

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kevin W. Hines, Chairman
Glenn R. Ehlers, Janet Sutherland, Robert C. Sassi, Genesis Ramos

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman
Richard B. Golden, County Attorney
Kelly Lagitch, Chief Assistant County Attorney
Kerry Gallagher, Commissioner of Finance
Lawrence Cottone, Captain, Sheriff's Office
Meredith McGovern, Chief, Sheriff's Office
Lawrence Catletti, Colonel, Corrections Division
Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
Vini Tankasali, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Emergency Services/Fire Services
Frank Cassanite, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Emergency Services/
Emergency Medical Services
Gretchen Riordan, Deputy Budget Director

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 Legislator Sierra who was excused and Legislator Stegenga who was absent.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate \$323,591.00 in Federal funding through the State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Chief McGovern stated this reimbursement will be used to fund various Terrorism Prevention Programs such as virtual reality equipment for training, overtime costs for mass gatherings, and to purchase data terminals for agencies throughout the county.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Colonel Catletti reported that as of this morning the facility headcount was 306 of that 54 were ICE, and the year-to-date boarder revenue is \$1,649,553.00.

Mr. Hines asked if there is a plan to bring in more ICE prisoners.

Colonel Catletti replied they are working with ICE, but there is nothing "on the table" yet. Once all posts are covered, they will revisit this.

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

In addition to the May report (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office), Chief McGovern stated that on June 8th, they passed the Division of Criminal Justice Services Mandatory Accreditation Program and are now accredited them through 2025.

Mr. Hines asked if the active shooter videos go to the schools.

Mr. Casey replied that was a County Executive initiative. There were three videos made of the BOCES drill, one for first responders, one for the school officials, and one for parents. He stated that the County Executive has a plan to release the videos to those entities.

Mr. Hines clarified that the Sheriff's Office has the Fourth of July festivities fully staffed.

Chief McGovern stated that is correct, it has already been staffed. They are ready to go.

Ms. Ramos moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate the FY2022-2023 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Grant from New York State Homeland Security & Emergency Services. Funding will be used to finance ten (10) Hazardous Material Team members from Orange, Ulster, Sullivan and Rockland counties trip to the International Hazardous Materials conference in Baltimore, Maryland in June/July 2024. This is a regional grant and Orange County will be accepting the full \$16,000.00 to reimburse the above counties for their expenses to attend the conference, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved to discuss Mutual Aid Issues, seconded by Ms. Ramos.

Mr. Casey and Mr. Cassanite addressed the committee.

Mr. Casey stated Empress purchased Mobile Life. They met with the new management and saw that some of the old management was still with them, and they are a successful service located across the river with a good plan. Even though some people were let go, Mobile Life will remain Mobile Life and everything is status quo. He added that the Mobile Life Headquarters in New Windsor will be closing, but their business model plan is good, and he is optimistic.

Mr. Hines clarified that there are a lot less ambulances available because of this sale.

Mr. Cassanite stated they are not seeing that at this time.

Mr. Casey explained that Empress is a big operation based out of Yonkers and even though all is status quo, this has been ongoing. There were several discussions regarding right sizing and the correct number of units.

Mr. Hines commented that as legislators, they take a lot of blame for this even though it should not be placed on them. He then clarified that an ambulance service is the responsibility of the individual towns.

Mr. Casey stated it is no one's responsibility because it is not an essential service. There is no law that states a town must have an ambulance corp.

Mr. Hines confirmed that this then becomes a burden on the mutual aid system.

Mr. Casey stated that is correct. This needs to be done and there must be a solution as a lot of agreements have been "loose."

Further discussion ensued regarding emergency situations/transport situations and how those calls would be dispatched.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.