

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020
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
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Harry Porr, Deputy County Executive
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control
Alison Tyack, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources
Craig R. Cherry, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Services/ Police Liaison Services
Carl E. DuBois, Sheriff
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Anthony Mele, Corrections Administrator, Orange County Jail
Derek Miller, Director, Probation
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 with the exception of Legislator Sassi who arrived at 3:37 p.m. and Legislator Sierra who arrived at 3:42 p.m.

Ms. Stegenga moved to approve the request confirmation of appointments and reappointment to the Orange County to the Orange County Police Advisory Board (T. Hazard, P. Cirigliano, B. Zaccaro), seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Porr stated these are high quality people who were recommended by Commissioner Casey and County Executive Neuhaus asks that these appointments be approved.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislators Sassi and Sierra who had not yet arrived.

Mr. Lujan moved the request to accept \$62,975.00 from NYSDCJS GIVE funding for operations to assist local municipalities and in gun violence elimination, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Undersheriff Jones explained these funds come from the state annually and are used to augment local municipalities to suppress gun violence. The amounts vary based on the eligibility.

Mr. Hines asked if the amount received is the normal amount.

Undersheriff Jones replied it is average.

Sheriff DuBois stated they are lucky to be receiving these funds based on the way the economy has been.

Mr. Lujan asked Undersheriff Jones to explain how the funds are used.

Undersheriff Jones replied the funds are used to help eliminate gun violence throughout the local municipalities.

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

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

Mr. Mele stated as of this this morning the facility headcount was at 327, of that 79 are ICE detainees and 75 are Marshals. The total revenue to date is \$5,063,734.00.

Mr. Hines asked if the jail as well as the staff are still clear of COVID-19 cases.

Mr. Mele replied yes, and the staff is healthy.

Mr. Hines asked if any the jail has taken on any new ICE or Marshal prisoners.

Mr. Mele replied they are open to take them, but operations are not up and running yet, so there is a trickle here and there.

Mr. Hines then clarified that visitation is now allowed.

Mr. Mele stated that is correct, it is a modified non-contact visitation that is called a "glass house visit."

Sheriff DuBois commended the Corrections staff because this could have cost them millions of dollars in hospital fees if corrections turned into a "petri dish" of COVID-19. He would like to make sure the legislature understands the gravity of how successful the precautions that were put into place immediately have worked.

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

Undersheriff Jones stated it has been a slow month and activity is still down.

Mr. Hines asked if the Sheriff's Office had any issues while working at the rallies throughout the county.

Undersheriff Jones replied there has been no criminal activity associated with the participants at the rallies.

Mr. Lujan commented that he recently read about an event/rally that went badly, not too far away from here (Pleasant Valley) which has caused some concern. He is curious to know, if in the event something like this happened here, what actions would be taken to protect protesters.

Undersheriff Jones stated the purpose of the details that are associated with these types of events and the intel they gather; the Sheriff's Office interacts with the State Police. There is usually a significant amount of manpower available depending upon the intel.

Mr. Benton commented that he is not sure they have the Sheriff's Office and State Police delineate exactly what they would do if a rally here went wrong, but he does know they will follow proper police procedures. It has been very evident that the County Executive has a zero-tolerance policy and he is pretty sure the legislature agrees with it and supports the Sheriff's Office in doing the right thing. Furthermore, it should be made known to the public that Orange County has a zero-tolerance policy so that they do not think about coming here.

Sheriff DuBois agreed with Mr. Benton. He stated that he hopes the message is out there that they will only tolerate peaceful protests.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request to accept federal funds from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for the 2021 Child Passenger Safety Program Grant, \$5,100.00, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Mr. Cherry explained that these monies are received each year to support the Child Passenger Safety Program as well as purchase car seats for those who cannot afford one.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request to reclassify, reallocate, abolish and create various Probation titles in accordance with revised NYCRR, Title 9, Appendix H-10, seconded by Mr. Vero.

Ms. Tyack stated the department is seeking to make some changes to several probation titles that is a housekeeping item in accordance with revised New York State standard specifications for professional probation titles. There are no changes for salaries or grades, it is simply making sure the job specifications and the titles are in accordance with the new standards. She then reviewed the changes (see original minutes).

Mr. Hines clarified that there is not a Deputy Probation Director.

Ms. Tyack stated that is correct, the position is classified, but it is vacant.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.