path and it will be a matter of tweaking some things rather than a big change. Furthermore, he thanks the County Executive's Office and Commissioner Gross for their support during this process and will be as transparent as possible each day.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request to reallocate the management grades of the following positions in the Probation Department:

Probation Director – Grade 27 to a Grade 28

Deputy Probation Director – Grade 25 to a Grade 27

Principal Probation Officer – Grade 24 to a Grade 26,
seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Gross explained there have been issues in the county when trying to fill the Deputy Probation Director and Principal Probation Officer positions due to the management cap. The CSEA grades and employees were making more money than the management grades would allow them to pay, therefore, no one was appointed to the positions because they would have taken a pay cut. He then referred to the letter from Mr. MacCarone (see original minutes) which supports these two positions.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate 2021-2022 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Grant, \$5,172.00, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Casey stated this is an annual grant in the amount of \$5,172.00 for off-site and/or out of state HAZMAT training. The funds will be available in 2022.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request to reappropriate the previously accepted grant funding received from NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services from Orange County District Attorney's Budget to Capital Funding (to be added to Capital Project No. 71 in the 2021 Proposed Capital Plan) in conjunction with the Emergency Services funding to finance the Law Records Data Sharing project, \$1,685,928.00, seconded by Mr. Sierra.

Mr. Cherry explained that last month the District Attorney presented the committee with a project where he is receiving this funding regarding the Police Reform and funds given to the state where money was allocated for District Attorney Offices throughout New York State. In conversations with the District Attorney, there is an agreement to use the funds toward a Niche Records Management System which will assist the office with discovery issues. He added that Mr. Hoover also told the committee that he would be coming back to request more funding to finalize what is needed on his end of the project. Along with Capital Project No. 71 (see original minutes), they will combine the two projects under one because it will allow them to secure the hardware, software license, and the infrastructure needed to make sure the project comes together. He estimated that the roll-out of the project will take twelve to eighteen months and further explained what the records management system will do for the departments.

Mr. Hines mentioned that he spoke with the District Attorney who is in favor of this as he believes all police departments should be on the same system because it will help with the timeliness of discovery. It is important to move the county forward.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request to accept and appropriate the Proposed 2021 Capital Projects No. 71 for \$750,000.00 to finance the Law Records Data Sharing Project (bonding), seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request to accept and appropriate funding from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services through the Explosive Detection Canine 2019 grant, \$6,000.00, **seconded by Mr. Luján.**

Undersheriff Jones stated this request is to accept grant funds for an explosive detection canine.

Mr. Hines clarified that the funds are for the existing canine.

Undersheriff Jones stated it is a combination of the existing canine and a new one.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Luján moved the request to accept and appropriate funding from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services through the Tactical Team Program 2019 grant, \$75,000.00, seconded by Mr. Vero.

Undersheriff Jones explained these funds are for the tactical team through the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services who have guidelines that must be followed to spend this money. It is left up to the Special Operations Command to determine their most important needs.

Mr. Hines asked if these funds are shared with other municipalities.

Undersheriff Jones replied no, this is an in-house grant.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Vero moved to discuss the Corrections Report, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Catletti stated that as of this morning the facility headcount is 422, of that 61 are ICE detainees and 92 are Marshals. He added the total boarder revenue as of March 2021 is \$2,073,417.00.

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

Undersheriff Jones stated it has been an ordinary month and pistol permits to continue to increase.

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.