

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 18, 2020**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Timmons, Russ Fisher, Mitch Ives, Billy Fried and Tom Kelly.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jean Meyer (Branch I), Jennifer Allen (Branch II), Brenda Behrle (Clerk of Courts), Mike Schiek (District Attorney's Office), Grady Hartman (Sheriff's Office), Dan Hess (Sheriff's Office), Ken Kortenhof (Sheriff's Office), Tracy Hartman (County Clerk's Office).

**Approve Agenda** – Motion by Fisher/Kelly to approve the agenda as presented. All aye; motion carried.

**Approve previous meeting minutes** – March 12 – Russ Fisher stated that his name is misspelled (Fischer) in the March 12<sup>th</sup> minutes. Motion by Fisher to approve the March minutes as corrected. Seconded by Ives. All aye; motion carried. Motion by Timmons to approve the May 26<sup>th</sup> minutes. Seconded by Kelly. All aye; motion carried.

Schedule Committee meeting dates – June 25, 2020 and July 16, 2020

Bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Public Safety Departments – Motion by Fried to approve the bills, vouchers as presented by the Public Safety Departments at the meeting (Sheriff's Office, Branch I, Branch II and Clerk of Courts). Seconded by Fisher. All aye; motion carried.

Public Comment - None

**District Attorney**

Victim Witness Coordinator, new position for Oneida County District Attorney's Office – Schiek was present to confirm that the resolution was passed by the County Board. Timmons confirmed that the resolution has passed the County Board. Fried expressed concern with the process that was used to approve the position and the changes that were made to the resolution between the different meetings. Fried also expressed concern that the resolution did not come before the Public Safety Committee prior to going to the County Board. Timmons explained that there was direction given during the COVID-19 emergency that requests would not go to the committee of origin first and would go to the LRES committee first in an effort to minimize meetings. Fried requested in the future that any requests come through the Public Safety Committee.

**Oneida County District Attorney's Office acquiring ADOBE for office personnel** – Schiek stated that as part of the Marcy's Law they have to be able to redact information from reports and ADOBE would allow the staff to do this more easily and effectively. The

cost would be \$300/computer and they would like to have 2 computers have the ability to use the program. Discussion regarding how this would be handled and paid for. No action taken, this will be addressed at a future meeting.

## **Sheriff's Office**

### **Update on 2020 Capital Improvement Projects:**

- a. **LEC 911 Center Furniture and Flooring** – Sheriff Hartman gave an update on the 911 center upgrade. Sheriff Hartman stated that the project went well and the center is gorgeous. Sheriff Hartman reported that the budget was on track and invited the committee to come tour the 911 Center in the future.
- b. **Radio System Upgrade** – Emergency Management Director Ken Korten Hof gave an update on the radio system upgrade. Korten Hof stated that all of the equipment has been ordered and is on track to be installed in September. Korten Hof stated that a portion of the system will be installed in July. Korten Hof stated that the radios will be upgraded when the tower upgrades are finished in September. Korten Hof stated that they are looking at adding another station in the Woodruff area to help with issues with the radios.
- c. **Phase III Radio** – Chief Deputy Hess stated that all of the radios have been purchased and they are anticipating returning over \$100,000 to the general fund.
- d. **Taser Replacement** – Chief Deputy Hess reported that the tasers have been purchased and they were able to return over \$12,000 to the general fund.
- e. **Body Scanner** – Sheriff Hartman reported that the body scanner has been installed and training has been completed. During the last two weeks they have found meth using the scanner and were able to keep it out of the jail. Sheriff Hartman reported that the very first body scan discovered meth. Sheriff Hartman reported that everyone entering/reentering the jail will be scanned. Discussion regarding individuals that are unable to go through the body scanner. Hess reported that the entire budget was used for the body scanner.
- f. **Jail Revenue Update** – Chief Deputy Hess reported that the jail has met the revenue budgeted for 2020. That includes the \$300,000 that was put into the county budget, the buildings and grounds budget and the jail budget. Hess also reported that they are currently \$22,000 over the revenue that was budgeted. Sheriff Hartman reported that they have consistently been over the state inmate population that was budgeted for 2020. Hess stated that conservatively they anticipate being \$1.1 million over the budgeted revenue. Fried questioned the inmate medical budget and if that has seen an increase.

**2020 Staffing Requests** – Chief Deputy Hess presented the 2020 Staffing Requests for the Sheriff's Office and reported that this went through LRES. Hess reported that the positions are the same positions that were requested in the past. Fried questioned the school resource officer positions and what happened with those positions during COVID-19. Sheriff Hartman stated that the positions continued to work at the school during that time.

**Jailer/Dispatch Position** – Sheriff Hartman reported that in March they were down 3 dispatchers and if dispatch increased to being understaffed by 4 dispatchers it would be

very concerning. Sheriff Hartman gave some information regarding the skills necessary to be a dispatcher and the difficulties that have been encountered trying to fill all of the positions. Sheriff Hartman reported that the dispatch lieutenant recently resigned to take a position in Vilas County. Hartman reported that during COVID-19 they reached panic mode and as a way to deal with the shortages the Sheriff's Office had all of the jailers test for dispatch and there were 3 jailers that passed the test and one dispatcher that transferred to dispatch for the time being. Hartman presented a wage schedule showing where dispatch and jailers fall on the schedule (level G) and where sergeants fall on the wage schedule (level I). Sheriff Hartman requested that the committee strongly consider creating a new position for an employee that holds the jailer/dispatcher dual role that would allow the Sheriff's Office to move the employee to either position depending on the need. Hartman would like that position to be classified at level H which is one level above the jailers and dispatchers and one level below the sergeants. Fried questioned what type of issues this may cause with current employees. Discussion regarding dispatchers and jailers and how this idea came about. Discussion regarding the benefits to the Sheriff's Office dealing with staffing shortages that this will provide. Hartman reported that this will not be used to bump line staff to a higher wage and would like the committee to put a limit on the number of employees that would fall into this category. Hartman would like to have 3 positions approved. Fried stated that he likes the out of box thinking and does not want to limit the amount of positions. Hartman stated that he would also like the committee to consider back paying the current employee that willingly made the change. Discussion regarding the position, benefits to the Sheriff's Office and how the new position will be handled. Motion by Timmons/Fried to allow the Sheriff's Office to move forward with the hybrid position and go forward supporting completely and during the 2020 year limiting that to 3 positions during 2020 and approving the back pay for the current employee. Discussion regarding where the funding will come from. Sheriff Hartman stated that for 2020 the funding will come from the Sheriff's Office budget, however, in 2021 this will need to be funded through the county budget. Discussion that this would need to go through LRES and Administration Committee and that this would come back to the Public Safety Committee prior to it going before the full county board. All aye; motion carried.

**Public Comments** – None

**Items for future agenda(s)** – Election of Vice-Chair, Single point of entry

**Adjourn** – Chairman Timmons adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

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Mike Timmons, Chairman

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Tracy Hartman, County Clerk