

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018  
3:30 P.M.**

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

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Wayne C. Booth, Deputy County Executive  
Robert Conflitti, Executive Assistant District Attorney  
Karen Edelman-Reyes, Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff  
Colonel Anthony Mele, Corrections Administrator  
Donna McCarey, Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources  
Alison Tyack, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources  
Allen Wierzbicki, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Svcs/Emergency Comm.  
Frank Cassanite, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Svcs/Emergency Medical Svcs  
Greg Schmid, Dispatcher Supervisor, Emergency Services

Chairman Hines opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Lujan and Sierra who were absent. Legislator Minuta arrived at 3:37 p.m.

Mr. Sassi moved the request to create one (1) Sr. Assistant District Attorney, Grade 25 position. Nine (9) Sr. Assistant District Attorney positions exist within the office and all positions are currently filled. This additional Sr. Assistant District Attorney position is needed to allow advancement in the department. The creation of this position will not impact the total number of budgeted positions to be filled, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Conflitti explained there are two candidates in the office who are Assistant District Attorney's, Grade 4 and he would like to promote to Senior District Attorney but only has one opening. They are authorized nine positions so this position would make ten.

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

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

Mr. Mele stated that as of this morning the facility head count was 719 and of that, 168 are ICE detainees. The boarder revenue is \$3,649,603.00.

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

Undersheriff Jones stated it is an average month and pointed out a few items on pages 8 and 15 of the report (see original minutes).

Mr. Vero commented that he attended a pistol permit training course and it was excellent. He highly recommends the course for anyone interested in learning about carrying a pistol.

Mr. Faggione thanked the Undersheriff and the Sheriff's Office for their assistance with a school event that just took place.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request to accept and appropriate up to \$14,721.00 in entitlement funding to cover overtime and/or backfill costs for FY2016 SHSP Red Team Exercises for the CTZ 4 Group. The award would be funded by the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. This funding would go towards efforts to strengthen counterterrorism, and test effectiveness of Operation Safeguard. The term of the grant will run for four (4) months, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Undersheriff stated this request is to accept money for operational costs that they expend; therefore, the funds are being returned.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved to discuss and review the Orange County Emergency Medical Summit (Final Report-April 2018), seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Wierzbicki stated that they noticed a problem with getting ambulances on scene and how this is getting worse.

Mr. Cassanite added that the lack of volunteers in the county, just like any other county within the State of New York is getting worse and worse. The lack of ALS services and the availability is getting worse and that is why this report was generated, so that changes in the county can be made.

Mr. Hines asked if one of the issues is that the volunteers are getting paid.

Mr. Cassanite replied yes, a lot of the volunteer agencies are now paying the staff and that is because there are no volunteers available during the daytime hours.

Mr. Hines asked if anything is progressing with the paramedics PILOT in Wallkill.

Mr. Wierzbicki replied they are going to cancel it.

For those who are not aware, Mr. Hines pointed out that a "Closest Ambulance" PILOT was done under Dan Depew when he was the supervisor for the Town of Wallkill to get the closet paramedic ambulance to the scene whether it be the Town of Wallkill or Mobile Life.

Mr. Cassanite noted that they are all equipped with AVL's so they can see who is the closet car to be dispatched.

Mr. Wierzbicki added the response times are good but most of the calls were going to Wallkill.

Mr. Cassanite stated that they put this matter in the hands of the town and town supervisor to make the final decision.

Mr. Wierzbicki pointed out that the report indicates that the big problem is EMStar and the towns that have them. He referred to the report (see original minutes) to show when they show up and when they do not.

Mr. Hines clarified that Cornwall has EMStar listed but they use New Windsor.

Mr. Wierzbicki stated that is a way around the system.

Mr. Cassanite responded that it is a delay and what happens is EMStar gets notified and if they come back and say they are unavailable New Windsor gets dispatched.

Mr. Wierzbicki added that they cannot make New Windsor a primary because they do not have jurisdiction, only as a back-up.

Mr. Hines asked if EMStar is okay in Port Jervis.

Mr. Wierzbicki replied no, EMStar is not okay anywhere and he is not sure why anyone uses them.

Mr. Hines clarified that the county is going to move and use Mobile Life.

Mr. Cassanite stated it is their choice and on numerous calls, Mobile Life is unavailable.

Mr. Hines commented that this is a huge problem in the county.

Mr. Cassanite explained that EMS is not a mandatory service in the State of New York or in the County of Orange as well as the towns. One step is to make it a mandatory service.

Mr. Hines asked if it is in their purview to do that.

Mr. Wierzbicki replied that he is unsure.

Mr. Hines asked that Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Reyes find out and let everyone know because he thought it was the obligation of the towns but apparently that is not correct.

Mr. Cassanite stated that he has met with the towns and some of the town supervisors are not helping the ambulance corps.

Ms. Stegenga asked if this is something where a full county ambulance district has to be made.

Mrs. Reed replied that she does not know if that is allowed.

Discussion continued regarding the towns and ambulance services.

Mr. Hines thanked Mr. Wierzbicki and Mr. Cassanite for addressing the report.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.