

LAW ENFORCEMENT & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

July 1, 2009

9:00 A.M.

Vice Chairman Wolk called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room #2, at the Oneida County Courthouse.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice Chairman Peter Wolk, Member Jack Young, Member Paul Dean, and Member Ted Cushing. Chairman David O'Melia was excused.

OTHERS PRESENT: Recording Secretary Jill Butzlaff, Chief Deputy John Sweeney, Lieutenant Dan Hess, Assistant Jail Administrator Sandra LaDu-Ives, County Coordinator John Potters, Medical Examiner Traci England, Clerk of Circuit Court Gina Olson, Branch I Judge Patrick O'Melia, and Finance Director Margie Sorenson.

Motion by Dean to approve the July 1, 2009 agenda as posted, second was offered by Cushing, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Cushing to approve the June 3, 2009 minutes as presented, second was offered by Dean, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / ACTION:

Clerk of Courts - Vacancy Review – Account Technician Deputy Clerk & Deputy Court Clerk

Clerk of Court Gina Olson, Branch I Judge Patrick O'Melia, and County Coordinator John Potters were present. Olson presented documentation (attached) regarding the number of staff members per Judge in the 9th Judicial District, number of passports issued, and various statistical information for the Department. Olson stated there is currently an Account Technician vacancy that likely will be filled from within the Department and will then create an additional vacancy. Olson is requesting permission to proceed with filling both vacancies. Olson noted Oneida County also utilizes a Family Court Commissioner and reserve judges which require the use of court clerks. Potters stated he has been discussing the matter with Olson and will make a full recommendation to the Labor Relations and Employee Services Committee.

Motion by Cushing to forward the vacancy review to the Labor Relations and Employee Services Committee, second by Dean, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

Sheriff's Department - Radio Project Update – SonicNet High Speed Wireless Internet Equipment at Tower Sites

Oneida/Vilas Interconnect

Chief Deputy John Sweeney and Lieutenant Dan Hess were present. Sweeney distributed a press release from Senator Kohl that announces an award of \$450,000 to Oneida County for Phase II of the radio project. Sweeney is hopeful this award will be signed into law by the fall.

Hess distributed a budget update to the Committee and stated the Vilas/Oneida interconnect is progressing. Hess is hopeful the system will be operational in September of 2009.

In addition, Sweeney noted the Land Information office will be updating aerial photography in 2010,

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which will be help officers, and benefit public safety.

Hess stated that SonicNet has requested space on the Nokomis and Pier Willow tower sites. Brief discussion followed regarding the agreement that Vilas County has with SonicNet. Sweeney noted that SonicNet would likely need to perform an engineering study to determine the effect their equipment would have on current equipment and remaining tower space.

Motion by Cushing to forward the SonicNet high speed wireless internet tower site information and lease agreement to the Finance Committee, second by Dean, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

Inmate Work Release Program

Chief Deputy John Sweeney, and Assistant Jail Administrator Sandra LaDu-Ives were present. Sweeney explained the program involves inmates working off fines by performing community service, rather than sitting in the Oneida County Jail. The program will initially involve six inmates, and is set to begin on August 1, 2009. Brief discussion followed regarding the types of services and supervision provided to run the program. Sweeney noted that the jail currently has a large number of inmates, and this program will keep bed space available for the state inmates. LaDu-Ives noted the program will be evaluated after 90 days. Sorenson questioned how the hours of service are calculated, and noted the county will be assessing workers compensation premiums for the workers. LaDu-Ives clarified that for every 24 hours worked, 32 hours is removed from the sentence. Potters questioned the time frame to complete the sentence. LaDu-Ives noted there is a policy in place to handle excused absences and injuries.

Motion by Cushing to authorize the Sheriff's Department to initiate the Inmate Work Release Program and report back to the Committee in 90 days, second by Young, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

Medical Examiner - Reduction of Budget

Medical Examiner Traci England and Finance Director Margie Sorenson were present. England stated that cremation fees could be increased to add revenue in the budget. England noted these fees were recently raised from \$50 to \$100, and that the average is approximately \$125.00. Brief discussion followed regarding the cremation service and the average state-wide costs. Discussion was for information only, no action taken.

Medical Examiner - Transportation Costs

England noted she has been discussing the Medical Examiner's Office organization with Sorenson. England suggested the Department purchase a vehicle, and that she begin transporting bodies for autopsy. England stated this could be written into her job description as an additional duty. England stated the Department currently spends approximately \$18,000 a year on transportation costs for autopsy and mileage. Sorenson indicated she did not believe the purchase of a vehicle would create a cost savings. England noted the Committee could also re-evaluate the Chief Deputy's salary in the Department.

Motion by Cushing to request England work with Finance Director Sorenson, and County Coordinator Potters, to re-organize the Medical Examiner's Office and return to the Committee with

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a cost analysis, second by Dean, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

AUDIT OF ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENTS

Following examination and discussion of all vouchers, BPO Reports, and all other financial information submitted by law enforcement departments, the following motions were made:

Cushing made a motion to approve all BPO Reports, second by Dean, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

Cushing made a motion to accept all vouchers and all other financial information as submitted by law enforcement departments, second by Dean all ayes on voice vote, the motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSS TOPICS FOR NEXT AGENDA / SET DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting was scheduled for:

August 5, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.

Topics for next agenda:

Medical Examiner – Office Re-organization

PUBLIC COMMENTS/DISCUSSIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were no other public comments or discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before this committee, Cushing made a motion to adjourn with a second by Dean, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE SECRETARY jab