

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, March 1, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Eygnor and Verkey, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, via ZOOM Supervisors Verno, Bender, Jacobs, Groat and Miller, Emergency Management Director George Bastedo, Advanced Life Services Director Jim Lee, Coroners Phil Pettine and Keith Benjamin, Probation Director Mark Ameele, District Attorney Mike Calarco, Victims Witness Coordinator Debbie Coons, Public Defender Andy Correia, Pre-Trial Services Director Martha Bailey and Sheriff Barry Virts.

Minutes from the February 1st Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Pettine presented the monthly report for the Coroner's Office. The Office performed 15 death investigations in February, resulting in seven autopsies. The State is in the process of making further updates to their electronic death registration system that will simplify the pending death certificate process.

The Annual Report for the Probation Department was received and filed. A copy of the report was distributed to Supervisors prior to the meeting. Changes made to the legal system relating to Bail Reform were noted in the report. To support the new system the Probation Department provides oversight for Electronic Home Monitoring for defendants released to Wayne Pre-Trial Services, during 2020 there were 17 of these cases. The Department operated with three vacant positions the majority of 2020. Staff supervised 223 cases under Leandra's Law; requiring the individual convicted of a DWI with a minor child in the car to have an ignition interlock device installed on their vehicle. At the end of 2020 the Department had 498 individuals on Probation. The COVID pandemic affected the Office, reducing the number of individuals that could be seen in person, shutting down the court system and reducing the caseload of Probation Officers. The Department processed 104 Juvenile Delinquent appearance tickets and 24 Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) cases. Non-secure detention for youth increased during 2020 with 168 total nights served by 10 youth. The Department received 314 court orders for pre-plea, pre-sentence and pre-dispositional investigations. There were 27 referrals to the Community Service Program; down drastically due to COVID regulations. There were 65 participants in the Electronic Home Monitoring Program during the year, saving the County incarceration costs. Staff continue to administer drug test to assist in the rehabilitation of individuals serving sentences of probation. Probation Officers were in total compliance with State guidelines for training. The Probation Department collected over \$189,000 in fines and payments during the year.

The monthly activities report for the Probation Office was reviewed. During February the Department reported 21 non-secure bed days served, staff handled 14 active PINS and 86 juvenile delinquent diversion cases. Staff supervised 487 individuals on probation and 16 on the Electronic Home Monitoring System. There are currently 195 Ignition Interlock cases being

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monitored with 54 units installed. Between January 23rd and February 19th the Department collected \$14,715 in fees and payments. Courts are anticipated to be re-opening in the near future.

The monthly report for the Public Defender's Office was reviewed. As of February 19th the Office had 622 open cases.

Mrs. Bailey reviewed her monthly activities report. Between January 1st and February 22nd the Office had 17 individuals enter their Release Program, four of these placed on Enhanced Release. Pre-Trial has 112 open cases, one new Electronic Home Monitoring case was opened and three defendants remain on the system.

The Annual Report for the District Attorney's Office was received and filed. A copy of the report was sent to Supervisors prior to the meeting. The report listed staff members in the Department and noted delays the COVID pandemic caused in the prosecution process. The number of Motor Vehicle cases handled by the Office is estimated at 10,000 in 2020. During the first six months of the year the Department handled 190 felony arrests, 97 felony indictments and 40 Superior Court indictments—the numbers are low as not all courts were in session during the year and reporting statistics. The Victims/Witness Service Office was involved with 410 victims, a large increase from the prior year.

Mr. Calarco presented the following transmittals:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board and District Attorney to sign the Annual Federal Equitable Sharing agreement and certification report for the year ending 2020. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a Division of Criminal Justice Services Criminal Justice Discovery Reform Grant for \$284,516. If the total request is received, some funding will go to the Probation Department and Wayne Pre-Trial to support programs they offer in new Discovery Reform Legislation. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget for the purchase of furniture to accommodate the relocation of the Office at a cost of \$7,254. Deputy Public Works Superintendent Scott Kolczynski joined the meeting in case there were any questions about the purchase; there were not. Approved 5-0.

The monthly report for Emergency Management Services was reviewed. No date has been set for the 2021 Public Officials Conference. Staff finalized the Public Employer Health Emergency Plan that will be presented at the meeting later this afternoon. Lake Ontario's water level is 244.7" as of January 25th; how much water is let out of the St. Lawrence Seaway will depend on spring flooding. Staff continue updating the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan.

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The Annual Report for the Emergency Management Office was distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Bastedo said Supervisors could call him with any questions they may have after reading the report. The report detailed activities of the County's 911 Center, Advanced Life Support, Emergency Management Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Mutual Aide and Public Safety Communications Offices.

All Supervisors were invited to visit and observe the County's 911 Center.

Mr. Bastedo brought to members' attention a financial opportunity to extend the Motorola contract for hardware upgrades and software support for the 911 Call Processing Center to five years. This would save the County \$117,000 over the five-year contract. Mr. House voiced concern with the financial loss the County could incur if the vendor went out of business before the five-year contract expires. He stated long-term contracts should only be approved on a case-by-case basis. The County Attorney did not review the transmittal that was being presented today to renew the Motorola contract. Mr. Bastedo stated the need for the contract to be renewed this month, noting he was only bringing this proposal before the Committee because of the large cost savings. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed the transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Motorola for the provision of hardware upgrades and associated software support for the 911 Call Processing Center would be tabled and brought up for discussion at next week's Finance Committee meeting. If approved by that Committee it would be placed on the Board agenda as a Rule 14 request.

Mr. Bastedo informed Committee members there may be one or two Rule 14 resolutions coming before the March Board meeting to address the purchase of equipment needed for the new fly car that will serve the Lyons-Newark area. The fly-car will go into operation next week.

The Emergency Preparedness Office is working with various departments to make a submission to FEMA for reimbursement of COVID related expenses.

Mr. Bastedo presented the following transmittals for the Emergency Management Office:

--Authorization to adopt the Wayne County Public Health Employer Emergency Plan. This plan allows for operations in the event of a declaration of public health emergency during a communicable disease issue. The Unions and County Attorney have reviewed the document. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a one-year contract with Juvare for the revision of software support to the WebEOC system for a cost of \$22,697. Mr. Bastedo noted the price must be paid in full when the contract is signed. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Lee informed Supervisors the committee assigned to review the County's 2020 EMS Study is requesting permission to ask emergency response agencies additional questions most regarding

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their financial status and budgets. There are a few questions regarding the operations that will be sent to Mayor and Supervisors.

The following Sheriff's reports were distributed prior to the meeting:

- Corrections: During January there were 38 males and four females committed to the Wayne County Jail, along with five State ready prisoners and three boarded in inmates from surrounding counties. There were seven private attorney, six Public Defender and 12 Pre-Trial contacts during the month with inmates. Nine inmates paid bail of \$35,260 and fines to \$123.59. The Facility is still not having outside programs due to COVID protocols.
- Activities: Road Patrol responded to 120 motor vehicle collisions; 20 individuals were injured. The Unit traveled over 126,000 miles. The Records Division processed 68 pistol permits, 77 pistol amendments and responded to 152 mental health inquires, along with other services. The Civil Division processed 42 papers and had 104 Family Court papers served. Jail inmates worked 1,220 hours inside the Facility.
- Town and Village Report: During January there were 3,065 jobs assigned to Sheriff's Office staff, resulting in seven DWI, 44 criminal, 45 vehicle and traffic and 4 miscellaneous arrests. There are 349 sex offenders registered in Wayne County.
- Tickets by Town: A total of 511 tickets were issued in January, the majority in the Town of Lyons.
- Overtime: Staff worked 1,954 hours of overtime during January, the majority for training.
- Court Security: During the month, 1,147 individuals entered the Hall of Justice through the magnetometer.

Mr. Correia asked Sheriff Virts if the one-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccination would be provided to inmates once received by the County. Sheriff Virts said he has be in contact with the County's Public Health Department about this and once the one shot vaccine is available the inmates will be vaccinated.

The following transmittals were presented for the Sheriff's Office:

--Authorization to amend the budget to carry over the remaining balance of the 2018 Stop School Violence Grant for \$46,011. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to create and fill the positions of two part-time Community School Liaisons at a proposed cost of \$265,657. The cost is reimbursed through a three-year grant. Individuals will not be hired without grant funds. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with NMS Labs for the provision of processing toxicology samples for the Sheriff, Coroner and District Attorney's Office. Approved 5-0.

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--Authorization to accept, receive and expend a \$10,000 donation from Karen Kehoe for the purchase of a two-unit canine kennel shed. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to carryover remaining funds in the 2019 Stop School Violence Grant totaling \$93,516 into the 2021 budget. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to purchase a K-9 with donated funds. Sheriff Virts noted one dog in that Unit would be coming out of service and be replaced with this dog. Approved 5-0.

Sheriff Virts reported there were 19 DWI arrest from all agencies during January. The State approved the County's 2021 budget for the STOP-DWI Program. The Sheriff's Office meets twice a year with the Council on Alcoholism to review their contacted STOP-DWI programs. The Victim's Impact Panel that was only held one time in 2020 due to the pandemic, is scheduled to meet next week.

The Committee was informed the Snowmobile Patrol reported 126 hours of patrol between January 1st and February 12th.

The 2020 Annual Report for the Sheriff's Office was received and filed. A copy of the document was e-mailed to Supervisors prior to the meeting. Sheriff Virts said if there are any questions about the report to contact him. The report noted a great deal of the Sheriff's time during 2020 was spent in preparation of the Governor's Executive Order 203; the County's need to submit a Police Reform and Reinvention Plan to the State. The report included a list of accreditations the Office has along with a list of trainings received by staff and scheduled. The Office operated on a budget of \$20.7 million; the majority was for policing services and operation of the County Jail. During the year, the Jail housed an average of 44 inmates per day. Sheriff's Deputies responded to over 38,000 calls for services, the overwhelming majority being property checks. The Juvenile Division handled 384 incidents, 50 cases were referred to the hospital, 43 to Probation and 283 handled in-house. There were School Resource Officers in nine school districts in 2020. The Criminal Investigation Division investigated 54 crimes against children, performed forensic investigations on 68 devices, performed 55 Welfare fraud investigations and 54 investigations under Wayne Net. The Civil Division collected over \$1.6 million for civil actions during the year, served 854 papers, 32 warrants, 829 Family Court papers, 19 evictions and entered 1,657 documents. The Office processed 527 pistol permits and processed 542 Brady background checks. The Court Security Division received their re-accreditation through the State Sheriff's Association in 2020. Activity in the Courts was reduced greatly due to the COVID pandemic. The Marine Patrol performed over 2,300 hours of related work, with 441 hours spent patrolling. The Snowmobile Unit patrols nearly 400 miles of trails, spending only 32.5 hours on trails in 2020 due to the mild winter. The K-9 Unit was called out 118 times. Twenty-five individuals attended the Victims Impact Panel under the Stop-DWI Program; only one event was held in 2020 due to the pandemic. The report detailed all Divisions within the Sheriff's Office, their staff and the services they performed during 2020.

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Sheriff Virts informed members there was an incident earlier today that resulted in the lockdown of the Wayne Central Middle School. No students were involved in the incident or saw the incident occur. He commended the School Resource Officer for his actions.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 5th at 1:00 p.m.