

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kevin W. Hines, Chairman
Thomas Faggione, Kathy A. Stegenga, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Lara Morrison, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Brendan R. Casey, Commissioner, Dept. of Emergency Services
Carl E. DuBois, Sheriff
Anthony Weed, Assistant Undersheriff
Anthony Mele, Corrections Administrator
Lawrence Catletti, Jail Administrator
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 Legislators Luján, Sassi, and Sierra** who were absent.

Mr. Faggione moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate Federal funds from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for the 2022 Child Passenger Safety Program Grant to continue education in the proper use and installation of child safety seats in Orange County \$3,150.00, seconded by Mr. Vero.

Mr. Casey stated that this is a reoccurring grant for child safety seats.

Mr. Hines clarified that the funds are the same as last year.

Mr. Casey stated that is correct.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate overtime funding for patrol operations for directed patrols concerning seat buckle enforcement, and other vehicle and traffic infractions, \$12,000.00, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Sheriff DuBois explained this is a yearly grant that is received for seatbelt enforcement and other vehicle and traffic infractions.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Mr. Mele stated that as of this morning the facility headcount is 378 of that 94 are ICE detainees, 50 are Marshals and the total boarder revenue is \$4,836,882.00.

Mr. Hines asked Mr. Mele to update the committee on the conversation that took place last month with the County Executive regarding staffing at the facility.

Mr. Mele replied they have 29 vacancies and 22 were approved, one being a supervisor.

Mr. Hines then asked if anything was decided on the qualifications.

Mr. Mele replied no, they are still in discussion and an announcement should be coming out later in the year. He does believe that no changes will need to be made.

Ms. Stegenga clarified that there is a chance once people are trained, they will not stay.

Mr. Mele stated it is a possibility, but it all depends on how they score. He added this is always a sliding scale, so all they can do is hope for the best because the current staff need relief.

Ms. Stegenga agreed with Mr. Mele regarding how the staff need a break. Regarding agility, she understands there were people who scored high, but did not pass the agility portion of the test. She asked if there is a reason why they do not follow the same protocol as the state.

Mr. Mele replied this is set up through the Department of Human Resources and the protocol goes along the same lines as police.

Mr. Faggione asked how the men and women serving on the corrections side are holding up.

Mr. Mele responded that they are tired, and he feels for them.

Sheriff DuBois commented that in speaking with other sheriffs, this is happening throughout the state and is very difficult to get people to take the test.

Mr. Hines asked how the facility has been with COVID-19.

Mr. Mele replied there is one staff member who is positive and no inmates with it.

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

Sheriff DuBois reported that nothing remarkable has taken place, but Assistant Undersheriff Weed has a comment regarding the Special Operations Group.

Assistant Undersheriff Weed pointed out that the numbers for the Special Operations Group have increased due to search warrants and barricades. Handgun permits continue to increase monthly and everything else is status quo.

Mr. Hines asked if there have been any complaints filed on the website since more information was put out regarding 203.

Sheriff DuBois replied no, there have not been any serious complaints. He stated that the Sheriff's Office also has a Facebook page to leave comments on.

Ms. Stegenga moved to discuss Axon Taser And Body Cam Funding, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Assistant Undersheriff Weed indicated that the funds were moved around, the contract is with the Law Department and he is hoping the program will be up and running by October 1st. The final amount for all the equipment is \$1.5 million over five-years.

Mr. Hines clarified that if a piece of equipment breaks, the company must replace it.

Assistant Undersheriff Weed stated that is correct.

Mr. Hines then asked if each deputy would get their own body camera.

Assistant Undersheriff Weed replied the best practice is for each deputy to have their own as well as the taser.

Sheriff DuBois added that the \$1.5 million only lasts for five-years and then the contract will have to be renewed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.