

## MINUTES

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, May 2, 2023 9:00 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Verno, VanLaeken, Donalty, Miller, Groat, Johnson, Brady and Eynor, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Coroner Phil Pettine, Probation Director Mark Ameele, Sheriff Robert Milby, District Attorney Mike Calarco, Wayne Pre-Trial Services Director Martha Bailey, Public Defender Andy Correia, Emergency Management Services Director George Bastedo, Deputy Emergency Management Services Director Jeff Fosdick, 911 Project Manager Jim Lee, Fitch and Associates Representative Chad Premo, Public Health Department Representatives Diane Devlin and Elizabeth Furgeson and Purchasing Agent Christopher O'Connor. Supervisor Bender was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the April 4<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mr. House invited representatives from the New York State Police to the meeting. The State Police have three substations in Wayne County; located in Lyons, Wolcott and Williamson. There are 43 Troopers assigned in the County, minimum staff is 48 Troops. There is a graduating class in June; however, the number of Troops assigned to Wayne County is not known. Commander Sucher said the State Police work well with the Sheriff's Department. He attends the monthly Police Chief's meeting. Mr. Verno noted illegal cannabis shops are starting up all around the County, questioning if law enforcement can close them down. Commander Sucher said he wanted to shut down the shops when they selling to individuals under 21; however, the State does not want undercover operations in place to do this. Mr. Verno said the Town of Williamson is looking into establishing a local law regarding the illegal shops. Mr. Brady said the Town of Lyons is working through the Town's eviction process to remove shops. Ms. Ferguson said the State Department of Public Health has provided information to counties to educate the public about cannabis use. Once the State releases language on cannabis use and laws regarding it, the information will be shared with Supervisors and all police agencies. Mrs. Devlin noted the cannabis sold in Wayne County at this time is not legal and has not been tested, it can be very dangerous.

The Annual Report for the Coroner's Office was received and filed. During 2022, the Office performed 216 death investigations; the number does not include individuals that died under Hospice care. Of this number, 14 were concluded as suicides and 34 accidental deaths.

During April, Coroners were called out 22 times, requesting 12 autopsies. In the first four months of the year, 32 autopsies were requested. If the current doctor that provides pathology services to the County will continue his service after this year was questioned. Mr. Pettine noted the time delay in sending bodies to be autopsied in Monroe County and the high cost to do so. He said the current pathologist is looking for someone to replace his locally. Mr. Pettine reiterated concern with the lack of space for body storage at both Newark-Wayne Community Hospital and Clifton Springs Hospital.

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The monthly activities report for the Probation Department was distributed with the agenda. During April, 27 non-secure bed days involving juveniles were served and 21 specialized secure detention days for a Raise the Age cases. Staff handled three new Raise the Age Legislation cases, completed 34 court ordered investigations, monitored 10 active Persons in Need of Supervision cases and 68 Juvenile Delinquent cases. Staff are supervising 479 Probation cases, and providing case management services to over 2,700 Probationers. Through April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Department has collected \$50,718.00 in restitution, fines and surcharges, along with other fees

Mr. Ameele reported a new Probation Officer started with the Department last week and is currently going through training.

The monthly activities report for Wayne Pre-Trial Services was reviewed. In April, 19 individuals were released into the Pre-Trial Program, at this time there are 51 open Pre-Trial cases. At the end of April, there were five open Enhanced Release cases. There were two new defendants placed on electronic monitoring and three in the program at the end of the month.

A report on activity in the Fire Coordinator's Office during April was included in the agenda. Twenty-six calls were received during the month, 21 were structure fires, two rescues and three out of County calls for mutual aid. There are currently 33 open fire investigations. A pump operations class is scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> and an engine company operator's class on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

The following reports were reviewed by the Sheriff:

- Corrections Division: During March, private attorneys visited 36 inmates, the Public Defenders 15 and Wayne Pre-Trial 28. There were 45 males and eight females committed to the County Jail during the month, along with three State ready inmates and one boarded in inmate. The Facility collected \$15,760 in bail and \$161 in fines from 11 inmates. The number of medical visits continue to increase.
- Activities: In the first three months of the year the Sheriff's Office received 6,835 calls, Road Patrol made 20 DWI, 76 Criminal and 20 vehicle and traffic arrests. There were 240 motor vehicle collisions in the County resulting in one death, the Civil Division processed 264 papers and served 214 Family Court papers in the first quarter of 2023. There are 356 registered sex offenders living in Wayne County, 68 of these individuals reported to the Jail for verification and 132 were visited at their homes in the first quarter of 2023.
- Tickets by Town: There were 582 tickets issued during the first three months of the year.
- Town and Village Summary: The majority of police responses occurred in Lyons and Sodus. There were 76 motor vehicle collisions during March.
- Overtime: During March, staff worked 3,043 hours of overtime, the majority for training, constant watch and staff shortages.
- Hall of Justice: During March, 3,227 individuals entered the Hall of Justice through the magnetometer.

An out of town travel request was presented for a Sheriff's Deputy to attend Paws and Stripes College in Florida from June 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> for a cost of \$2,210. This Deputy's K-9 works specifically for emotional support. Conference costs will be paid for through the K-9 budget. Approved.

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The Sheriff presented the following transmittals:

--Authorization for the Sheriff to sign an agreement with Newark-Wayne Community Hospital to use their facility located at 6692 Middle Road, Sodus, for training purposes at no cost to the County. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Sheriff to sign an agreement with Oak Park Marina in the Town of Huron for boat space dockage. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to allow step increases for part-time Deputy Sheriffs based on experience. The increase is requested for recruitment and retention purposes. There are funds within the Sheriff's budget to pay the additional cost. Sheriff Milby noted increases will not be any higher than the rate paid to full-time staff. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization allow for step increases for part-time Correction Officers. Sheriff Milby said steps would be based on the individuals experience in the position. This is an effort to recruit and retain staff. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to amend the Sheriff budget for \$37,400 in unanticipated training expenses. Sheriff Milby noted the cost to send potential correction officers to the Finger Lakes Police Academy has increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000, and the price to attend the Police Academy in Monroe County is \$9,000. Approved 4-0.

Sheriff Milby reported he submitted a plan for establishment of a Threat Assessment Management Team, back in December, per the Executive Order 18 Mandate. The Sheriff will present a transmittal at the June meeting requesting an additional Sergeant position to set-up and run the Threat Assessment Team and handle counter terrorism investigations. The cost is covered by grant funding.

The monthly activities report for the Public Defender's Office was distributed with the agenda. The Office currently has 427 open cases. During the first quarter of the year, four grant reimbursements were submitted for over \$236,000.

Mr. Correia updated the Committee on staffing. A new part-time Attorney is starting today, one full-time Attorney position remains vacant.

Mr. Correia noted the State Legislature should be approving their budget very soon. He reviewed proposed increased funding for criminal justice programs, noting an increasing in the assigned counsel rate to \$158 an hour. There will most likely be bail revision legislation included with the budget.

Mr. Calarco voiced concern that the State is once again proposing changes to bail reform and Discovery; however, does not ask those people directly involve with it for their input.

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Mr. Calarco reported the DAs Office handled 151 cases during April. The Senior Clerk/Typist in the DAs Office is retiring this summer; the Committee approved hiring a replacement at their last meeting. A full-time Attorney position remains vacant in the Office. Two Assistance District Attorneys will be out for at least three months; this will leave several justice courts with no coverage. He reiterated concerns with the lack of office space in the Department's 30 Church Street location. Mr. Calarco reported his Office has grant funds they will appropriate to 911 for the work they do for Discovery. The State Police have requested funding for cameras, if available.

Mr. Donalty questioned Mr. Calarco feelings on the illegal sale of cannabis. Mr. Calarco said the State has made it very difficult by not including illegal businesses in the regulations for the sale of cannabis in the State. He indicated his Office, as well as law enforcement, are working on a plan to address the problem.

Mr. Lee reviewed the importance of emergency medical transportation. Supervisor Verno said he sees this as an essential service. The difficulty in finding volunteers to man municipal ambulance services was noted.

Mr. Lee presented the following transmittals:

--Authorization to amend the Department's budget for operating costs associated with Wayne County Emergency Medical Services. The transfer is for \$909,875 from the County's General Fund. This does not include capital improvements needed to accommodate the program that will begin July 1<sup>st</sup>. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to establish a relationship between Wayne County Advanced Life Support Services and Wayne County Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Lee said the County's ALS program will be transitioned to utilize the name of Wayne County Emergency Medical Services. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Lee reported there is a delay in design work for the Sodus Emergency Medical Transport Station. Prior to the County purchasing the lot it was believed wetlands were adjacent to the property, but not on the property. The exact location of the wetlands needs to be confirmed by NYS DEC; this could take months to do. The Countywide ambulance service will begin operation in July, two ambulance have been acquired from Lyons and two more on order. Mr. Verno requested a written financial breakdown of the proposed cost of the County's Emergency Medical Transportation Service. Mr. Lee said it is hard to determine reimbursements the County will received, as it is based on insurances that can be charged.

--Authorization to purchase four portable radios and pagers for EMS for a cost not to exceed \$10,215. The request was not included in the 2023 budget; however, funds are available within the budget for the purchase. Grant funding is not available for this purchase. Approved 4-0.

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a three-year agreement with EMS Billing Services for the provision of medical billing for Wayne County Advanced Life Support/Wayne County Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Lee noted four bids were received and reviewed; EMS was rated with the best price and highest service score. This is not the same vendor that has been used for billing; EMS is a large company and should well understand the medical billing system. Mr. Premo said EMS Billing Services will most likely require a written collection policy from the County. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to create and fill positions for Wayne County Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Lee said this will require four Paramedic positions, 12 Emergency Medical Technicians, six Substitute Emergency Medical Technicians and one Emergency Medical Services Supervisor. The new medical transport system is scheduled to start on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Advertising is out for the positions. Mr. Lee stated there are physical requirement for applicants. Due to staffing shortages, when the service is started, the overnight Supervisor will serve as an additional Paramedic. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to amend the capital project account for the Public Safety Radio Project. A transfer of \$50,000 is requested from the General Fund to make improvements to the County's public safety radio infrastructure. Mr. Lee noted the majority of radio project expenses were paid for with grant funding; however, there are certain expenses the County must incur. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Lee said he would like to have a small group organized to review AED units in the County. He believes it would be more efficient and economical to h and someone to develop an AED training program.

The EMS Oversight Committee will meet in the Court House on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

Mr. Bastedo presented the following transmittals:

--Authorization to apply for noncompetitive public safety grant programs. Mr. Bastedo listed seven grants his Department will apply for during 2023, only one has a 50% local match. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to accept 2022 State Homeland Security Program grant funding of \$141,106 and amend the budget. Funds will be used to purchase a new command vehicle. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to accept 2021 State Homeland Security Program grant funding of \$43,829 and amend the budget. Approved 4-0.

The monthly activities report for Emergency Management Services was included with the agenda. This year's Ginna evaluated exercise is scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bastedo noted this will interfere with the Public Safety Committee that day and requested consideration to change

the day of that meeting. (After the meeting, it was agreed the Public Safety Meeting for August would be held on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m.) Lake Ontario is at the same level it was last year at this time; plans are in place if sandbags are needed. Mr. Bastedo continues to identify emergency alternative locations large enough to house a significant portion of County Departments, if such a need should occur.

Supervisors were informed the County's Emergency Operations Center will be activated next year on the day of the solar eclipse.

Mr. Bastedo brought to the Committee's attending legislation proposed that would provide continued funding for emergency management services for certain counties with non-operational nuclear power plants at the expense of upstate counties. The new legislation favors downstate nuclear facilities much more than those upstate, including the Ginna Plant in Wayne County. Mr. Bastedo asked if the Committee would want him to prepare a transmittal for the May Board meeting for Wayne County to oppose changes in nuclear funding through the State. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Bastedo noted the 911 Center received approximately 4,000 emergency calls in April and 3,000 administrative calls. Ninety-five percent of emergency calls were answered within 10 seconds. An electronic copy of 911 activities was e-mailed to all Supervisors prior to today's meeting.

Mr. Fosdick stated two additional 911 Dispatchers were hired and are now in training. A part-time Dispatcher will be taking a full-time position and he is reviewing 11 Dispatcher applications.

The five-year Countywide Capital Plan has a cost of \$75 million, with about a 50/50 split between local and non-local funding. The following projects are proposed for Public Safety:

- E-911: In 2024, \$2 million to begin replacement of the CAD/MDT/RMS system. In 2025, \$1 million to complete replacement of the CAD/MDT/RMS system. In 2026, \$300,000 to updated the 911 Call Processing System. In 2027, \$350,000 for hardware upgrades to the 911 Radio System. In 2028, \$200,000 to update 911 Recorders.
- Emergency Communications: In 2024, \$650,000 for construction of a communications tower in Macedon, \$650,000 for construction of a communications tower in the southeast section of the County, \$650,000 for construction of a communications tower in Sodus and \$150,000 to add functionality to the existing radio control system. In 2025, \$650,000 for construction of a communications tower in Palmyra and \$200,000 for Fairground Operations Channels. In 2026, \$175,000 to obtain Radio Interoperability with Monroe County and \$350,000 to obtain Radio Interoperability with Ontario, Seneca and Cayuga Counties. In 2027, \$200,000 to purchase Fire Service Repeaters.
- Mutual Aid: In 2026, \$350,000 for replacement of the Mobile Cascade Truck.

Mr. Bastedo said costs of items included in the Capital Plan will be updated as pricing becomes available. Mr. Lee stated the need for additional communication towers in the County.

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The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.