

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, June 1, 2020 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Verkey, Verno, Eygnor, Lasher, Bender, Groat and Miller, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Public Defender Andy Correia, Probation Director Mark Ameele, Coroner Phil Pettine, Pre-Trial Services Director Martha Bailey, Sheriff Barry Virts and Emergency Services Coordinator George Bastedo.

Minutes from the May 4th meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Pettine informed Supervisors the Coroner's Office had 15 cases referred to them in May. Coroner Benjamin is working on wording for a transmittal requesting authorization to charge for autopsy reports. This may be available for the July meeting.

Mr. Ameele presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Probation Department to utilize social media to increase community awareness of programs and services and to serve as a portal for distribution of key messaging to further promote the mission of the Department. Supervisors requested justification for the request. Mr. Ameele said both the County Administrator and County Attorney reviewed the back-up for his request, which he did not bring to this afternoon's meeting. The Committee approved the request, subject to approval by the Finance Committee next week, to allow for time to review justification. Approved 5-0.

Probation's monthly activities report was distributed with the agenda. Mr. Ameele reported 23 non-secure bed days were sentenced during May and 84 probationers under 18 are on Electric Home Monitoring in lieu of detention. As of May 20th there were 25 active PINS cases and 79 Juvenile Delinquent cases. Probation staff were supervising 555 cases and monitoring 2,635 cases at the end of May. The Department collected \$64,616 in revenue in the first five months of the year.

Mrs. Bailey updated the group on Pre-Trial's Release Program. In the first five months of the year 82 cases were open and 55 closed. There are 95 active Enhanced Release cases as of May 31st and 15 active Pre-Trial Release cases. Enhanced Release provides more intensive supervision due to the serious alcohol/drug or mental health issues the defendant has.

The monthly report for the Public Defender's Office showed the Department had 465 active cases as of May 22nd. Numbers are low due to the closure of the court system during the Coronavirus pandemic. Since the last meeting the Office filed five claims for grant funding reimbursement.

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

--Authorization to accept a three-year New York State Indigent Legal Services Grant in the amount of \$247,713. Funds will be used to continue 50% funding of a full-time Assistant Public

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Defender, provide funding assistance for the Wayne Pre-Trial Services Adult Diversion Program and provide administrative and technological support to the Assigned Counsel Program. Mr. Miller questioned if these funds would be received considering the current condition of the State budget. Mr. Correia said, as of the date of this meeting, funds were included in the State budget. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal agreement with the New York State Defenders Association for the provision of software defense case management maintenance and support for a cost of \$2,500. Approved 5-0.

Monthly reports for the Sheriff's Office were distributed with the agenda. Not all reports were available for the meeting due to staff furloughs. A total of 212 individuals passed through the magnetometer at the Hall of Justice during April, the count was low due to the lack of activity in the State and County Court System resulting from the Coronavirus. Staff worked 1,675 hours of overtime during April; this is half compared to last year.

Sheriff Virts presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Sheriff to enter into an agreement with Newark-Wayne Community Hospital. The agreement will allow staff to utilize the hospital's facility in Sodus to train law enforcement personnel. Approved 5-0.

Sheriff Virts said he is working to obtain a one year's supply of personal protective equipment for his Office. The Jail population this morning was 38 inmates; the number is low due to the closure of both municipal, County and State Courts. Taking into consideration new bail reform legislation, the Sheriff does not believe he will have over 75 inmates in the Facility in the future. With this in mind, he submitted a proposal to the State Commission of Corrections to reduce Jail staff by seven full-time Corrections Officers and ten part-time Officers. The Jail would only house inmates in the pods, which would lower the number of Corrections Officers needed. Sheriff Virts said there is a possibility the number of Corrections Officers could be lowered even more if the population of the Jail remains low. There will be some associated cost with making the Jail pods operational for different inmates groups, but this will be more than offset by the estimated savings of over \$1 million by eliminating these positions. Mr. Verno questioned if there has been any discussion about combining county jail facilities. Sheriff Virts said this was looked into years ago with surrounding counties; however, the State Commission of Corrections rejected the proposal. There was talk of regional jails in the State budget, but that did not occur. Mr. Correia noted the additional time and expense this would add to his budget if defendants were not housed within the County. Mr. Verno said the cost benefits for such a move would have to be looked into.

Sheriff Virts thanked the Chairman of the Board for being present during the honoring of Wayne County Sheriff Sgt. Mark Loveless who retired recently. Even though the County has a freeze on filling vacancies, Sheriff Virts would like to fill this position. He is recommending the position be filled on a temporary basis by the Sergeant who oversees the School Resource Officer Program until a Civil Service list for the position is available. At this time it is not known if schools will keep

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their School Resources Officers past 2020. The County has nine individuals currently attending Police Academy. Future staffing in the Sheriff's Office will continue to be discussed with County administration.

The annual report for the Sheriff Office was submitted in April; however, due to the lack of in-person meetings, the report was not submitted for filing until this meeting. Approved.

The group was informed State Police stationed in Wayne County were redeployed to Rochester in light of recent riots. The Sheriff's Office has placed additional Deputies to make up for this shortage in law enforcement in the County.

Mr. Bastedo presented a transmittal requesting authorization to accept the low bid submitted by DOX Electronics, Inc. for servers, storage and network switches for a price of \$242,373. This was the only bid received and the cost fell within budgeted funds. The items being purchased are to replace items that are outdated and out of warranty. Approved 5-0.

The monthly report for Emergency Management Services was distributed with the agenda. Mr. Bastedo stated 32,000 cloth masks and 20,000 surgical masks have been distributed to the 15 town offices in the County for public distribution. On May 5th Ginna sirens were successfully activated. At this time it appears the level of Lake Ontario should not cause any flooding. Installation of the microwave dish on the Wolcott Tower should be done in the near future. The County's IT Office is very positive about the RMS Project; the project should be ready for cutover by the end of June. The CAD upgrade will not occur until next year; an improved product will be out by that time and tested. Efforts continue to find a location for a communications tower in the Town of Ontario.

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Monday, July 6th at 1:00 p.m.