

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)  
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 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  
James M. Kulisek, Legislator  
Laurie R. Tautel, Legislator  
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator  
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel  
Harold J. Porr, III., Deputy County Executive  
Karen Edelman-Reyes, Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Brendan R. Casey, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services  
Vini Tankasali, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services/Fire Services  
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff  
Lawrence Catletti, Jail Administrator  
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 with the exception of **Legislator Luján** who arrived at 3:37 p.m.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate federal funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for FY2019 Hazardous Materials Grant Program for the period 4/1/21 – 8/31/22, \$142,000.00, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Tankasali stated that this is their yearly Regional Partnership Grant for hazardous materials for the Hazmat Teams throughout the state. Our region is will Rockland County, Sullivan County, and Ulster County. This is year is different compared to previous years because the Department of Emergency Services is managing the grant starting with the 2019 one. He added that the funds are divided equally between the four partners in the region.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of **Legislator Luján who had not yet arrived.**

Mr. Faggione moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to capital projects budget to finance the upgrade of the Auditorium in Emergency Services Center and command center equipment, with the additional installation of new digital signage for the main lobby of the building. To include, but not limited to, new digital 4k video wall, new digital microphones to conform with federal standards, IP cameras for broadcast and recording, digital audio systems, main lobby signage, and lighting control. This is proposed Capital Project No. 70, \$460,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Casey explained this is the "refresh" for the auditorium that they have been working on for the last couple of years as some of the technology has stopped working. The companies who installed the original equipment has stopped supporting the platforms, so it needs to be upgraded. He added that they have been patching the equipment together, but it has become difficult as the auditorium gets a lot of use especially now during COVID-19.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to capital projects budget to finance the removal and replacement of the Emergency Services data center CRAC (Computer Room Air Conditioning) units, with newer, more reliable, and efficient units. This is proposed Capital Project No. 69, \$252,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Vero.

Mr. Casey stated this request is to remove and replace the CRAC (Computer Room Air Conditioning) units which are specifically placed in the data center and run 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. There is a lot of electronic equipment stored in the room that needs to operate at a certain temperature. He pointed out that they are the original units that came with the building in 2008 and they have been repaired several times.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Mr. Catletti stated that as of this morning the facility headcount is 402, of that 71 are ICE detainees and 79 are Marshals. He added the total boarder revenue as of the end of April is \$2,719,336.00.

Mr. Hines asked if the jail is allowing visitors.

Mr. Catletti replied that as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, they will allow non-contact visits to resume.

Mr. Hines then asked the status of ICE and Marshals prisoners and how the facility is in respect to COVID-19.

Mr. Catletti replied yes, they are accepting new prisoners as long as they are screened and have a negative COVID-19 test prior to being brought in. He added that they are still trying to get more boarders into the jail. Regarding COVID-19, the jail has had no cases with staff or inmates at the present time and a total of 171 inmates have been vaccinated and they continue to canvas for those who wish to receive it.

Mr. Hines clarified that any inmate who wanted a vaccine received one.

Mr. Catletti stated that is correct and they will continue to promote vaccinations to all inmates and staff.

Ms. Stegenga moved to discuss the Sheriff's Report, seconded by Mr. Sierra.

Undersheriff Jones reported that there have been slight increases in activity due to the reopening of certain aspects of the court systems and society. He also mentioned that the State Legislature passed the Holt Act which requires mandatory training for everyone in corrections and this year it will be 30 hours of training, 27 hours minimum. The training will create a substantial economic burden to them as they estimate the cost to be \$1.5 million.

Mr. Hines asked if the training would take place in-house.

Undersheriff Jones replied that the state did not give them clear direction, but they are exploring in-house.

Mr. Hines then clarified that the \$1.5 million is the overtime cost.

Undersheriff Jones stated that is correct and the training cannot be done while they are on duty. He added that he will send a copy of the act to all committee members.

Mr. Hines asked that Undersheriff Jones highlight the rest of the Sheriff's Report.

Undersheriff Jones responded that it was an average month, pistol permits are at unprecedented rates and in the report (see original minutes), there is a section of methods, cross sections of arrests and tickets issued.

With no questions asked, Mr. Hines clarified that Undersheriff Jones would like to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Undersheriff Jones stated that is correct, he would like to address a personnel issue.

Legislative Counsel Abraham indicated that the committee would go into executive session pursuant to Section 105f of the Public Officer's Law to discuss employment matters pertaining to a particular person.

Mr. Vero moved to enter into executive session to discuss employment matters pertaining to a particular person, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Committee entered into executive session  
at 3:49 p.m.

Mr. Vero moved to leave executive session,  
seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Committee left executive session at 4:18 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.