

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING

January 4, 2022

The regular meeting of Public Safety, Probation, Office of Emergency Services, Coroner, and Stop DWI was held in the Legislative Conference Room at the Ronald E. Dougherty Office Building, 56 Main St., on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 2:30 PM.

Present:

Dennis Mullen	Chair, Public Safety
Ed Hollenbeck	Legislator
Marte Sauerbrey	Chair, Legislature- in at 2:33
William Standinger	Legislator
Barbara Roberts	Legislator
Sheriff Gary Howard	Sheriff's Office
Brian Cain	Director, Probation
Mike Simmons	Director, Emergency Services

Guest:

Robert P. Williams	Deputy Director, Emergency Services
Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
Peter DeWind	County Attorney - in at 2:38

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Legislator Standinger made a motion to approve the minutes of December 7, 2021; seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck, and so carried.

PROBATION:

Brian Cain, Probation Director, presented the following information to the committee. Reports are attached.

Budget:

2021 Revenue Budget (year-end):

Collections: \$10,341 of DWI Supervision fee collected in 2021

\$233,237 in restitution collected through November of 2021

Probation projected revenue in the amount of \$18,600 during 2021. Revenue is comprised of Restitution surcharges, DWI supervision fees, and Adoption investigation fees. Actual revenue for 2021 totaled \$22,058 exceeding revenue projection by \$3,458 (+19%)

2022 Budget: On target

Current Business:

- Juvenile Specialized Supervision Program (JSSP) – Interview was held with a very promising and skillful candidate for the full time JSSP position on December 28, 2021. We are waiting to hear if the candidate will accept the position.
- The Floyd Hooker Foundation money was received and is in the Probation budget. Meetings were held with the Family Court staff in December to discuss how the money will be utilized and documented. Many recurring needs were identified in our juvenile population (transportation, pro-social activities accessible to youth, etc.)
- Staffing – Probation Officer Jean-Rene Regis reported for his first day of employment at Probation on December 20, 2021. Jean has completed the initial employment requirements with the County and is beginning to build a caseload.
- In December, New York State mandated that an additional screening be completed on all youth that receive diversion services through Probation. Probation is now mandated to complete and document results of a sexual exploitation screening tool to identify youth who may be at risk of sexual exploitation/trafficking. This assessment will be in addition to the completion of a suicide assessment, drug/alcohol screening and review of the allegations, which resulted in the youth being issued a Juvenile Delinquency Appearance Ticket. We are reevaluating our intake procedures to accommodate the additional requirements from New York State.
- Discussion regarding JD from Waverly who absconded from housing and needed to be transported/arraigned before magistrate prior to being placed in detention. Probation advises that there is a necessity to fund a non-secure detention for adolescent offenders.
- Probation has volunteered to help distribute both masks and/or Covid 19 testing kits to businesses in downtown Owego and anywhere else in the county where assistance may be needed.
- Probation continues discussions with Veteran’s Services regarding the resolution of transportation issues veterans experience in Tioga County.

Personnel Items:

Positions Vacant: One Sr. Probation Officer, One unfunded Probation Officer

Resolutions:

Renewal of contract with Automon for Caseload Explorer services

Other:

Working with Personnel for desk audit of Finance position within department.

OFFICE of EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mike Simmons, OES Director, presented the following information to the committee. Report is attached.

Budget: Within Modified Budget, leftover funds from 2021

Resolutions:

- Apply for SICG21 Radio Grant
- Amend Resolution 291-19 Signature on Change Order #2

Monthly Activity:

EMS:

- The spring EMT Class registration is underway. So far there are 8 people signed up.
- The Berkshire Fire District Ambulance has found it necessary to discontinue providing ambulance services. The decision was made because of a lack of manpower. Maine EMS will become the agency providing EMS services to Berkshire.
- The Nichols Joint Fire District Ambulance is now out of service from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm due to a lack of manpower. Mutual Aid Departments are filling for Nichols during those hours.

Fire:

- The Fall Basic Exterior Firefighter Class held in Newark Valley finished with 12 students graduates. The same class will be scheduled in the spring and be held at a department located in the southern part of the county.
- The Fire Investigation Team has been very busy this month. They currently are working on several fire investigations. Some of the fires may have a criminal element so they are working with the Sheriff's CID Unit and the State Police BCI.

EMO:

- Damage assessments from the remnants of Hurricane Fred met the state and federal thresholds and was declared a disaster by the president. Several towns are working with FEMA to file their damage assessments and plans to repair damage to bridges and roads. Spencer is considering opting out of the FEMA reimbursements because the reporting process is too cumbersome.
- The COVID Pandemic continues. Due to the increase in cases, along with the new governor, we are back like we were in 2020, having regular conference calls and receiving deliveries of masks and possibly test kits. The State has reinstated their State of Emergency. Some counties have done the same.

Communications & Radio System:

- Motorola, NYSTEC, and Emergency Services are continuing to work on planning the radio system. Motorola has created change orders at our request, removing the Computer Aided Dispatch “CAD” system from the Radio Project. The Change Order also includes changing our system so it connects to the Central NY Consortium, Adds additional Mobile and Portable Radios, increases the number of towers from 9 to 11 and adds additional microwave connections between towers. These changes increase the price of the project by \$3.1 million.
- Legislature Mullen is recommending that Chairman Sauerbrey sign the “Change Order #2” before additional cost increases occur. Approved by Committee.

SHERIFF:

Sheriff Howard presented the following information to the committee. Reports are attached.

Personnel Items:

- There are currently (5) open Corrections Officer positions.
- There is currently (1) open part-time Cook position. (1) Full time cook position has been filled and starts January 3rd 2022.

Road Patrol

- There are no Deputies currently on light duty.
- We have (2) Deputies currently attending the police academy (with FTO).
- We have (2) Deputies starting the police academy January 10th 2022.

E911 Emergency Communications Center

- There is currently (1) open full-time and (1) open part-time Dispatcher position.

Records

- Full-time position filled; new person starting January 2nd 2022.

Administration

- All positions are filled.

Budget:

- Revenues are at \$774,506 which is 111% of the budget.
- Expenditures are at \$10,452,990 which is 94% of the budget.
- Inmate Boarders are at \$489,419 which is 326% of the budget.

Current Projects:

- Black Creek upgrade complete; awaiting replacement of a monitor on 1/15/22.
- Live Scan part of upgrade moving forward, installed but software not complete.
- Jail refrigerator and freezer replacement project should be finished today 12/30/21.
- Jail EMR, IT has installed all equipment necessary and licensing is complete.

Miscellaneous:

Average daily inmate population for the month of December 2021 was 60.

Resolutions:

Modify Budget: create account for Project Lifesaver.

ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 3:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. Stubecki
Tioga County Office of Emergency Services