

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, May 3, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Eygnor, Verkey, Verno, Bender, Lasher, Groat and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Emergency Management Director George Bastedo, Advanced Life Support Services Director Jim Lee, Coroner Keith Benjamin, Probation Director Mark Ameele, Public Defender Andy Correia, Pre-Trial Services Director Martha Bailey and Sheriff Barry Virts.

Minutes from the April 5th Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Benjamin presented the monthly activities report for the Coroner's Office. The Office received 13 bodies, with autopsies performed on five during April. One case was a carryover from March. The State is moving into the next phase of electronic filing for death records, changes should make the system response faster. Both Coroners will receive training on usage of the new system.

Mr. Ameele reported the next stage of the Raise the Age Legislation contract was approved for Wayne County. The Probation Department continues to receive 100% reimbursement for the additional position they added to accommodate the new legislation.

The monthly activities report for the Probation Department was distributed with the agenda. During April no secure bed days were served and 19 youth were sentenced to electronic home monitoring in lieu of detention. There are 12 active PINS (Persons In Need of Supervision) cases open. Staff performed 28 investigations and supervised 486 probationers in April. Staff monitor 205 individuals on the Ignition-interlock system and continue supervision of individuals in violation of their probation. There were no violations of probation during April. Through the first four months of the year, the Probation Office collected \$60,546 in fines and fees. The Community Service Program is moving forward as work sights become available; on-site supervision and travel issues are being arranged. The Program should be back in operation in June.

Mr. Correia reviewed the monthly activities report for the Public Defender's Office. As of April 23rd the Office had 640 open cases. The report included a list of grant reimbursements that were claimed since the last meeting. Total of claims submitted for the first quarter of the year was \$124,192.

Mr. Correia informed the Committee two Attorneys in his Office have, or will soon be leaving, for other positions. A new Attorney is scheduled to start in the Office on June 10th; this individual was a former summer intern in the Office. The second Attorney position will be filled May 24th. Mr. Correia thanked the County's Salary Committee for approving the salaries for both these positions.

The following transmittals were presented for the Public Defender's Office:

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--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an affiliation agreement with Roberts Wesleyan College for the provision of a student intern at the Public Defender's Office. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to add an intern position per the second year plan amendment to the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Service's contract for statewide expansion of Hurrell-Harring reform. This budget line was not included in the 2021 Public Defender's budget when the budget was submitted. The intern position is funded through this grant. Approved 5-0.

Mrs. Bailey reported on activities in the Pre-Trial Services Office. There were 13 new defendants placed on Release and one placed on Enhanced Release since the last Committee meeting. Electronic home monitoring is a new requirement under Bail Reform 2020, three new cases were put on in April and one removed. Electronic home monitoring is a form of release ordered after the least restrictive options are exhausted and/or a judge deems there is a risk that the individual will not return for future court dates. At this time, Pre-Trial is monitoring 11 individuals on the electronic home monitoring system.

Chairman Miller reviewed with the Committee information received from James Schuler, a member of the County's 203 Police Reform and Reinvention Committee regarding the creation of a Minority Community Advocacy Committee as stated in the County's Executive Order 203 Plan. Mr. Miller stated the County's Police Reform and Reinvention Plan was intended to be an active document and included provisions for each of the four sub-committees to contribute toward police relation issues in the County. Mr. House requested Plan 203 be a regular item on the Public Safety agenda in the future. Sheriff Virts stated the Police Policy Review Committee has been meeting for several months and plans to continue meetings to review General Orders and any changes that are proposed to Orders. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for May 10th. Sheriff Virts noted Executive Order 203 issued by the Governor also addressed other issues besides law enforcement that can assist in community relationships. The need for mental health services to have 24/7 response services was stated. Mr. Schuler was present at the meeting and said he took language from the County's 203 Plan and elaborated on it for his suggestions for a Minority Community Advocacy Committee. He did not include suggestions on what the committee should be doing, instead listed outcomes that should be expected of the committee.

Supervisor Miller left the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

The Sheriff presented the following reports:

- Corrections Division: There were 43 males and nine females committed to the County Jail during March, with 10 State ready inmates and three boarded-in inmates. There were seven private attorney visits during the month along with six Public Defender visits and 15 Pre-Trial Service contacts. The Office collected \$9,120 in bail and \$257 in fines. There

were 6,122 meals served at the Jail and 40 transports for court appearances and medical appointments or the hospital. The quarterly report for the Corrections Division was reviewed.

- Overtime: During March staff worked 2,644 hours of overtime; the majority for staff shortages and training.
- Tickets by Town: Officers wrote 399 tickets; the majority in the Towns of Lyons and Arcadia.
- Court Security: During March 1,463 individuals, excluding building staff, entered the Hall of Justice. The Court System has yet to be re-opened.
- Town/Village Summary: 2,525 complaints were investigated during the month and 11 DWI, 94 criminal and 39 vehicle and traffic arrests made.

The Committee was informed there will be two proclamations on the Board agenda in May, one for Correction Officer's Week and another for Police Officer's Week. The Marine Patrol will start up in the very near future. Over 1,000 lbs. of prescription drugs were collected during a medication collection event held on April 24th. Visitors are not being allowed into the Jail due to COVID concerns; the State Commissioner of Corrections will be inspecting the jail facility later in the week regarding COVID-19 protocol and opening the facility to visitors. Sheriff Virts is working with the County's Public Health Department to get inmates the J&J one-shot COVID-19 vaccination.

Special Orders have been issued regarding marijuana use in New York State. The Sheriff's Policy Review Committee will review this Order next week.

Supervisors were informed the New York State Sheriff's Institute selected Wayne County Sheriff's Sergeant Aaron DiSanto as Deputy of the Year and Sheriff Virts for the Grover Cleveland Award for Exemplary Sheriff of the Year. A presentation of these awards will take place at the May Board meeting.

The following transmittals were presented for the Emergency Services Department:

--Authorization to remove Paul Turner and Gary VerStreate from the Wayne County Technical De-con Team. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with the Williamson Volunteer Ambulance for the housing of County ALS equipment at their facility. Mr. Lee said the fly car currently located in Sodus will be relocated to this location. There is no charge to the County for utilizing this space. Mr. Lee said there is a possibility this transmittal will not be needed; he will know this prior to the Board meeting. Approved 5-0.

The monthly activities report for the Emergency Services Department was presented. As of April 23rd the water level of Lake Ontario was 244.9"; at the current rate it is not anticipated the Lake will flood this year. The public comment period for the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan is

underway. Necessary modifications are underway for this year's Ginna drill to meet COVID restrictions. The 911 Back-Up Center was utilized for an extended operation to allow hardware in the primary 911 Center to be updated.

Mr. Bastedo updated members on the records management system. Monroe County's new system is scheduled to go live this fall. He wants to make sure the cutover will be successful before it is considered a contender for Wayne County. Sheriff Virts said he would be working with the system also to make certain it meets the needs of the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Bastedo thanked Mr. Calarco for including 911 in his Division of Criminal Justice Services grant application for funding reimbursements related to new Discover Reform laws. The new law is generating a great deal of work for 911; the new staff member hired to handle this workload has yet to catch up on the backload of requests.

The Committee was updated on items involving Emergency Management Services included in the 2022-2026 County Capital Plan. Total costs for Communications is \$2.9 million, for E-911 \$3.6 million and for Mutual Aid \$200,000. Mr. Bastedo said there might be a need to make of few of the proposed 2022 purchases this year.

The 2022 County Capital Plan also includes \$300,000 for renovations of the Jail Annex, in 2023 \$750,000 for roof replacement at the Hall of Justice, in 2024 \$1 million to replace the HVAC system in the Hall of Justice and \$350,000 to begin renovation work on the K-Building, and in 2025 \$15 million to complete renovation work on the K-Building.

Mr. Lee reported the Fitch Review Committee continues to meet monthly. That Committee reviewed each of the options presented in the Fitch Report. The Fitch Report stated the County's current emergency medical response system lacks personnel and money. The following options made in the report were noted:

- The first option makes relatively minor changes to the current system, such as establishing and tracking response times, executing written agreements between the 911 Center and the EMS agencies, and exploring the feasibility of vehicle locators for the ambulances in the county.
- This option includes the County obtaining EMS transport authority, and setting up a coordinated system between the County and the agencies. It includes moving two paramedics off fly cars, and into ambulances. This option also includes implementation of the closest ambulance response using vehicle locators, and unified medical control.
- This option includes the items in option above, plus establishing group buying for all agencies, developing a dedicated revenue stream, and a unified medical records system.
- The final option would either be a single EMS system, a commercial agency, or the County providing service throughout the county.

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Area emergency response agencies are being contacted for their input; a meeting is scheduled for May 19th at which time the Fitch Review Committee will introduce the first option in the list and seek input from EMS agencies.

Mr. Lee stated emergency medical response agencies are all very busy, with Wayne County ALS responding to 475 calls during March.

Mr. Calarco informed Supervisors the next Grand Jury will convene at the County's Fire Training Center, as space in the Hall of Justice does not allow for appropriate social distancing. This will be extremely inconvenient for his staff whose offices are located in downtown Lyons.

Mr. Calarco reviewed the large task the District Attorney's Office inherited with Discovery Reform legislation. A full-time attorney position remains unfilled in the Office, in the future he sees the Office going to all full-time legal positions. Through the Division of Criminal Justice Services the DAs Office was award \$284,000 to offset Discovery Reform expenses. A portion of these funds will be distributed to the Probation Department, 911, Pre-Trial and local police departments for the additional financial burden Discovery Reform causing them.

In other business, the Committee was asked to address the following transmittals:

--Authorization to make appointments to the Wayne County Criminal Justice Council. The request will superseded a former resolution from 2020, as there have been many additions and changes in membership on the Council. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to set the date for a Public Hearing to establish a local law adopting a pilot youth deer-hunting program in Wayne County. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation requested Wayne County and other upstate counties consider this action. New York is the only state in the country that does not allow young hunters to hunt big game with a firearm. The change in law is beginning as a pilot program. Youths 12 and 13 years of age that do hunt with firearms will need a licensed hunter with them. Approved 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 1:00 p.m.