

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 30, 2021

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ward, Hogan, Haff, Hicks, O'Brien, Clary

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Rozell

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Fedler, Ferguson, Shaw, Campbell, Griffith

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Melissa Fitch, County Administrator

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Accept Minutes – March 2, 2021
3. Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Weights & Measures
 - 1) Department Updates
 - B. Code Enforcement
 - 1) Department Updates
 - C. District Attorney
 - 1) Crime Victim Week Proclamation
 - 2) 2020-2021 Benefit Time Carry-over Request
 - 3) Request to Backfill – Legal Assistant -
 - D. Alternative Sentencing
 - 1) Department Updates
 - E. Probation
 - 1) Department Updates
 - F. Public Safety
 - 1) Budget Amendment Request – 2020 Budget
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

Chairman Ward called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M. via teleconference.

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 2, 2021 meeting was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded Mrs. Clary, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS /REQUESTS:

WEIGHTS & MEASURES – Dan Sullivan, Sealer of Weights & Measures, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Department Updates:

Activities	2019	2020
Inspections	170	120
Tested Devices	834 with 93% correct	736 with 97% correct
State Petroleum Quality Project		44 gas samples 04 Diesel
Calibrated Milk Tank	9	1

The pandemic impacted his numbers in 2020. The thing that really suffered was the farm stand scales but was able to do everything else such as gas stations and fuel oil trucks. No penalties were issued and one written warning.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – John Graham, Code Enforcement Administrator, addressed the following items:

- Department Updates: Fire inspection plans moving forward, immediately focusing on residential occupancies and compiled a list of the properties with the most units and also called those landlords to see if they owned any smaller units. Both fire inspectors are now certified with New York State and are setting up and going out on inspections. The inspections are on a 36 month rotation so they will inspect once every 36 months and the landlords will be made aware of this rotation schedule. Scheduling right now is time-consuming and will bring back to the committee a schedule of fines for non-compliance. A web service called Compliance Engine is for third party inspections like fire sprinkler systems and smoke alarms. Code does not provide these services and it is the property owners responsibility to get those done and provide Code with a copy. Compliance Engine would provide all those calls, letters and have the paperwork available for Code. This service is no cost to the County but the property owner would be charged a \$15 fee per inspection. Code usually has to chase down these third party inspections. He will have more details for a future committee meeting.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY - Tony Jordan, District Attorney, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Crime Victim Week Proclamation – The Chairman of the Board will issue a proclamation in recognition of Crime Victim Week April 18 – 24, 2021. The state funds a significant portion of the crime victim services.
- 2020-2021 Benefit Time Carry-over Request – The County Administrator can approve, no committee action required.
- Backfill – Legal Assistant has submitted resignation effective April 7th due to relocating out of the area. A motion to approve backfill request, Legal Assistant, and forward to the Personnel Committee was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Clary, and adopted.
- Anticipates the marijuana bill becoming law. On the public safety side, we will see an immediate impact that will need attention, an increase in the number of drug recognition experts (DRE) which will fall primarily to the Sheriff and the County should probably get looking at that. The drug recognition experts will help the County offset some of the expected problems that will come from a public safety standpoint on the roads. The DA stated some regulations will be effective upon signing and others might take a year to two to become effective. The county will have to decide whether or not to have dispensaries within its county. The Sheriff stated the monies earned from the sale of marijuana will be used to train the State Police only in DRE. That training is very extensive, difficult, takes a while to complete and every agency will face this issue.

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING – Mike Gray, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Department Updates:
 - 100 clients on release under supervision and 20 on electronic monitoring/house arrest.
 - Busy with starting spring cleanups: cemeteries, parks, Feeder Canal and next week on Shine Hill doing roadside pick-up of trash with juveniles through their community restoration project and then moving up to the pull off areas off Rt. 22 doing road side cleanup.
 - Painting when the weather gets better: complete the project in the town of Cambridge and other projects include the town of Greenwich, Moss Street cemetery and some benches in Fort Ann.

- Working with the Sheriff on the Lead Program - pre-arrest diversion program and working on the training program for law enforcement on that. Hopes to present to the committee next month.
- Sheriff's camp at Caroga Lake tentatively scheduled for the last week in July. Identified with the Sheriff and DSS seventeen youth to attend ranging in age from 9 and 12.

PROBATION – Dan Boucher, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Department Updates:
 - IT assisted with an interactive meeting with AutoMon, Inc. about a Probation case management system. He thanked IT for their assistance. He sees a lot of opportunity for the department and they are the last department in the State not using this program. It is something they would like to do in the future and explore not in the short term but in the long term and then work with the Board on the budget implications. The program costs about \$70,000 to purchase and then an annual maintenance contract starting at \$15,000 and increasing yearly.
 - Advised that a lot Probation Departments have been receiving notice of audits by the Comptroller's Office of their restitution accounts. He does not have any concerns about the audit but due to the size of their staff, the State will flag us for segregation of duties which is hard to do in a small office so he is going to request the Treasurer's office review their policies and procedures.
 - Marijuana legalization needs discussion on how to handle staff members; i.e. his office carries firearms.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Tim Hardy, Deputy Director, addressed the following items, handout attached:

- 2020 Budget Amendments:
 - Personal Services – A.3640.189 COVID – Treasurer stated a countywide resolution will be done to cover the COVID expenses.
 - EMPG and EMPG-S Grants – A motion to carry forward unspent EMPG and EMPG-S grant funds and forward to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Clary, and adopted.
- COVID-19 – Starting to see an increase in cases locally. Vaccine efforts are continuing and with the roof work starting at Burgoyne going to hold a pod at the Hudson Falls High School on Saturday, a 600 dose event. Can now vaccinate anyone 30 or over. The EMS vaccination team are out as of today starting to vaccinate the homebound.
- Seeking support to reach out to our State elected officials to designate Public Safety Dispatchers as certified first responders and there are two bills currently, one in the Assembly and one in the Senate. This has been an ongoing effort the last couple of years and both the State 911 Coordinators Association and State Emergency Management Association have been continuing to push that forward. Looking for support from the Board to reach out to our State elected officials to support the bill. This does not have any implications for retirement or anything else but it will open some avenues for other support for them that is designated for certified first responders under the law, i.e. mental health programs. This helps get the job reclassified and what they do is much more than anything administrative or secretarial.
- April 11th – 17th is National Public Safety Telecommunicators week. They appreciate the job they do and normally they put together a week of events for the staff which they will keep COVID safe.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 P.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 30, 2021

REQUEST FOR BUDGET TRANSFERS / AMENDMENTS

- 2020 "Clean Up" – All other budget items from 2020's Public Safety, Fire and EMS budgets were able to be cleared / closed out with existing budgeted funds in point to point transfers. Relative to the COVID personnel expenses, we will require one budget transfer between a .4 to a .1 account to cover the COVID personnel overage. Therefore, we are requesting the following budget amendment:
 - Re-allocate \$16,798.18 from A.3640.4200 (Communications) to A.3640.189 (COVID Personnel)
- EMPG Grant Funding Annual Re-allocation from 2020 to 2021 – Being the EMPG grant spans over two fiscal years, each year we require re-allocation of funding from the prior year to the current year. We are requesting the following budget amendment:
 - Re-allocate the remaining \$17,627.55 from A.3640.2625.99 (2020) to A.3640.2625.99 (2021)
 - Re-allocate \$14,022.21 from A.3640.4625.01 (2020) to A.3640.2625.99 (2021)
 - Re-allocate \$8,400.00 from A.3640.4625.01 (2020) to A.3640.4625.01 (2021)
- EMPG-S Grant Funding Reallocation from 2020 to 2021 – Being the EMPG-S grant spans between two fiscal years, we require re-allocation of funding from the prior year to the current year. We are requesting the following budget amendment:
 - Re-allocate \$4,776.00 from A.3640.4625.01 (2020) to A.3640.4625.01 (2021)

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – RESPONSE AND CONTINUED MONITORING

Washington County's Departments of Public Health and Public Safety in conjunction with County Administration are continuing to work closely with our state and federal health agencies to monitor the spread of the disease, administer vaccine and act decisively to ensure we maintain our response to keep Washington County as safe and healthy as possible. We continue our coordination and support for our local agencies and communities alongside our Public Health partners to best keep our stakeholders updated and informed. We continue to coordinate daily with Public Health and County Administration to update our public information sources, which are updated frequently with any changes or local statistics, at washingtoncountyny.gov/coronavirus.

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT – NYS BILLS TO DESIGNATE PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHERS AS "FIRST RESPONDERS"

Legislation has been proposed in the New York State Assembly and Senate to amend the public health law, in relation to designating certain emergency and public safety dispatchers and operators as first responders. [Assembly \(A5966\)](#) and [Senate \(S5154\)](#) bills are both in committee, we are looking for support from the members of the Board of Supervisors in asking our elected state leaders to support the bills and to move forward with the appropriate designation of our Public Safety Communications professionals as "first responders" throughout the state.

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

April 11th – 17th, 2021, is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week! National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week recognizes our 911 Communications professionals nationwide and their life-saving, dedicated work for all who count on them! While we normally hold a week of special events and recognition for our team members, we will continue modified recognition efforts due to the current COVID-19 prevention measures. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our staff for their dedication, support and role in serving our residents, communities and fellow First Responders who respond to those in need.

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Glen P. Gosnell in black ink.

Glen P. Gosnell
Director

Handwritten signature of Timothy R. Hardy in black ink.

Timothy R. Hardy
Deputy Director

Handwritten signature of Bruce K. Mason in black ink.

Bruce K. Mason
EMS Coordinator

Handwritten signature of Glenn E. Bristol in black ink.

Glenn E. Bristol
Fire Coordinator





RESOLUTION DATA FORM

For 04/16/2021 BOS Meeting

1. Committee: FINANCE

2. Date of Meeting: 04/08/2021

3. Department: PUBLIC SAFETY

4. Purpose of Resolution: Reallocate 2020 budgeted funds to cover overages in the COVID line (A.3640.189 – COVID) due to COVID-19 personnel expenses

5. If Contract Authorization is Requested:
 - a. Name of Contractor: N/A
 - b. Address of Contractor: N/A
 - c. Effective Date: N/A d. Termination Date: N/A
 - e. Payment Provisions: N/A
 - f. How funds are provided (i.e., budget appropriation, capital project, etc., including code and title):
 - g. Total Dollar Amount Involved:
 - h. Is this a new contract or a renewal:

6. If Budget Amendment is Requested:
 - a. Purpose of Amendment: Reallocate 2020 budgeted funds to cover overages in the COVID line (.189) due to COVID-19 personnel expenses
 - b. Appropriation Code(s) to be Amended (include amount):
- Public Safety: A.3640.4200 / - \$ 16,798.18
- Public Safety: A.3640.189 / + \$ 16,798.18
 - c. Revenue Code (s) to be Amended (include amount):
N/A

7. Other:



RESOLUTION DATA FORM

For 04/16/2021 BOS Meeting

1. Committee: FINANCE

2. Date of Meeting: 04/08/2021

3. Department: PUBLIC SAFETY

4. Purpose of Resolution: Reallocate 2020 remaining budgeted funds in the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Accounts to 2021 (EMPG spans between two fiscal years)

5. If Contract Authorization is Requested:
 - a. Name of Contractor: N/A
 - b. Address of Contractor: N/A
 - c. Effective Date: N/A d. Termination Date: N/A
 - e. Payment Provisions: N/A
 - f. How funds are provided (i.e., budget appropriation, capital project, etc., including code and title):
 - g. Total Dollar Amount Involved:
 - h. Is this a new contract or a renewal:

6. If Budget Amendment is Requested:
 - a. Purpose of Amendment: Reallocate remaining EMPG budgeted funds in the 2020 budget to 2021 accordingly
 - b. Appropriation Code(s) to be Amended (include amount):
- 3640.2625.99 (2020) - \$17,627.55 / 3640.2625.99 (2021) + \$17,627.55
- 3640.4625.01 (2020) - \$14,022.21 / 3640.2625.99 (2021) + \$14,022.21
- 3640.4625.01 (2020) - \$ 8,400.00 / 3640.4625.01 (2021) + \$ 8,400.00
 - c. Revenue Code (s) to be Amended (include amount):
N/A

7. Other:



RESOLUTION DATA FORM

For 04/16/2021 BOS Meeting

1. Committee: FINANCE

2. Date of Meeting: 04/08/2021

3. Department: PUBLIC SAFETY

4. Purpose of Resolution: Reallocate 2020 remaining budgeted funds in the Emergency Management Performance Grant-Supplemental (EMPG-S) Accounts to 2021 (EMPG spans between two fiscal years)

5. If Contract Authorization is Requested:
 - a. Name of Contractor: N/A
 - b. Address of Contractor: N/A
 - c. Effective Date: N/A d. Termination Date: N/A
 - e. Payment Provisions: N/A
 - f. How funds are provided (i.e., budget appropriation, capital project, etc., including code and title):
 - g. Total Dollar Amount Involved:
 - h. Is this a new contract or a renewal:

6. If Budget Amendment is Requested:
 - a. Purpose of Amendment: Reallocate remaining EMPG-S budgeted funds in the 2020 budget to 2021 accordingly
 - b. Appropriation Code(s) to be Amended (include amount): - 3640.4625.01 (2020) - \$4,776.00 / 3640.4625.01 (2021) + \$4,776.00
 - c. Revenue Code (s) to be Amended (include amount): N/A

7. Other:

STATE OF NEW YORK

5966

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 2, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ABBATE, ENGLEBRIGHT, THIELE, DeSTEFANO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to designating certain emergency and public safety dispatchers and operators as first responders

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 3001 of the public health law, as
2 amended by chapter 804 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 5. "Certified first responder" means an individual who meets the mini-
5 mum requirements established by regulations pursuant to section three
6 thousand two of this article and who is responsible for administration
7 of initial life saving care of sick and injured persons, and shall
8 include public safety dispatchers, emergency responders, emergency oper-
9 ators, emergency complaint operators and emergency services dispatchers,
10 who provide communication support services within police and sheriff's
11 departments as well as fire, rescue and emergency services departments.

12 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD08198-01-1

STATE OF NEW YORK

5154

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 25, 2021

Introduced by Sen. BAILEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to designating certain emergency and public safety dispatchers and operators as first responders

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 3001 of the public health law, as
2 amended by chapter 804 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as
3 follows:
4 5. "Certified first responder" means an individual who meets the mini-
5 mum requirements established by regulations pursuant to section three
6 thousand two of this article and who is responsible for administration
7 of initial life saving care of sick and injured persons, and shall
8 include public safety dispatchers, emergency responders, emergency oper-
9 ators, emergency complaint operators and emergency services dispatchers,
10 who provide communication support services within police and sheriff's
11 departments as well as fire, rescue and emergency services departments.
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LBD08198-01-1