

## MINUTES

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, June 1, 2021 1:00 p.m.**

Present: Supervisors Eynor, Verkey, Verno, Bender, Lasher, Groat and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, 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. Also attending Roy Franks Esq.

Minutes from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Benjamin presented the monthly activities report for the Coroner's Office. The Office received 21 death investigations in May and performed 15 autopsies. As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, death certificate corrections can only be performed on-line.

Mr. Ameele informed Supervisors there is a bill in Albany that will eliminate surcharges and fees for court defendants. In addition, the bill, if it becomes law, would make changes to the current fines schedule and vacate all outstanding civil judgements. Mr. Ameele said he is in agreement with a portion of this bill, as often an individual is placed on probation with judgments and fines they will never be able to pay. If approved, this action would take revenue away from the County.

The monthly activities report for the Probation Department was distributed with the agenda. During May, the Court ordered one new PINS case, 4 JD cases and 33 investigations. Staff are supervising 496 individuals and monitoring 2,732 cases. During May there were an average of 24 participants on the electronic home monitoring system. In the first five months of the year the Department collected \$72,032 in fines and fees.

Mr. Ameele and Sheriff Virts discussed with the Committee their upcoming Memorandum of Understanding with the Monroe County Analysis Center (MCAC). Some services provided by MCAC include analytical, scientific, and other forensic and administrative support to law enforcement agencies and to the criminal justice system to assist with the enforcement of laws and regulations of the State of New York. Sheriff Virts stated the County has utilized MCAC for many years; they are now requesting a formal agreement for their services. Mr. Ameele said he reviewed the request with the County Attorney.

The monthly activities report for the Public Defender's Office was included with the agenda. The Department had 606 open cases as of May 21<sup>st</sup>, this is lower than last month. No claims were filed for Indigent Legal Service reimbursement during the month.

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

## PAGE 2

--Authorization to accept a three-year NYS Indigent Legal Services Grant and amend the budget due to receipt of \$105,750. Funds will pay for counsel at first appearance, legal contractual services, arraignment stipends and interpreter services. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to accept a NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services grant for \$33,000 and amend the budget. These funds will be placed into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Public Defender's salary line. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to modify the budget to create a Grade 8 full-time Assistant Public Defender position and authorize filling of the position. Mr. Correia has a candidate for the position; the higher salary is needed to recruit this attorney with felony level experience. Salary and fringe benefits are reimbursed by grant funding. He stated Hurrell-Harring grant funds require submission of an annual plan. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Correia informed the Committee a new Assistant Public Defender will start in his Office on June 10<sup>th</sup>; he reviewed other long and short-term leaves of staff members.

The monthly activities report for Pre-Trial Services was distributed with the agenda. During May there were 13 individuals added to the Pre-Trial Release Program; the program has 102 open cases. No new defendants were added to the Enhanced Pre-Trial Release Program in May; that program has 14 participants. There were six new Electronic Home Monitoring cases during the month; the Agency is administering 10 electronic home monitoring cases.

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

- Corrections Division: During April there were 46 males and 5 females committed to the County Jail. There were five private attorney visits, seven Public Defender contacts and 12 Pre-Trial contacts with inmates. There were 10 State ready inmates and three boarded in inmates in the Jail. The facility collected \$2,484 in bail and \$272 in fines. Visitation will begin for inmates today and be scheduled on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Inmate programs are scheduled to resume on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Everyone working in or being confined to the Jail must wear a mask as part of the Facility's COVID protocol. The number and expense for the County to house State ready prisoners was noted. Sheriff Virts report there were 53 inmates in the County Jail this morning.
- Activities: There were 55 crash investigations during the month resulting in seven injuries. The Civil Division processed 71 pistol permits, 75 permit amendments, processed 38 papers and served 84 papers for Family Court. During April the Sheriff's Office made 10 DWI arrests, 96 criminal arrests and 42 vehicle and traffic arrests. There are 346 sex offenders living in Wayne County. Quarterly statistics were also reviewed.
- Town and Village Summary: There were 55 vehicle crash investigations, three missing persons, 15 animal complaints, seven major crimes, 337 minor crimes, five fire investigations and 1,330 miscellaneous jobs assigned to staff.

- Tickets by Town: There were 275 tickets written in April, the majority in the Towns of Lyons and Sodus. Sheriff Virts noted the continued high number of tickets issued in Lyons is partially due to the County Court system being in that Town and the need to assist with issues that court is involved in.
- Overtime: During April, staff worked 2,872 hours of overtime, the majority for staff shortages and training.
- Court Security: During April 1,156 individuals entered the Hall of Justice; this number does not include employees. Activity in County Court has not resumed to pre-COVID levels.
- Marine Patrol: Staff will be patrolling Lake Ontario Wednesday – Sundays from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

In other business, Sheriff Virts reported the sub-committee for Policy Review discussed the State's legalization of marijuana and the special order for marijuana by Sheriff Virts at their last meeting. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>. On July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> staff at the Sheriff's Office can volunteer to receive cardio-vascular testing; this service is being offered at no County cost. There are only seven applicants signed up to take the next Corrections Officers test. Tammy Ryndock was promoted to Lieutenant of Criminal Investigations, Mathew Hilkert to Road Patrol Lieutenant and Joseph Croft to Chief Deputy.

The agenda included the monthly activities report for Emergency Management Services. As of May 24<sup>th</sup> Lake Ontario's level was 245.1"; there is no concern this year of flooding. The public comment period for the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update concluded; the Department incurred some expense for advertising the draft plan. Planning is underway for the 2021 Ginn exercises. Exactly how the drill will be carried out is not known at this time. Staff are working to address findings from an internal audit regarding Department purchases. The budget has funds to perform some GIS projects this year; Mr. Bastedo will schedule a meeting next week to review what the County needs are for this system. The Department is looking into a computer program that would make responding to discovery requests faster. It is becoming increasingly difficult to hire Dispatchers and once hired it takes six months to get a new recruit to be able to work by himself or herself. Mr. Bastedo noted Monroe and other surrounding counties can take Wayne County trained Dispatchers to work in their counties; however, Wayne County does not allow a similar transfer without passing the Civil Service Dispatchers test in this County. Mr. Lee noted the difficulty in finding EMS workers.

Mr. Lee updated Supervisors on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Study performed in 2020. The EMS Advisory Board met to follow-up on the study's recommendations to have agencies work together more; very little progress was made at the meeting. It was questioned if the County's ALS could include a driver with their paramedic so the driver could be utilized by the responding agency. At the conclusion of that meeting, it was requested Mr. Lee ask the County's Public Safety Committee to review the issue. Mr. Lee said emergency response agencies are not willing to make big changes to their operations or work in coordination with other services, as they have operated independently for a long time. He requested guidance from this Committee

on how he should address the issue of County EMS staff providing transportation for paramedics of the transporting agency. The five possibilities reviewed for changes in EMS by the sub-committee were: The County can either drive or medic for both ALS and BLS calls for agencies at no charge, the County can act as medic when crewing with a paramedic from the transporting agency, the County can act as medic when crewing with an EMT of any level from the transporting agency, the County can drive for another paramedic and charge for doing so, or the County can drive for an EMT of any level and charge for doing so. Mr. Lee said this Committee could make a recommendation, to recommend Mr. Lee make the decision, or a small group be assigned to make the determination how transportation requests from municipal agencies should be handled. Mr. Lee said the County's EMS system is in place to support town and village systems, but they are not in place to be a driver for them; the County system would not be sustainable in this form. The County would not receive any revenue if they are only assigned to be the driver. Committee members approved a final decision being made by Mr. Lee, Mr. Eygnor and Mr. House following this meeting.

If there were any updates on the County's Police Reform and Reinvention Plan was questioned. Mr. Miller noted the State has yet to inform the County their Plan was accepted. He will request Supervisors, or community members, join him in developing an implementation plan.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for [Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.](#)