

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, January 4, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Egnor, Verkey, Verno, Bender, Lasher, Groat, Jacobs, Emmel and Miller, Emergency Management Services Representatives George Bastedo and Jim Lee, Coroner Keith Benjamin, Probation Director Mark Ameele, Public Defender Andy Correia and Sheriff Barry Virts.

Minutes from the November 30th meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Lee spoke to the group about the need for additional ALS (Advanced Life Support) for EMS (Emergency Medical Service) agencies in the Newark and Lyons area. He met with County administration in mid-December and it was agreed the issue would be addressed after passage of the County's 2021 budget. Todd Sheridan of Fitch & Associates and 911 Medical Director Dr. Jamie Syrett were available by Zoom to address the Committee regarding the 2020 Fitch Report on County EMS Services and EMS service in the Newark/Lyons area. Mr. Lee stated County ALS staff are being stretched thin at this time to provide adequate service to the area; this is a critical matter. As of January 1st the Town of Lyons no longer has ALS. Supervisors were given copies of letters from the Lyons Ambulance Coordinator who requested consideration to place a County ALS fly car in the Lyons area and the Newark-Arcadia EMS Chief stating the difficulty in maintaining a volunteer service. Mr. Lee said the County ALS system has not had an increase in personnel; however, has had a significant increase in service requests. Due to the current location of emergency response vehicles, response times are down throughout the County. Mr. Lee said the Fitch Report brings to light the lack of ALS and EMS services throughout the County. He presented a chart showing the number of calls received for emergency services; he believes reassigning an existing ALS response vehicle will only make coverage suffer in another part of the County. Mr. Lee noted the County is providing countywide ALS service; the Newark and Lyons area have a high population, resulting in a high number of service calls.

Between 2017 and 2019 Wayne County ALS responded to Arcadia and Lyons a total 438 of the 10,680 agency responses; 4.1% of all calls received by the County during that time. Mr. Lee noted the two towns have over 21% of the County's population and taxpayer support of this program. He presented three options to resolve EMS needs in this area of the County for Committee review:

- Option One: Has an initial cost of \$100,050, ongoing costs of \$44,696 plus staffing costs of \$301,310. This option would add a County ALS vehicle stationed in the Newark/Lyons area. Costs are calculated for a 24/7 operation. This would give an additional 168 hours of ALS coverage per week. Total County cost for 2021 would be \$332,480.
- Option Two: Has an initial cost of \$5,500 and annual operational costs of \$208,704. This option would position a County ALS vehicle in the Newark/Lyons area, relocating the vehicle now stationed in Sodus. The option would increase staffing from 56 hours a week to a 24/7 operation, a gain of 112 hours a week. Total County cost in 2021 would be \$168,284.
- Option Three: Has an initial cost of \$4,700 and ongoing costs of \$146,000. This option would position a County ALS vehicle in the Newark/Lyons area with the relocation of the County vehicle now stationed in Sodus. The proposal would increase staffing from 56 hours a week to 120 hours, a gain of 64 hours a week. Total County cost for 2021 would be \$99,492.

Letters from Newark-Arcadia Emergency Medical Services and the Town of Lyons Ambulance stating the need for ALS service in their area were presented along with a letter from the County's EMS Coordinator supporting the recommendation made by Mr. Lee. A letter from the Sodus Town Ambulance Corp. Director of Operations stated the Town of Sodus utilizes the County's ALS unit in their Town often and does not want to lose it. The Western Wayne Ambulance Inc. EMS Manager wrote in support of an additional fly car in the County.

Mr. Sheridan noted the risk perspective of the County not supply better ALS coverage, considering the number of calls from the Towns of Arcadia and Lyons. The Fitch report showed the Sodus ALS vehicle is very busy at its current location. Mr. Sheridan does not believe rearranging vehicles in the County will work for the benefit of all. If the County wants to have a 15-minute 911 County ALS Response Plan, the existing number of ALS cars is not adequate to do this. He supported the option to add a new fly car in this area of the County.

Dr. Syrett noted the increased medical activity in the County due to the ongoing pandemic. As local hospitals become full, they are being forced to transfer patients to other locations; which takes a fly car to do. He requested the Committee look at the demands and needs of the entire community. Dr. Syrett does not want to see additional stress on the County's current emergency response system. He only sees the need for an ALS vehicle in the Arcadia/Lyons area to increase.

Mr. Lee reviewed his first conversation with this Committee in November, at which time they supported Option One in concept; requesting additional detail. Following that meeting, he met with County Administration. Mr. Lee requested consideration for support of transmittals to amend the County budget to pay for Option One in 2021, to support the creation and filling of new positions and authorize an agreement with Newark EMS for housing of a County fly car. Mr. House said there are funds in the County fund balance; however, there will be fiscal restraints in 2021 and he would like additional review of the ongoing expense of expanding the County's ALS Program. Mr. Groat stated the Town of Galen paid for the fly car that is housed in their community; questioning if Newark or Lyons will be requested to pay for some portion of the vehicle proposed for this service. Mr. Lee noted how fly cars are relocated around the County as needs demand. Mr. House made a recommendation that a Committee of the Whole be schedule so all Supervisors can review this request. It was agreed a future meeting would be scheduled.

The Coroner's report for November 19th - December 14th was reviewed. There were 22 calls to the Office during that time. Mr. Benjamin reported death certificate corrections can now be filed electronically with the State. Future Coroner reports will have additional breakdowns for causes of death, age, sex of deceased and financial information related to the Office.

The agenda included the monthly activities report from the Probation Office. There was one non-secure bed day, eight secure bed days served and sixteen new Juvenile Delinquent cases in December, bringing the total of supervised JD cases to 91. The Office received 13 new cases during the month and is currently supervising 273 felony, 183 misdemeanor and 19 Drug Court cases. There are 24 individuals on Electronic Home Monitoring and 27 individuals on Community Service. Through December 24th the Department collected \$188,992 in fines, fees and reimbursements.

The monthly report for the Public Defender's Office was included in the agenda. As of December 23rd the Office had 615 open cases. No claims were made during the month to the State for reimbursement. Mr. Correia reported most local courts are shut down; there is no way to resolve cases when these courts are

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not in operation. The Office has seven parole violation cases; these individuals have violated the conditions of their parole and are now in County jail. The County is mandated to provide representation to these individuals.

Mr. Correia noted the success of the County's Centralized Arraignment Program. The Program is paid for through State funds with arraignments scheduled each day at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. as needed. During 2020 there were 742 arraignments during 435 arraignment sessions. This program greatly reduced the number of individuals committed to jail.

The Committee was informed the long-time vacant full-time Attorney position in the Public Defender's Office has been filled. Mr. Correia reviewed the new hire's qualifications for the position.

Mr. Correia said he will continue to work with Mr. Blake on 2021 grant funding the Public Defender's Office will be receiving.

The agenda included the monthly activities report for the Emergency Management Office. The International Joint Commission (IJC) approved the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board's request for authority to deviate from Plan 2014. As of this morning, the Lake level was 245 feet. The Office is working with the Information Technology Department on preparation of a \$50,000 competitive grant. The Department wrote a plan for COVID-19 emergency response; the document is currently being reviewed by the County Attorney.

Mr. Bastedo requested the Committee pull a transmittal presented with the agenda that would authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Eagleview Inc. for the provision of aerial imaging and related services for a price of \$519,459. The request may come back as a Rule 14 request for the January 18th Board meeting.

Supervisors were informed the State Ginna exercise is scheduled for July 27th and the Federal exercise for August 24th.

The Emergency Management Office presented the following transmittals:

--Authorization to apply for Public Safety Grant Programs. The request included a list of potential grant opportunities for the Department. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Hexagon for the provision of 911 Dispatch and law enforcement mobile data terminal software for a cost of \$143,793. Mr. Bastedo noted Hexagon is a sole source supplier of this equipment for the County. Approved 4-1, Supervisor Verkey opposed the request.

--Authorization to accept \$121,714 in 2020 State Homeland Security Program Grant funding and amend the budget. The funds will be utilized for the purchase of personal protective equipment and the salary of the Project Coordinator. Mr. Bastedo noted the high cost of supplying personal protective equipment. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to pay \$2,700 to Howard Design for constructing specialized ALS vehicle cabinets. Mr. Bastedo noted the owner of this company is a County employee. Mr. House said this action puts the

County in violation of their Purchasing Policy. It was also brought to the Committee's attention that this vendor has no written contract with the County for his service. Mr. House questioned if this action is against IRS regulations. The request was tabled. Supervisors agreed the issue would be discussed at a Committee of the Whole scheduled for later this month.

The following Sheriff's reports were distributed with the agenda:

- Court Security: 1,288 individuals entered the Hall of Justice during November.
- Corrections Division: There were 29 males and seven females committed to the County Jail in November, along with four State Ready inmates and three parole violators. Eight inmates saw the Jail doctor; there were five private attorney contacts, seven Public Defender contacts and 22 Pre-Trial Release contacts. Inmates performed 1,380 hours of work during the month. \$6,000 was collected from inmates for bail and \$95.64 in fines. The Jail served 4,764 meals in November. Sheriff Virts stated the cost of operating the Jail has increased even with the lower number of inmates. Inmates in the Facility are sicker, both physically and mentally than in the past. Inmate jail activities are not being conducted at this time due to the Coronavirus.
- Activities: During November the Sheriff's Office investigated 93 vehicles crashes, four missing persons, made 16 DWI arrests, 96 criminal arrests and 85 vehicle and traffic arrests. There were 120 motor vehicle collisions in the County during the month resulting in 12 injuries and two deaths. The Records Division processed 63 pistol permits and 52 amendments and the Civil Division processed 49 papers and served 104 Family Court papers.
- Tickets by Town: During November, there were 498 tickets issued, the majority in the Towns of Ontario and Williamson.
- Overtime: During November, staff worked 3,457 hours of overtime, the majority for staff shortages and constant watch detail.

The Sheriff presented the following transmittals:

--Authorization for the Sheriff to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Wayne County Youth Advocate Program for a Disciplinary Education Offender Program at the Jail for a price of \$10,000. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board and Sheriff to sign an agreement with the Town of Lyons to provide Justice Court security for a price of \$12,000. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to change the title of Major to Chief Deputy and set the salary to \$93,679. Sheriff Virts stated the change is being made to fill a vacant position and will be filled by an individual who holds a police officer certification. The position of Chief Deputy is included in the Office's 2021 budget. The position would provide additional administrative assistance to the Sheriff. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to enter into an agreement with Power DMS for access to Sheriff's rules, policies, procedures and General Orders to conform to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order regarding Police Reform. Sheriff Virts said the Office will not release any documents that have to do with the safety and/or security of the organization. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Sheriff's Office to collaborate with the National Child Safety Council to provide child safety materials. Approved 5-0.

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with New York State Public Safety Emergency Lighting for the provision of radio and emergency vehicle accessories, maintenance, repair and installation through April 31st 2021. This contract would be utilized by the Sheriff's Office, Probation and Emergency Management Departments. Approved 5-0.

In other business, Sheriff Virts thanked the County Auditor and staff for the recent audit conducted on the Property Room. He is working with the Public Works Department to have a security door installed in the front lobby. A social media presentation is available on a recent public police reform discussion involving the Sheriff and Chairman Miller.

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Monday, February 1st at 1:00 p.m.