

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2020

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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Rozell

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Ferguson, Campbell, Wilson, Griffith
Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Al Nolette, County Treasurer
Glen Gosnell, Director Public Safety
John Graham, Code Enforcement Adm.
Mike Gray, Alternative Sentencing Director
Sheriff Murphy
Anthony White, Probation Director
Chris DeBolt, County Administrator
Roger Wickes, County Attorney
Tim Hardy, Deputy Director Public Safety
Mike Mercure, Public Defender
Tony Jordan, District Attorney
John Winchell, Undersheriff

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Accept Minutes – September 29, 2020
3. Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Code Enforcement
 - 1) Department Updates
 - B. Sheriff
 - 1) Discuss Executive Order
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

Chairman Ward called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. via teleconference.

A motion to accept the minutes of the September 29, 2020 meeting was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded Mr. Hicks and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS /REQUESTS:

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

- Department Updates:
 - The newly approved Code Enforcement Officer position and the backfill for another Code Enforcement Officer position have both been filled and have completed their first week of required state training.
 - Move to Burgoyne Avenue is progressing.
 - Work load is down from six weeks to four weeks for reviews/inspections. Staff are working very hard and overtime to catch up; doing as much as possible to cut this time down. Did not get as many permits from the Whitehall storm as they originally thought. People are probably doing some of the work without permits and the buildings that were closed are in process; one reopened, one will be torn down and three of the other four have permits. Mr. Haff stated contractors have reached out to him regarding the delays and asked if there was anything that could be done to streamline the process as example allow photos as evidence of code compliance. The Code Enforcement Administrator stated in-person field inspections are best but have allowed contractors on occasion to can take photos if preapproved for a specific job/inspection. Mr. Haff suggested establishing a list of the things that could be submitted for approval by a photograph. The Code Enforcement Administrator stated photos do not always show the detail they need. The Stated requires that they have to sign off on the work/inspection and verify it was done to code. Mr. Hogan asked if the office is following upon the backlog of permits that expired or has that project

been put on hold until the quieter months. The Code Enforcement Administrator stated when he brought up sending out the renewals, he suggested waiting until January but the committee requested they commence immediately and they are adding time to their workload. Mr. Hogan stated that with the storm in Whitehall and Cambridge code duties added to their workload and maybe doing the old renewals right now making the contractors wait on current jobs is not the best use of their time. The Code Enforcement Administrator has not pursued using other town/village Code Officers temporarily because he was approved for the full time position. With only two months left of sending out renewals, he recommends continuing with that process. A motion directing the Code Enforcement Administrator to come back next month with a list of things that he feels photographic evidence would suffice during this time when he has the backlog was moved by Mr. Haff but did not receive a second. Chairman Ward ask the Code Enforcement Administrator to think about any ways to streamline the system it would probably help a little bit. The Code Enforcement Administrator stated that is what they have been trying to do for the last six months.

SHERIFF – Sheriff Murphy addressed the following item with the committee:

- Discuss Executive Order 203 which is a requirement from the Governor to conduct a comprehensive review of the department strategies, policies and procedures. – comprehensive review of the department. Being an accredited Sheriff's Department is helpful to this process. Sheriff Murphy asked for the Supervisors assistance with getting community input. He has developed a survey and would like the Supervisors to distributed to five to ten residents within their towns. There will be an overview of the agency included with the survey. Once the survey results are return during November, the information will be shared with stakeholders which is another requirement in the Executive Order. The stakeholders will then review and then add to or change the plan. The department has already completed the training portion of the Executive Order. The Sheriff would like to have a public hearing during the December Board meeting for public comment. A plan has to be submitted to the State by April 2021 or state funding will be withheld.

OTHER BUSINESS:

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

- Pretrial Services 106 clients/defendants being supervised; half are call in/check in weekly and the other half receiving services from their office either facilitating mental health evaluations, alcohol and substance abuse evaluations or a higher level if contact required: ten on electronic monitoring, eight at home monitoring/or curfew, two on GPS tracking and one hospitalized.
- Drug & Alcohol Services - Forty seven referrals for DWIs
- Community service has a daily average population of thirty.
- Working on ways to address the issue of increased numbers of released under supervision. Express interest to the State Office of Court Administration to see if they wanted to do a pilot program in our county.

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

- Regarding the Whitehall storm incident, Public Safety is still working with NYS Division of Homeland Security Individual Assistance Unit and their partners at SBA on low interest loans for residents.

- FY19 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant \$729,068. A motion to recognize in the budget the FY19 Statewide Interoperable Communications grant in the amount of \$729,068 and forward to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.
- PSAP Staffing Update – Still running two full time positions short and currently two candidates are finishing the background checks and hopeful on getting one hired and starting to train. Appreciates all the work the staff are putting in and covering for each other to keep the center staffed.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Hogan and adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 P.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors