

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2021

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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Ward, Hogan

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Fedler, Ferguson, Fisher, Griffith

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Melissa Fitch, County Administrator

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Accept Minutes – November 30, 2021
3. Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Alternative Sentencing/Youth
 - 1) Request Permission to Apply for Community of Practice Grant
 - B. Public Defender
 - 1) Request to Appoint Public Defender and forward Resolution to 2022 Organization Meeting for another two-year term.
 - C. Assigned Counsel
 - 1) Request to Appoint Supervising Attorney Part Time and forward Resolution to 2022 Organization Meeting for another two-year term.
 - D. Coroners
 - 1) Authorize Chairman to Sign Glens Falls Hospital Contract – Morgue/Lab Services – December 17, 2021 Resolution
 - E. Probation
 - 1) Radios
 - 2) Training
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

In the absence of Chairman Ward, Mr. Haff called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 30, 2021 meeting was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Hicks, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS /REQUESTS:

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

- Permission to Apply for Community of Practice Grant – This grant is through DCJS in the amount of \$75,000 and is 100% State funding with no local match. They were successful in the first two rounds of securing funding in conjunction with Warren County and plans to apply in the same manner again. Proposed use of the funding for mentoring matching Big Brothers Big Sisters for at-risk-youth, drug test and booklets for competency development but waiting for more information on the funding criteria. A motion to allow Mike Gray, Alternative Sentencing Director, to apply for a Community of Practice Grant was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Clary and Mr. Hogan, and adopted.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Mike Mercure, Public Defender, addressed the following item with the committee:

- Reappointment 2022 – A motion to reappoint Mike Mercure, Public Defender, for another two-year term was moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mrs. Clary, and adopted. (*January 3, 2022 Resolution*)

ASSIGNED COUNSEL – Tom Cioffi, Assigned Counsel – Appointment is not term defined and does not require action by committee.

CORONERS:

- Authorize Chairman Signature – Glens Falls Hospital Contract for Morgue/Lab Services. Received the new agreement with the Glens Falls Hospital for morgue/lab services for the upcoming year and requesting authorization for the Chairman to sign and waive the Procurement Policy. Funds are included in the budget for these services. A motion to waive the Procurement Policy and authorize the Chairman to sign agreement with Glens Falls Hospital for morgue/lab services for 2022 was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Hogan, and adopted. (*December 17, 2021 Resolution*)

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

- Radios – The committee had previously approved the purchase of radios for the department and amended the budget \$9,000 transferring funds from personal services to equipment. They have been able to acquire some radios in good working condition from another law enforcement agency and no longer need to purchase radios but would like to use \$2,000 to purchase backup batteries for the radios. The Treasurer stated this expense would be a contractual expense and stated Probation has funds within his budget to transfer between contractual lines and does not require official Board action.
- Training – Every new employee has to attend multiple weeks of training on fundamental practices of peace officers, firearms certification and other trainings required by law. Recently informed by the State Director of Probation that they are expanding the training by at least one hundred and sixteen hours due to a review by the Municipal Police Training Council. Unsure how this is all going to fit in with their current training requirements and where the training will be held. They currently do a lot of their training locally with the Sheriff's Department and if they have to go somewhere else for training there will probably be a fee and that is something they have not had to budget for in the past. He will report back to the committee when he receives more information.

OTHER BUSINESS:

SHERIFF – The Sheriff is requesting that the two Deputy positions requested in his 2022 budget be approved and placed on the Staffing Pattern to allow them to attend the training academy in mid-January. He also needs to get them all the equipment they need to attend the training. A motion to approve and forward request to the Personnel Committee to add two Deputy positions to the Staffing Pattern was moved by Mr. Hicks and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Discussion. The Sheriff stated they can order the required items for the academy and uniforms. He stated they will have everything in place and ready if they are approved on January 3rd. A motion to approve and forward request to the Personnel Committee to add two Deputy positions to the Staffing Pattern was moved by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, and adopted.

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

- Software Update – The data base has been downloaded and having a demonstration on the system today. They meet weekly to determine the next steps in the process and the process is moving along smoothly.

- Wastewater Treatment System – Mr. Haff asked if someone was to install a New York State engineered approved wastewater treatment facility about the size of a septic tank but not a septic tank, would an engineered plan be required similar to what is needed for a septic tank and leach field. He believes it to be redundant to have a NYS approved engineered system and then be required to hire an engineer to develop an approved plan. Mr. Graham stated an engineered wastewater system would have to be specifically engineered for the site and approved by an engineer. There is no out-of-the-box system approved for every site. Mr. Haff believes this is over regulating having an approved NYS system and then still having to hire an engineer to get approval to install on your site. Mr. Graham stated since 2016 every system has to have stamped plans specific to the site.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors