

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 22, 2015**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Mike Timmons, Bob Metropulos, Billy Fried, and Mitch Ives.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Holewinski.

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Franzen (Probate), Bill Freudenberg, Deb Shawl (Branch II), Traci Running (Clerk of Courts), Kathleen Belliveau (Branch I), Denise Briggs (District Attorney), Corp Counsel Brian Desmond, Medical Examiner Larry Mathein, Sheriff Grady Hartman, and Andi Seidel, Committee Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Timmons called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 Amended Agenda (Fried/Metropulos, PASSED).

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the September 17, 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Metropulos/Fried, PASSED).

SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for November 19, 2015 9:30 a.m.

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS WITH NO AGENDA ITEMS

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Public Safety Departments with no agenda items (Fried/Ives, PASSED).

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2016 Budget

Sheriff Hartman stated his budget had been through the Administration Committee and felt it was appropriate to come back to this committee to report changes. Sheriff Hartman reported he was asked to find 5% from non-personnel items (See Exhibit #1). A Corrections Officer will be retiring soon and that position will not be filled. To accommodate, there will be changes to the minimum staffing and work schedule at the jail. LTEs will be hired to supplement the change. The caveat to this is if State Inmates return, Sheriff Hartman will come back to review. Sheriff Hartman stated he checked with the State and this is legal to do.

Sheriff Hartman reported that the Finance Director wanted the Pay-to-Stay revenue raised to \$10,000.00 and he compromised at \$5,000.00. Sheriff Hartman reported that

after looking at the numbers, Mr. Holewinski was correct and they were over-budgeted in the line item for gas, but were also under budgeted in the line item for Jail Medical.

There was discussion on how the senior Corrections Officer retiring would affect the budget, staffing requirements, and how many staff are currently at the Oneida County Jail. Sheriff Hartman stated that he challenged his division commanders to think outside the box and throw out ideas or he would figure it out on his own, and this is what they came up with.

There was discussion on previous years' budget cuts. Sheriff Hartman reported that the Dive Team is cut to minimums and they raise a lot of revenue on their own through fundraisers. Sheriff Hartman reminded the committee that he cut the bomb squad to one member and the DARE program was cut to the bare bones. Timmons questioned if the Rec Safety position could go through the Forestry Department. Sheriff Hartman reported that some of that position is through a grant and at some point in the next five years, they will have to decide if they want to keep that position. This includes the safety classes – boater, hunter, snowmobile, ATV. Sheriff Hartman reminded the committee that he cut one officer from Rec Safety and moved it to the Drug Unit last year. There is only one Rec Safety Officer now. The officer was needed in the Drug Unit and the Drug Unit is putting up a lot of arrests.

Ives questioned the Pay-to-Stay. Sheriff Hartman stated he was nervous about this number. There was discussion on the number of inmates and how that calculates out, and more discussion about the possibility of state inmates returning.

Fried asked about the Jail Medical. Sheriff Hartman reported that they changed vendors from Correctional Health and went local with Aspirus. There have been big savings, but the bottom line does not show the savings because of some big medical claim incidents in the jail. Sheriff Hartman stated they would have been way over budget with Correctional Health. Sheriff Hartman reported that they are looking closely at the prescription contract and trying to make a change to go local with some savings.

Timmons reported that the committee did not need to make a motion on this information. Sheriff Hartman stated they did not, he just wanted to report to the committee what happened at the County Board meeting. Timmons stated that any other changes would be debated on the floor at the Administration Committee meeting. Sheriff Hartman reported that no one was laid off, the move was made through attrition, but they are at the point where the next cut will not make someone happy. Timmons stated that services and staff would be next. Sheriff Hartman reported that they spoke with the jail employees and they were willing to make this work for the team. They were commended for their attitudes and willingness to accept this change. The morale of employees is good.

Ives asked if there were any other corrections employees close to retirement. Sheriff Hartman stated no one for next year, but some could leave that we do not expect to leave, and some are road eligible and have applied, but they are all toward the bottom of the wage scale and there would be no big savings. Ives asked if the Sheriff's Office

was at full staff. Sheriff Hartman reported they have to hire one more Corrections Officer, one was hired to start in November, and they are performing background checks on RMS position.

There was no motion made as this was an informational item.

2016 Community Policing Grant

Sheriff Hartman reported that he went to LRES with this topic. Sheriff Hartman reported that they always take a stab at the number, go through budget, then in December come back with the real number. The numbers are back from the state at \$30,946.00, which is right around where they have been. Sheriff Hartman would like to continue with this position and it is within the budget. This position patrols in the Lake Tomahawk, Hazelhurst, Woodruff area and the current officer will continue in this position for at least one more year.

MOTION: To approve the 2016 Community Policing Grant as presented (Fried/Metropulos, PASSED).

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers, and line item transfers for Sheriff's Office/Emergency Management (Fried/lves, PASSED).

There was discussion regarding armored vehicles.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

2016 Budget/Medical Examiner Vehicle Replacement

Medical Examiner Mathein reiterated what Sheriff Hartman had voiced, that it is harder and harder to make budget cuts with a zero increase and then 5% from that. ME Mathein reported that the Finance Director wanted \$10,400, but he was not going to do that. ME Mathein reported that he dropped the \$10,000 for the new vehicle. ME Mathein reported that he has no funding for training any longer and has paid for training out of his pocket. There was discussion regarding the vehicle and training. There no longer is anything in the budget for a new vehicle. ME Mathein stated he would go before the CIP committee again next year.

There was discussion as to where the money was coming from, what committee, how to get the money back. Fried stated he was under the assumption the vehicle was coming from the general fund. ME Mathein reported that what was in yellow (See Exhibit #2) the last time he was at this meeting was \$10,000.00. Fried questioned Mathein paying out-of-pocket for training. ME Mathein reported that line item (training) was taken out of the budget a couple years ago and was probably only \$1,000.00.

ME Mathein reported this change was made after the committee had approved it. There was further discussion about future budgets and how the vehicle will be more expensive at that time.

Ives questioned how often the vehicles are replaced at the Sheriff's Office. ME Mathein reported that he currently has one of their old transport vans, but it was well used by the time he purchased it. Because of the structure of the office, ME Mathein reported he was routinely the only one around. If he goes to Fond du Lac, then someone has to cover and be on call, and a vehicle needs to be here for them to use, as well as a vehicle for him to use on the transport. There was discussion about a livery service. ME Mathein reported that they used to use a livery service with average charges of \$600.00 per round trip. If he handles the transport, there are no extra costs. If staff uses the transport vehicle for the trip, cost is \$125.00 plus fuel. ME Mathein reported this has saved thousands so far this year.

Ives asked if the Medical Examiner's vehicles have always been hand-me-downs. ME Mathein reported the vehicle he has now was new in 2011 and was purchased for the ME. The second vehicle was purchased from the Sheriff earlier this year. It was previously used for prisoner transports and has over 130,000 miles on it. There was discussion on how more miles are put on his vehicle than a squad, as if he is at one end of the county and has a call in a different part of the county, a different county, or possibly another state, he has to respond because it part of his job. He also mentioned that his position is responsible for over 2400 square miles of response area, which is the largest geographic coverage area in the state. Ives reported this was good information to have for the future.

ME Mathein reported that the charges for Forest County were raised 5% for next year because their numbers were up approximately 5%. ME Mathein reported that if we take on Vilas County, or any other county in the future, it might require a part-time person to make it work. ME Mathein reported that autopsies and lab tests that would have been performed without question a few years ago, he is now having to make difficult decisions to perform due to budget restrictions. ME Mathein reported that more and more is being required that was not required in previous years.

There was discussion on how long the budget has been a zero, decisions to make, the fact that on face value all looks good, but when you start to dig, it effects the line, but then also effects other line items.

Timmons commented that the training and vehicle line items could come back to haunt the committee. There was discussion on how Social Services budget has "fluff" built in, what other departments have done, and how money has been spent on courthouse security, paving of Almond Park, and how money should be used on legitimate projects.

Timmons reported no motion was needed on agenda items 9 & 10, but they should be monitored extensively and brought back to the committee at a future time.

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers, and line item transfers for Medical Examiner's Office (Fried/Ives, PASSED).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S)

None.

ADJOURN

10:28 a.m. MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Metropulos/Ives, PASSED).

Mike Timmons, Chairman

Andi Seidel, Committee Secretary

Bob Metropulos, Vice-Chairman