

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Janet Sutherland, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Lawrence Catletti, Jail Administrator
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

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.

Ms. Stegenga moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate \$12,000.00 in overtime funding from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for Traffic Enforcement, seconded by Mr. Vero.

Undersheriff Jones explained that this is an annual grant that is received from the Governor's Traffic Safety Council and the funds are used for overtime and targeted details.

Mr. Hines clarified that this is a rolling grant in the same amount of money.

Undersheriff Jones stated that is correct.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Mr. Catletti stated as of this this morning the facility headcount was at 332, of that 54 are ICE detainees and 78 are Marshals. The total boarder revenue through August 31, 2020 is \$6,389,564.00.

Mr. Hines mentioned that the ICE count seems very low and asked if it is due to no new ICE inmates coming in.

Mr. Catletti replied they trickle in and out. As of right now, there are no ICE operations happening.

Mr. Hines then clarified that the Marshal count is holding steady and the jail is still COVID-19 free.

Mr. Catletti stated that is correct and the jail is still healthy.

Chairman Brescia commented that they should expect an increase as the courts open more and crime increases. He asked Mr. Catletti what his thoughts are on that.

Mr. Catletti replied that he agrees, they are already seeing the courts ramp up. There is a slow increase in the population which he is sure will continue to rise.

Undersheriff Jones pointed out that they continually save money any way they can and there is a significant roll-up coming. They currently have 13 vacancies, two are on military leave, two are on 207-C, two are suspended, one is out on workers compensation, and six officers and one sergeant are on long-term sick paid leave. Given how many officers are out, the staffing is okay. He stated there are six pods closed which saves manpower. He then briefly discussed a letter that was sent to all jail facilities regarding the classification of inmates and reviewed them with the committee.

Mr. Hines clarified that there cannot be reduced staffing whether the pods are open or closed.

Undersheriff Jones stated that is correct.

Mr. Sierra asked who classifies the prisoners.

Undersheriff Jones replied there is a classification dictated by the State, but they have a Classifications Unit that classifies each prisoner.

Mr. Sierra then asked how many people the unit is comprised of.

Mr. Catletti replied there is one per shift.

Mr. Sierra clarified that they classify the prisoners within their own rank.

Mr. Catletti stated they classify the prisoners through an objective point system and are reclassified every 90 days to make sure the classification needs for the inmate has not changed.

Mr. Sierra asked how many correctional officers work at the jail and how many inmates there are.

Mr. Catletti replied there are 285 correctional officers and 332 inmates.

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

Undersheriff Jones stated it was ordinary month even though virtual arraignment will be operational next week. They will also be taking pre-arraignment detainees from the State Police. The Chiefs' Association unitedly decided to watch their own prisoners until they can be arraigned.

Mr. Luján asked if there are any updates regarding the committee that is going to be formed to address the governor's mandate in response to everything that is happening across the country as he would like to be a part of it.

Mr. Hines replied the committee will be set by the County Executive.

Undersheriff Jones stated the Sheriff's Office is a member of the committee but declined to play any role in selecting committee members.

Mr. Hines suggested that Mr. Luján reach out to the County Executive's Office.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.