

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ted Cushing, Bob Metropulos, Billy Fried, Chairman Mike Timmons

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mitch Ives (excused)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Medical Examiner Larry Mathein, Jennifer Allen (Branch II), District Attorney Mike Schiek, Denise Briggs (DA Office), Kathleen Belliveau (Branch I), Brenda Behrle (Clerk of Courts), Amy Franzen (Register in Probate), Judge Patrick O'Melia, Judge Michael Bloom, Sheriff Grady Hartman, Ken Kortenhof (Emergency Management), Chief Deputy Dan Hess, Jill Butzlaff (Sheriff's Office).

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Timmons called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. at the Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room #2, stated the meeting notice had been posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and noted accommodations would be made for handicap accessibility.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

MOTION: To approve the Agenda (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

**APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the August 17, 2017, Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Metropulos/Cushing, PASSED).

**SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)**

The next meeting was scheduled for October 19, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

**BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS**

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers, and line item transfers for Public Safety Departments (Fried/Cushing, PASSED).

**CORPORATION COUNSEL**

2018 Department Budget

Brian Desmond could not be at the meeting and sent a letter to the committee (Exhibit 1). Mike Fugle was in attendance to explain and answer questions. One item with an increase – related to library books and film - relates to the prior law library provider. Fugle explained how he and Tom Wiensch found errors in the publications ie: wrong statutes, wrong versions. Fugle explained that had he relied on that information, he would have cited old laws and old versions. This is why they are changing from Lexis back to Westlaw, hence the increase. It is more expensive, but you get what you pay for. This comes in both electronic and book version. There was discussion with Clerk of Courts Behrle regarding which budget the law library was moved to. This was clarified in the letter from Desmond that it is in the Corporation Counsel budget.

MOTION: To approve the Corporation Counsel 2018 Budget as presented and forward to the Administration Budget Hearing (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

#### 2018 Department Budget

DA Schiek pointed out the wages in the limited LTE line item needs to have \$200.00 added, as there will be a transition time when Victim/Witness Coordinator Denise Briggs retires in July 2018.

DA Schiek reported he would like to keep the \$2,500.00 in the budget for the annual internship with UW-Madison. This position is beneficial to both agencies and is a special program that UW-Madison developed. That is the only school the person can come from.

DA Schiek reported the line item for victim/witness services will need to go up approximately \$1,500.00 due to a child death case. The biological mother is coming from out of state and those costs are beyond his control.

Fried asked why the 2018 requested revenue columns were blank and asked how the DA Office makes their revenue. Briggs reported discovery materials are being sent electronically, so there is less revenue.

MOTION: To approve the District Attorney's 2018 Budget, noting that DA Schiek needed to review the revenue numbers, and forward to the Administration Budget Hearing (Fried/Metropulos, PASSED).

#### 2018 Staffing Request for Summer Law Intern

This is the annual internship for a UW-Madison law student. No one has applied this year. Schiek stated there is a new director in place and he has an appointment to speak with this person to continue the program. Schiek would like the \$2,500.00 approved (in the 2018 budget) to use if they need to. Schiek stated he would let the committee know if this does not happen. There was discussion on why no one applied, responsibilities of the position, and wages of the position.

MOTION: To approve the District Attorney's 2018 staffing request for a Summer Law Intern (Timmons/Fried, PASSED).

### **CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH I/CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH II**

#### 2018 Department Budget

Judge Bloom reported that he appeared before the LRES committee for a wage increase for the Law Clerk position that he, Judge O'Melia, and Judge Nielsen would like to see happen (position is shared within those three branches). LRES approved the wage increase within their budget. After the LRES meeting, the judges started talking and eventually realized what they were doing was just smoke and mirrors. Making room in the budget was not going to do anything, so they are just asking outright for the raise and that is the way the budget was being presented today (Exhibit 3 & 4). There

was discussion regarding the smoke and mirrors, cost to each branch, when the increase in wage would start, and to make this position competitive for applicants. The cost would be approximately \$5,800.00 per branch. This position has not had a wage increase for over 15 years. Bloom stated in the past, there were people who accepted the position, then declined because they received a better offer elsewhere.

Fried told the judges that they presented a great case and it was always a knee jerk reaction to ask if they could do it within the budget, then within the next year budget, then stated this would have to go to the budget hearing.

There was discussion about each line item in revenue, collections, and proactive approaches of the branches.

**MOTION:** To approve Circuit Court Branch I/Circuit Court Branch II 2018 Budget as presented and forward to the Administration Budget Hearing (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

Judge Bloom and Judge O'Melia stated they were willing to attend other meetings to explain.

**REGISTER IN PROBATE/FAMILY COURT COMMISSIONER**  
2018 Department Budget

**MOTION:** To approve Register in Probate/Family Court Commissioner 2018 Budget as presented in Branch I paperwork and forward to the Administration Budget Hearing (Timmons/Fried, PASSED).

**CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURTS**  
2018 Department Budget

Behrle reported the numbers look okay, but it is the same with her department (Exhibit 5) as others. Attorneys can now look online instead of requesting copies, but Behrle stated the revenues should be close to expectations. Behrle stated when she comes to the admin committee, she will have updated numbers and will know more. There is a new line item this year for bonds forfeited. Personnel expenses may be less because an employee left and a new person may start with lower wages. There was discussion on expenditures. Brenda reported in regard to expenses, the telephone & fax line item should be down approximately \$250 due to less \$39/mo for fax. Apparently, IT missed this when things changed over. There is a newly created victim/witness fee line item separated from the jury fee. This will help in annual reporting.

Behrle reported eFiling is great, but rules require a notice go to all parties when converting a case/establishing a new case. The budget for postage is up this year, but should go back down. Behrle stated this was mandatory as of November last year, but was not aware of this until January 2017. There should not be a bulk amount going forward.

MOTION: To approve Clerk of Circuit Courts 2018 Budget as presented and forward to the Administration Budget Hearing (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

## **MEDICAL EXAMINER**

### 2018 Department Budget

The updated budget is very simple, flat for non-personnel expenses (Exhibit 6). The increase was the position approved by this committee and LRES. Mathein pointed out the expenses related to the one child death case, the same as other departments. There was discussion on the revenue estimates, cremations up, burials down, and how it is hard to gauge. It was asked if the Vilas merge will happen in 2018. Mathein reported that he doubted it would happen then. Mathein reported that he gave back approximately \$25,000 last year. Fried asked if Mathein could push up the revenue and he stated no, but there could be some flexibility in the autopsy/pathology line. Cushing asked about the central purchasing line, since not much had been spent. Mathein reported that is the body bags/gloves/etc., and he waits until the end of the year to see where supply levels are at before ordering. Fried state the big thing is the new position and where the money can be found. Fried stated it would be hard to hire someone new and tell someone else that they don't have a job or no wage increase.

MOTION: To approve Medical Examiner 2018 Budget as presented and forward to the Administration Budget Hearing (Cushing/Fried, PASSED).

Fried asked about the fee structure, do we charge the going rate? Mathein stated yes, there are some extremes, but charges are the same as where the vast majority is. There was discussion about Marathon County starting their own forensic lab and the impact that could have on Oneida County.

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

### 2018 Department Budget

#### *Emergency Management*

Ken Korten Hof reported his budget was presented the same as in previous years, red bad, blue good (Exhibit 7). Korten Hof reported he was able to come in with a zero variance for 2018. There was discussion regarding the hospital subsidy projections, replacement of ambulances, and increase for gas/motor oil. Fried asked if he had any control of the revenue. Korten Hof stated yes, we could change charges and look at how we collect fees, which he reported is looked at every year. There was discussion about being outside levy limits and budgeting outside levy limits.

MOTION: To approve Emergency Management 2018 Budget as presented and forward to the Administration Budget Hearing (Fried/Cushing, PASSED).

#### *Sheriff's Office*

Hess reported increased revenue for a total of \$82,178.00 (Exhibit 8). Fried asked if he was taking \$61,000.00 to offset inmate costs and then still in the plus? Hartman stated yes, significantly in the plus. Fried was concerned with medical issues of inmates. Hartman stated they were very low. Hartman stated if there was a major medical issue

with a state inmate, the state would take that inmate back. There was discussion on medical insurance, Medicaid, Badger Care, personal insurance, and how they all work when a person is incarcerated.

Hess stated the expenses were based on the state inmates and if the inmates go away, those accounts would be decreased by that much based on an average month. Hess reported the tower expense was adjusted for additional revenue. Hess reported the total budget increase of \$12,606.00 with personnel and a zero increase without personnel. Butzlaff commented this did not include a contract increase and was completed with numbers Darcy sent.

Hess reported the court services line item was moved to the patrol line item for an increase of 21%. Fried asked why they were budgeting less for dispatch. Hess stated that was a good question and probably had to do with the newer dispatchers making less money. Fried asked what the difference was between line item E911 and line item Dispatch. Butzlaff stated Dispatch included Sherri Congleton, and the E911 included the tower expenses, and John Heisel. There was an increase because of the wage which would be whatever Darcy budgeted. There was further discussion on the court services item moving to patrol, why it was moved, savings, and if this would change the courthouse security project.

Fried commented that the sheriff's office was diligent with expenses and didn't spend money just because they had it. There was discussion about technology and supplies, dive team money, and Minocqua 911. Fried asked if there was a strategy where Minocqua 911 could take on more and the sheriff's office could get by with one less person in dispatch? Hess stated we would not want to do that, as Minocqua dispatchers are not trained as highly as the county dispatchers, and the quality of service would suffer. There was further discussion on the number of staff and amount of calls. Hartman stated the staff is at bare bones where they are. Hartman commented that the county could have a study done, but they and the sheriff's office would not like the results as it would show they needed more people. There was discussion on the statistics of how many calls are Rhinelander vs other locations.

Fried asked if the fees were at the market rate. Hartman stated they were looked at and increased a bit, but basically in line and they would make it through another year. Hess commented that the fees raised were highlighted on the form.

Hartman commented that the only thing he would encourage the committee and the administration committee to do as they go into budget time was to utilize the efficiency study. Hartman remind the committee that he lost five or six employees to the private sector this year and to please take that into account when they look at raises and insurance rates.

Fried asked Hartman if he had another million, where would it go? Hartman stated he would use it for two more dispatchers, one or two deputies, and possibly another tech support person. Fried asked if their IT was through the county but housed at the Sheriff's Office. Hartman stated yes, typically one of the IT people was at the Sheriff's

Office every day. Fried asked if the mechanics position was built into the budget and Hartman stated yes, within EM and the sheriff's office.

MOTION: To approve Sheriff's Office 2018 Budget as presented and forward to the Administration Budget Hearing (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S)**

None

**ADJOURN**

**12:10 p.m.** MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

---

Mike Timmons, Chairman

---

Andi Seidel, Committee Secretary

---

Bob Metropulos, Vice-Chairman