

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018  
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kevin W. Hines, Chairman  
Thomas Faggione, Kevindaryan Lujan, Joseph J. Minuta,  
Rob Sassi, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
David M. Hoover, District Attorney  
Donna McCarey, Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources  
Alison Tyack, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources  
Carl E. DuBois, Sheriff  
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff  
Paul Arteta, Deputy Sheriff/Captain  
Anthony Weed, Assistant Undersheriff  
Capt. Anthony Mele, Acting Corrections Administrator  
Lawrence Catletti, Jail Administrator  
Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services  
Derek Miller, Director of Probation  
Mike Ventre, Budget Analyst

Chairman Hines opened the meeting at 3:33 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with exception of Legislators Sierra and Stegenga who were absent.

Mr. Faggione moved the request confirmation of reappointments to the Orange County Police Advisory Board (K. Hines, J. Holmes, C. DuBois), seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Casey stated these three members attend meetings religiously and are a valuable input. It is his recommendation that they be reappointed.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved the request to accept and appropriate grant funds of up to \$480,000.00 from New York State Office of Victim Services/VOCA Victim Assistance Program for Case Manager Services, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Mr. Miller explained that the Probation Department has a Crime Victims Assistance Program which includes five full-time crime victim counselors. The State notified the department and

due to some changes, they wanted to create grant monies for existing programs; therefore, the department applied and received the award.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to adopt a Local Law amending Section 3 of Local Law No. 2 of 2008 establishing the Orange County Traffic Safety Board, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Casey stated the appointments for the Traffic Safety Board expire at the end of this year so they are in the process of review and realized that New York State Law requires that anyone on the board be a member of the county they serve in. He spoke with the County Attorney so the law can be amended so that the county is in compliance. There will be no changes to the board or the function of it, this is just to comply with the State law.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to update the committee regarding the recent storm and power outages, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Hines pointed out that he added this to the agenda being there were several issues from the storm and Mr. Casey's staff was activated the entire time.

Mr. Casey stated that last Tuesday a severe line of thunderstorms moved through the area and it turned into tornadoes with microbursts throughout the county. Central Hudson and Orange and Rockland responded to the Emergency Services Center along with many State entities. He knows the legislature recently approved a capital project to upgrade the jail's back up generators and it is a good thing that was approved because two of the generators were down and the third one almost went down; therefore, they would have had no power at the jail. They immediately requested a 500-kilowatt truck mounted diesel generator that was delivered but they didn't need it because Generac showed up and was able to get the stuff up and running. That night was chaotic but they got as much help as they could to get things up and running. Overall the power companies did a great job and all municipalities were kept informed as to what was going on.

Mr. Minuta moved to discuss an update on the solar farm at the 911 Center, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Mr. Casey explained he has numbers dating back to 2008 for the building and it looks like prior to solar getting turned on, they are about \$373,000.00 a year in electric. Last year it was higher because there were issues with the meters but it was straightened out and so far, this year they have a savings of \$20,000.00 and the Fire Training Center has a cost savings of \$10,000.00. In the budget last year, he estimated they would save \$100,000.00 and is hoping to reach that mark.

Mr. Faggione moved the request to create three (3) Assistant District Attorney I, Grade 21 positions, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Hoovler stated this request is opening positions so he can hire new entry level employees and does not increase the total number of staff. They are capped at 45 and don't exceed it.

Mr. Hines clarified that this will not take care of the Raise the Age issue.

Mr. Hoovler stated that is correct.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved the request to reallocate Chief Assistant District Attorney (#08532) from Management Grade 27 to Management Grade 28, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Hoovler explained this request is nothing more than putting the District Attorney's Office on par with the County Attorney's Office so that the attorney positions within the county are all similarly situated.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved the request to reallocate Chief Trial Assistant District Attorney (#08557) and Executive Assistant District Attorneys (#08540 and #10694) from Management Grade 26 to Management Grade 27, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Hoovler stated this request is also to put his office on par with the County Attorney's Office.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione asked Mr. Hoovler to give the committee a brief update regarding the opioid crisis within communities.

Mr. Hoovler stated the opioid epidemic continues to rage on and has not reached its pinnacle yet here, statewide or nationally. The deaths will probably continue to increase due to the heroin laced with fentanyl because it is diffuse and very cheap. He added the supply is unbroken and no matter what is done, it continues to flow into the country unabated and that is what is driving the deaths. The county is doing everything it can with education and prevention but something needs to break to get the schools more involved. The treatment aspect is very complex and conjures up a lot of problems in communities because not every community is open and receptive to having treatment within. Furthermore, there is a lot of confliction to what is said and done; therefore, there needs to be more treatment and education.

Mr. Minuta moved the request to increase the current per diem rate of \$20.00 per hour to \$30.00 per hour for the position of Per Diem/Part-Time Deputy Sheriff, when assigned to schools, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Sheriff DuBois stated the request speaks for itself and they will not be able to hire anyone for \$20.00 an hour to be a certified armed police officer in the schools. The candidate pool needs to be increased so that the Sheriff's Office gets hardworking employees.

Mr. Hines asked how many schools have approached the Sheriff's Office regarding this.

Undersheriff Jones replied they put out an offer sheet.

Sheriff DuBois added there are a few schools that have approached them but none have made any commitments yet.

Mr. Hines asked if the \$30.00 will be reimbursable.

Undersheriff Jones replied it is reimbursable and the school will pay more than \$30.00 an hour because they have to pay the employer share.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Mr. Catletti stated the current facility head count is 700 inmates, the ICE count is 179 and the total boarder revenue to date is \$2,885,470.00.

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

Sheriff DuBois explained that Captain Arteta has been attending all the meetings for Raise the Age, the Child Support task force is ongoing every month, and the marine division boat has been repaired, painted and there is no cost to the county.

Mr. Faggione moved the request salary restructuring for management positions in Sheriff's Office, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Sheriff DuBois stated they are trying to save money and to do that, there are times they add and abolish positions. What they would like to do is abolish the position of Assistant Corrections Administrator and trade the monies to fund salary adjustments within the existing command staff. They will save more money by doing this especially when it comes to overtime. He reminded the committee that his command staff is responsible for an \$8 million revenue stream as well as maintaining all accreditations which put them in the top 2% of the Sheriff's Office nationwide. Whether it is revenue or money saved with the policies and accreditations they have in place, they will be on the plus end of this for many years.

Undersheriff Jones stated that on Monday, the Personnel and Compensation Committee noted a few corrections and amounts that need to be changed so he reviewed them with the committee (see original minutes).

Sheriff DuBois pointed out that there will not be any overtime.

Mr. Hines asked if they figured in the Captain's position which will be backfilled in the Corrections Department.

Undersheriff Jones replied yes, it is budgeted and not new money.

Mr. Hines clarified that the Assistant Undersheriff position will be a new "hit" since it is not budgeted.

Undersheriff Jones stated that is not correct. The Assistant Undersheriff position is currently budgeted, just not filled.

Mr. Hines then asked if it possible that at some point in time, the Chief Deputy would be hit with a longevity and if so, how would that effect the other salaries.

Sheriff DuBois replied no, these are incremental.

Mr. Hines asked how many years it takes to become and an Undersheriff.

Sheriff DuBois replied it is hard to say, but it would take 15 to 20 years.

Mr. Minuta asked if there is a need to abolish the current position.

Sheriff DuBois replied no, it is more practical to have a Corrections Administrator as well as a Captain to act as an executive officer.

Mr. Minuta then asked if there is someone currently in that position.

Sheriff DuBois replied there is an acting administrator.

Mr. Hines clarified that Ms. McCarey developed the numbers and they are correct.

Ms. McCarey stated that is correct and the summary leads to the math which was validated.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Before adjourning, Chairman Brescia stated that there needs to be a re-study done of the Condrey Plan before budget time and the management positions need to be revaluated even though it will cost money. He would like to have an update in August or September.

Ms. McCarey commented that they are aware of the fact that the Condrey Plan needs to be updated.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.