

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kevin W. Hines, Chairman
Thomas Faggione, **Kevindaryán Luján**, Rob Sassi,
Kathy A. Stegenga, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Peter Tuohy, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Harold J. Porr, III., Deputy County Executive
Kenneth T. Jones, Undersheriff
Lawrence Catletti, Jail Administrator
Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
Vini Tankasali, Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Services/ Div. of Fire Services
Allen Wierzbicki, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Svcs/Emergency Comm.

Chairman Hines opened the meeting at 3:32 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 absent.

Mr. Sassi moved to adopt a resolution authorizing the County Executive in conjunction with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's office, the County Attorney's Office and the departments of Probation and Emergency Services/Emergency Management to submit grant applications to the United States Departments of Justice, Homeland Security and New York State Departments of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and Transportation for law enforcement, and public safety and emergency services/communications purposes, seconded by Mr. **Luján**.

Undersheriff Jones stated this gives them authorization to apply for numerous grants both continuous and new.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved to adopt a resolution authorizing the County Executive in conjunction with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, the County Attorney's Office and the Departments of Probation, Social Services, Mental Health, Medical

Examiner's Office, and Emergency Services/Emergency Management to submit applications for grant programs offered by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Mr. Catletti stated as of this morning the facility headcount was at 398, of that 69 are ICE detainees and 103 are Marshals. The total boarder revenue is \$7,609,524.00.

Mr. Hines asked if the jail is still COVID-19 free.

Mr. Catletti replied yes, the inmate population is COVID-19 free.

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

Undersheriff Jones explained it was an average month and the pistol permit applications remain overwhelming, but they made some changes that shortened the waiting period.

Mr. Vero moved to discuss Frontier Communication issues, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Wierzbicki explained the issue with Frontier Communications that occurred was the battery and switch belt in the main office which has since been replaced with new equipment. As of October 27th, Frontier Communications has installed the new equipment in their office which will allow them to feed the calls from the 911 Center should they go down again. Frontier is currently meeting twice a week regarding this and working at making sure the Glovers location works well with our location. For basic information, he shared that the Department of Emergency Services is looking at an NGA-911 System that runs on an esi-net and is the future. He was told that this new system can bypass Frontier Communications; therefore, he will set up a demo to investigate it. Furthermore, the department is looking for alternatives for additional switches and wires.

Mr. Hines asked Mr. Wierzbicki if he is comfortable with the remote location running the Department of Emergency Services.

Mr. Wierzbicki replied yes. It is T1 lines that run through the poles.

Mr. Casey stated this will give them geographical diversity which is important.

Mr. Hines asked whether the signal would reach us from another county.

Mr. Wierzbicki replied yes, there is capability to re-route.

Mr. Hines asked Mr. Casey to update the committee with respect to COVID-19 and PPE.

Mr. Casey explained that over the summer a few grants were received, so they have a lot of supplies, but they will not be the sole source for PPE distribution. Most people adhere to his advice however, those that do not are spoken to and told to get their own supplies. He added that they received six quick test machines from Abbot which were pushed out to healthcare providers and nursing homes. There are additional restrictions for certain areas throughout the county; therefore, we must wait and see what happens and mitigate through this.

Mr. Luján expressed his concerns for the City of Newburgh and outreach programs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.