

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 1, 2020

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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Rozell

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Fedler, Ferguson, Campbell, Skellie, Wilson, Griffith

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Glen Gosnell, Director Public Safety

Tim Hardy, Deputy Director Public Safety

John Graham, Code Enforcement Adm.

Mike Mercure, Public Defender

Mike Gray, Alternative Sentencing Director

Tony Jordan, District Attorney

Sheriff Murphy

Anthony White, Probation Director

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Accept Minutes – October 27, 2020
3. Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Code Enforcement
 - 1) Department Updates
 - B. Alternative Sentencing
 - 1) Department Updates
 - C. District Attorney
 - 1) Office of Victim Services Site Visit/Audit
 - D. Public Defender
 - 1) Department Updates/Requests
 - E. Sheriff
 - 1) Police Reform Updates
 - F. EMS
 - 1) Advisory Board Appointments
 - G. Public Safety
 - 1) Public Safety Radio System Project Update
 - 2) 911 Phone System Project Update
 - 3) Village of Argyle Water System Issue Update
 - H. Probation
 - 1) Director Retirement
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 October 27, 2020 meeting was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded Mrs. Clary and adopted.

Mr. Campbell announced there will be a Special Board meeting immediately following the Finance Committee meeting on December 10th to consider purchase of DPW plow trucks.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS /REQUESTS:

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

- Department Updates: Beginning their move over to Burgoyne starting Friday of this week or Monday of next week. Their review time for most projects is back under the four week mark. The department budget reflects they are at 97% income and 78% for expenses. The new employees are starting their third week of six weeks of training on Monday. After that the person hired for fire inspections will start doing those on his own.

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

- Department Updates – Would like to accept referrals from Warren County into our Alive at 25 program – young drivers education program and distracted driving. This program is held monthly through zoom. The impact to the County would be an additional \$4000 with no additional costs. No formal agreement or contract is needed per the County Attorney. The participant pays to attend the program. Will proceed with accepting referrals from Warren County residents; no objections expressed. Currently have 93 clients under release under supervision and 11 of them are on electronic monitoring. Seeing an uptick in crystal meth users in our area which we have not seen to this degree in recent years. In 2019 there were 63 total referrals to the DWI program and this year we are already at 84.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Tony Jordan, DA, addressed the following items:

- Office of Victim Services Site Visit/Audit – The District Attorney's Office receives a grant from the State for the victim services office and as part of that they do an annual audit. He does not have the written report yet but the in person meeting was held and they focus on three compliance areas: accounting, number of clients and file reviews. They were more than pleased with all three areas and he expressed appreciation to the Treasurer and his staff for their accounting and reporting assistance. They met or exceeded all the measurables for dealing with victims. The Office of Court Administration is directing to all courts no capacity in excess of ten people exclusive of court personnel. The office is still operating in person but advised no more in-person hearings. All hearings have to be virtual unless approval from the Office of Court Administration. At the county level, Judge McKeighan was able to get approval for some of the hearings that were in the pipeline already but no more after those in person. Local courts can still do bench trials but no jury trials and judges are cancelling in person hearings. The Grand Jury is seated through the end of year and their term will continue indefinitely. All local and county courts are still conducting in-person appearances.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Mike Mercure, Public Defender, addressed the following items:

- Department Updates/Requests – They have moved their office into Room 222 in the Washington County Municipal Center, Building A. This space still needs some work, modifications but functional. Welcomed any Supervisors to tour the new office space. The department is currently at full staff and likely to come in under budget on payroll. In the last month they have received an additional \$61,091.26 from ILS (Indigent Legal Services) that brings the year to date revenue to \$1,514,581.51 from ILS. They do have a caseload standard and are significantly under it for the year due to the slowdown in volume due to the pandemic and it is starting to trend up. Provided a report, Evaluating the Effectiveness of Caseload Standards in the Hurrell-Harring Settlement Counties, on file. It is a very positive report. The relationship with ILS is critical particularly in view of the revenue and funding that they provide. The Assigned Counsel Office needs a color desktop printer/copier and ILS has recommended that they use Public Defender money to purchase. A motion to approve purchase of printer for Assigned Counsel Office out of Public Defender's budget, ILS funding, was moved by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mrs. Clary. Discussion. This purchase will be out of the 2020 budget, approximately \$500. The color printer is needed to print color photographs of various discovery information. The Treasurer stated a fixed asset transfer can be completed to move from Public Defender to Assigned Counsel. The motion to approve purchase of printer for Assigned Counsel Office out of Public Defender's budget, ILS funding, was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Clary and adopted. Submitted his department's COVID plan to reduce staff by 25% or 50% immediately if needed. A few new ILS grants (extensions of existing grants) have been announced and he has discussed with the

Treasurer and will meet to submit proposals for these new grants; \$100,000 per year for three years and have been receiving for the last six years. He has been attending the police reform meetings. He needs some office furniture for the new office space and identified a few desks from Burgoyne; furniture that may be available and would not have to purchase and would complete the office space.

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

- Police Reform Updates – Governor’s Executive Order 203 – Still working on this and up to 37 pages. Have held meetings via zoom. Started working on this in June, have undergone trainings, held meetings, issued a survey and are due to be returned next week and will go through to see how that relates to his plan. There will be more zoom meetings and at either the December or January Board of Supervisors meeting have a resolution accepting the plan. The plan must be completed by April 1st. He definitely wants to hear from citizens and input from the public.
- Jail Pharmacy Contract Bid – Westwood Pharmacy their current vendor won the bid. He would like to move forward with this two-year contract with Westwood for jail pharmacy needs. A motion to award bid for Jail Pharmacy to the low bidder, Westwood, was moved by Mr. Hicks and seconded by Mr. O’Brien. Discussion. Mrs. Clary asked if the contract deals with Medicaid and the lift the ceiling off pharmaceuticals. The Sheriff stated they pay the Medicaid rates. The County Attorney stated would need to see if that was in the bid specifications. The Sheriff stated the bids are based on the cost of the medications. The motion to award bid for Jail Pharmacy to the low bidder, Westwood, was moved by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Mr. O’Brien and adopted. Mrs. Clary opposed. (Board Resolution)

EMS:

- EMS Advisory Board Appointments – The EMS Coordinator submitted members from various emergency/fire rescue squads for reappointment to the EMS Advisory Board for a three-year term. A motion to move the reappointments to the EMS Advisory Board and forward to the full Board for consideration was moved by Mr. O’Brien, seconded by Mrs. Clary and adopted.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Glen Gosnell, Director, addressed the following items:

- Public Safety Radio System Project Update – Working on getting their site up and going on top of Prospect Mountain – adding new radios as part of a simulcast upgrade and working on co-locating on other towers that we have connectivity to already which saves the County considerable money.
- Village of Argyle Water System Issue Update – Working with the State Department of Health(NYS DOH) and our DPW to assist the village of Argyle with their water system; supply issue. Two weeks ago, they were able to get the water filtration trailer from the State DOH enabling them to pump water out of Summit Lake to increase their water reserves and Argyle is also working on drilling another well. DPW was hauling water for them and that process has stopped now that they have this pump trailer. Finally getting ahead of the curve as far as their water tank.

Tim Hardy, Deputy Director, addressed the following items:

- 911 Phone System Project Update – Recently finished that \$350,000 911 phone project update all paid by Homeland Security grant funding done in conjunction with Warren County. Provides a backup for both counties. Moving forward with Text 911 and should be finished in the first or second quarter of 2021 also all grant funded.

- Sign up for community notification of emergencies. Need to push that information out for people to sign up especially with like boil water notifications. People used to get this information with landlines and you just don't get with your voice over ip and cell phones. Plans to send out information in the next few days; public awareness/media/Facebook, etc.

PROBATION – Anthony White, Director, announced his retirement as of December 30th and he thanked everyone for this incredible career. He stated he has worked with many great people and thanked the Board/Supervisors/Committee Chairman both past and present for their support and other department heads for their support. He did his best to foster a good positive work culture and sure that the Board will make a great decision on his replacement and hope to continue that positive work culture. Board members thanked Anthony for his hard work and appreciated all his efforts.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:42P.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors