

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 6, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Eynor, Verno, Bender, Lasher, Jacobs, 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 Phil Pettine, Probation Director Mark Ameele, Public Defender Andy Correia, Pre-Trial Services Director Martha Bailey and Sheriff Barry Virts. Supervisor Verkey was not present for the meeting.

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

Mr. Pettine presented the Coroners monthly report. In June, there were 21 cases sent to the Coroner's Office; 16 of these required autopsies.

Mr. Ameele reviewed Probation's monthly activities report. During June, no secure or non-secure bed days were served. The Office has 16 active PINS cases and 74 Juvenile Delinquent cases. Staff received 31 investigation requests and are supervising 508 Probationers. There are 17 probationers on the Electronic Home Monitoring program, 233 cases monitored under the Ignition Interlock Program and 34 individuals currently in the Department's Community Service Program. Collections during June totaled \$11,010.

Efforts are again underway to review facilities/properties in Wayne County that might be suitable for a youth detention center. The Office of Children Services has been moving very slow on naming a site.

Mr. Ameele noted an external audit performed on the Department's restitution financials. The auditors did not issue a favorable report. A telephone call between the auditor, County Administration and Mr. Ameele took place to reviewed items sited in the report. A response, from the Probation Office, was sent to the auditors regarding their report; this resulted in some changes to the audit. The Department is now waiting for the final audit report to be issued. Mr. Ameele said the he is taking all recommendations made in the audit seriously and will work to make immediate corrections where needed.

The Public Defender's monthly report was included with the agenda. As of May 24th the Office had 588 open cases. Courts have re-opened. Reimbursement claims were filed for Indigent Legal Services Grants totaling of \$17,900. The 2nd Counsel of First Appearance grant, that provided funds to the local Office over the past four years, is finalized.

Mr. Correia updated the Committee on activities during the first six months of the year under the new appearance at first arraignment program. A total of 375 arraignment sessions were held,

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approximately one-third of the time there was no one present to be arraigned. Of those defendants arraigned, four out of five were released on their own recognizance and about one-fifth of the defendants had bail set. Mr. Correia said the new program is working well.

The agenda included Wayne Pre-Trial Services activities report. At the end of June, there were 93 open Pre-Trial Release cases, 12 defendants in the Enhanced Pre-Trial Release Program and seven defendants on Electronic Home Monitoring through Pre-Trial.

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

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an addendum agreement with the Clyde-Savannah Central School District for the provision of a Deputy Sheriff School Resource Officer for summer school at a price of \$12,081. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an addendum agreement with the Newark Central School District for the provision of a Deputy Sheriff School Resource Officer for summer school at a cost of \$12,081. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an addendum agreement with the Sodus Central School District for the provision of a Deputy Sheriff School Resource Officer for summer school at a cost of \$12,081. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a five-year agreement with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's Office of Nutritional Service for the provision of food services at the County Jail for an annual price not to exceed \$128,851. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an annual agreement with the New York State Unified Court System for court security services at the Hall of Justice. The County will receive \$714,137 from the State for performing security at the building. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an application for a United States Department of Justice Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program Grant. Sheriff Virts said he worked with the County's Grant Coordinator on this application. There is a dollar per dollar match to receive the funds. Approved 4-0.

Sheriff Virts informed the Committee Board Resolution No. 313-21—authorization to apply for the United States Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) 2021 School Violence Prevention Grant did not occur, due to a computer error.

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

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- Activities: Road Patrol made 8 DWI, 83 criminal, 39 vehicle and traffic and 34 mental health arrests during May. The Records Division processed 61 pistol permits and 63 permit amendments. The Civil Division processed 71 papers and served 85 Family Court papers. At the end of May there were 354 sex offenders living in Wayne County. A brief discussion took place on the re-opening of State courts.
- Town/Village Summary: The Sheriff's Office was assigned 597 jobs in May and responded to 88 motor vehicles collisions. Deputies traveled 120,461 miles during the month.
- Tickets by Town: Deputies issued 323 tickets in May.
- Overtime: Staff worked 2,581 hours of overtime during May; the majority for staff shortages and training.
- Court Security: 1,110 individuals entered the Hall of Justice during the month. Court Security Supervisor, Dawn Piscioti, is retiring at the end of this week.
- Corrections Division: The Jail committed 42 males and 4 females during the month. The County Jail housed 10 parole violators and six State-ready prisoners during May. Activities at the Facility remain low due to COVID concerns. There were two private attorney visits, six Public Defender contacts and 14 Pre-Trial contacts with inmates in May. Inmates worked 1,359 hours in the Jail. A total of \$7,810 was collected in bail and \$101.22 in fines. Visitation started back up today with COVID protocol being followed.

Sheriff Virts noted his office is receiving calls about the amount of time it takes to have a Brady Check performed in order to be granted a pistol permit; this process involves an entire background check on the individual purchasing a firearm. A Nation Instant Crime Background Check System (NICS) is performed electronically or by phone while the sale is taking place and is not as time consuming as a Brady Check. Wayne County Judges require Brady Checks for any originating pistol permit. A Brady Check is good for five years.

The Sheriff will have details on the road and in the water around Sodus Point Wednesday, as it is Blow Off Day. State Police will be taking all Wayne County details to Geneva on July 11th to cover the Ironman /Musselman Event in Geneva. The Sheriff's Office will cover all Wayne County calls for service during the time the State Police are at the event.

Sheriff Virts thanked County Auditor Kristen Scott for the work she performed in his Office. During a recent audit of the DWI Program, it was determined The Council on Alcoholism had not fulfilled their 2020 contract, yet received their entire \$36,000 payment. Due to the pandemic, the educational component of this contract was not fulfilled, as schools were not in session. The County Attorney, Ms. Scott and the Sheriff agreed a \$10,000 reimbursement from the contractor is needed. A transmittal will be presented in August to clear-up this financial issue.

Emergency Management Services monthly activities report was included with the agenda. The Ginna State Evaluated exercise will be performed in full EOC activation later this month. The Office continues to distributed COVID supplies, as requested and available, and are working on any potential FEMA reimbursements for the pandemic. Lake Ontario's level was 245.2" as of

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today. Staff is working with members of the Planning Department on a Geographic Information System Mapping Project to digitize zoning maps. The Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan for Ginna was updated and submitted to the State and FEMA for approval. The County's Hazard Mitigation Plan update has yet to receive State approval. With the need to replace the 911-recorder system in the future, the Department has been evaluating various recording systems. Mr. Bastedo said he would prefer to purchase a system that would help with new Discovery Law requirements, to date, one has not been found.

Mr. Bastedo presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign Medicare Interface agreements for the provision of chargebacks for the reporting of EMS agencies. Mr. Lee stated the need to have this contract in place. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Lee stated the difficult in recruiting and retaining Advanced Life Support (ALS) staff. These County employees are in the third year of a five-year contract. Other agencies are paying their ALS workers a great deal more than Wayne County. Mr. Lee has been working with CSEA and believes experienced staff are of a higher value; he would like to see their salary increased, referring to a resolution from 1999 that says the Board can take into consideration salary changes outside of a contract schedule. Committee members supported this concept.

Mr. Calarco updated members on a Division of Criminal Justice Services Grant his Office received for \$280,000. Some funds will offset the additional cost his Office has incurred to meet new Discovery Law changes and to create a new full-time and part-time attorney position.

Mr. Calarco questioned if consideration could be given to increasing the hourly rate paid to his two Confidential Secretaries, noting the additional work they have taken on due to new Discovery Laws. In review of the countywide pay scale for confidential secretaries, he does not believe their salaries are in line. Mr. House said the County does not change managerial/confidential salaries mid-year. Sheriff Virts noted his Confidential Secretary works an eight-hour day.

Mr. Calarco presented a transmittal requesting authorization to create and fill a Grade 8 full-time Assistant Attorney position and amend the budget. He stated part-time ADAs in the Office are over whelmed with the amount of work involved in case management since new Discovery Laws went into effect. The new full-time position would be able to relieve the burden on part-time ADA's and assist with overflow of full-time Assistants. At this time, the District Attorney's Office has 586 felony cases and 1,243 misdemeanor cases (Justice Court) pending. These numbers do not include vehicle and traffic arrests. He compared Wayne County District Attorney staff and workload to Ontario County. The first year salary of the position will be reimbursed through a DCJS grant. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Miller informed the Committee he reached out to Supervisors to seek membership on an Executive Order 203 Plan Implementation Team. The State has yet to inform the County if their Plan was approved. Besides Supervisors, he would like members of the community, 911, the

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Sheriff's Office, a WARE Representative and Behavioral Health on this team; he would also like to keep the group a smaller number thinking they would be more productive this way. Youth Advocacy Representative, James Schuler, said he has a list of about 25 individuals who want to be involved in following through on the EO203 Plan. Sheriff Virts noted he continues to hold monthly meetings with the Sheriff's Policy Review Committee. Mr. Schuler said he would like to see different segments included in this team. Mr. Correia said he would like Mr. Miller to set a date for the first meeting of the implementation team.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 2nd at 1:00 p.m.