



MINUTES
JUDICIAL & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 5:30PM
Live Stream Link: <https://youtu.be/HPSK9pJsOpk>

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Mark Strong, Chair called meeting to order at 5:32PM

MEMBERS: Legislators Elane Daly, Andy Dennison, Michael Didio, Tricia Kerr, Heidi Nightengale, and Chris Petrus (Vice Chair)

OTHERS: Chairman David Gould, Legislators; Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Hans Pecher, Bob Shea, Lydia Patti Ruffini, and Jim Basile, Sheriff Brian Schenck, Detective Fred Cornelius, IT Technician Dan Lovell, Chief Assistant County Attorney Rich Graham, EMS Director Dale Currier, Assistant District Attorney Chris Valdina, 911 Administrator Denise Spingler, and Deputy Clerk of Legislature Amanda Morgan

MINUTES TO APPROVE: December 1, 2021, Motion by Dennison, 2nd by Petrus, all in favor.

APPOINTMENTS: None

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

- **Denise Spingler (911) –**
 - **Policy Matters for Committee**
 - **Staffing**
 - Two vacancies
 - January 2021 test – 57 applicants
 - COVID becoming very impactful to staffing/operations
 - Three staff members with perfect attendance in 2021. A tough year to stay healthy but they all managed to overcome the challenge!
 - **911 Database Analyst**
 - GIS Duties – fully managing
 - Discovery Duties – fully managing; caught up
 - **Review of 2021**
 - Call Volume Data:
 - **911 Calls - 45933** up 16% from 2020
 - **Administrative Calls – 151k – IVR added in June**
 - **Calls for Service – 67389** up 9% from 2020
 - **ACA Calls – over 1400 calls from Nov 1 – Dec 31st**
 - Salary Information
 - **Overtime** – budget exceeded by 30k
 - **F/T Salaries** – 115k savings
 - Total savings 80k *approximately*
 - **Emergency Communications System**
 - Working through concerns with coverage in Southern end
 - **Grants**
 - **New SICG & PSAP grants** – due mid-February

- **Lloyd Hoskins (Assigned Counsel/Stop DWI) –**

The Assigned Counsel office is pleased to update the committee with the following items:

- There were **65** arraignments at the Centralized Arraignment Program for the month of December. The Assigned Counsel office calendared fifteen attorneys to cover the 7am and 7pm arraignments. The attorney cost associated with CAP for December was \$9,550.00. *These expenses were paid from an ILS (Indigent Legal Services) grant.* Of the 65 arraignments, **22** (34%) were for town/village courts, **42** (65%) were for Auburn City Court, and **1** (1%) was for Family Court. **39** (60%) defendants were released (ROR) and **26** (40%) defendants were held on bail or held for other reasons. Of the 65 arraignments, 20 (31%) were brought in on bench warrants. 26 Orders of Protection were issued.

- There were **36** Counsel at First Appearance for Auburn City Court and **7** Counsel at First Appearance in town/village courts. The Assigned Counsel office calendared thirteen attorneys to cover the “on-call” arraignments. The attorney cost associated with Counsel at First Appearance for December was \$6,650.00. *These expenses were paid from an ILS (Indigent Legal Services) grant.*
- The Assigned Counsel Program made attorney assignments to **61** defendants in Auburn City Court and **21** defendants in justice courts for December. A total of **29** assignments were made in Family Court.

ASSIGNED COUNSEL:

1-22-JP-1 Appointing Administrator Indigent Defendants (PT) and setting the rate of compensation. **Motion by Petrus, 2nd by Dennison, all in favor.**

- **Dr. Adam Duckett (Coroner) – No updates**
- **Brittany Antonacci (District Attorney) –**
 - Two resolutions to fill vacancies in the Office (entry level ADA and Deputy Chief ADA)
 - Actively interviewing attorneys for the entry level positions;
 - Unable to fill our vacant administrative staff position due to 2021 salary changes; scheduling a meeting with Civil Service/ HR to discuss options

DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

Motion by Petrus to bundle JP 2 & 3, 2nd by Daly, all in favor.

1-22-JP-2 Authorizing the District Attorney to fill FT Assistant District Attorney vacancy in the District Attorney’s Office

1-22-JP-3 Authorizing the District Attorney to fill FT Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney vacancy in the District Attorney’s Office

- **Dale Currier (Fire/EMO) –**

HIGHEST PRIORITY

- EMS SERVICES - Maintaining EMS and ambulance coverage throughout the county continues to be a growing challenge. Of particular note is the increasing daily simultaneous diversions from multiple regional hospitals with some diversions in place for 12 hours. Additional ambulances FEMA brought into the region to handle patient surge related to the COVID uptick are not available for local day-to-day use.
- EMO partnered with NYS Emergency Management to present 2 sessions of the 3-hour NYS DHSES Tier 3 Emergency Management Training for Local Appointed and Elected Officials. A total of 28 people attended. Only offered once annually another session will be held at Cayuga Community college at 5:30 p.m. on January 19. We encourage all public officials to attend so they know what their legal responsibilities are for dealing with an emergency before it happens. Participants will know how and why they can do a Local State of Emergency and ask questions related to their community’s particular needs.

PLANNING

- EMO staff is still hearing from local municipalities who have yet to formally adopt their portion of the revised County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is very important. The formal adoption of the new plan by the County Legislature and some municipalities allowed them to request approximately \$750,000.00 from FEMA Public Assistance [PA] disaster recovery funds for Tropical Storm Fred damages. We have not been notified when the funding will be made available.
- EMO staff are beginning a rewrite of the Mass Casualty Incident [MCI] Plan and the Emergency Operations Center [EOC] Activation Plan. The initial findings of the After-Action Review [AAR] from the August 14 bus accident on the NYS Thruway identified a number of opportunities to improve plans for large incidents.

RECOVERY

EMO staff continue to work with NYS DHSES and FEMA on damage assessments and payments for the FEMA funding available from the Tropical Storm Fred.

TRAINING

Basic EMT and EMT Refresher courses are now planned for 2022 and lead Course Instructors have been assigned to the courses. A Basic EMT class starts January 8th and has 16 people enrolled.

- **Jay DeWispelaere (Probation) –**

- **Staffing:**

- The department is currently operating at current authorized strength; four clerical positions and 12 Probation Officer titles.
- Two officers are considering retirement during 2022. These could be the first in a generational transition as a number of officers will reach retirement eligibility beginning this year. One clerical staff member is already over 30 years of service.
- The Director of Probation, both Probation Supervisors and three of four Senior Probation Officers are all beyond 25 years of service. Several will reach 30 years of service within the next two years.
- Current workload;
 - Current open adult cases; 510. This represents a 10 year low for the department.
 - COVID-19 has had a significant impact in receiving probation sentences.
 - Increased case management efficiency in the department over the last five years has also had a significant impact.
 - Current caseload assignment is in line with OPCA recommendations and manageable for current staffing levels.
- Current caseload numbers, and staffing levels, do not allow the department any flexibility to adopt other types of specialized supervision, such as DWI, Sex Offender or Domestic Violence focused caseloads.

- **Equipment/Assets:**

- All Probation Officers are issued firearms, pepper spray, handcuffs and radios; firearms were updated in 2018 and are in excellent condition. All other issued equipment has been recently issued or has been updated.
- Radios; all officers carry hand held radios; the department has budgeted for new batteries. All radios should be updated when other county departments are also updated.
- Department vehicles; the department currently operates three vehicles surplused from other departments. The newest vehicle is 8 years old. All three vehicles need to have radios installed; E911 and EMO are assisting with this.
- Ballistic Vests; all Probation Officers are issued body armor and are required to wear it when making field contacts with their caseloads. Five officers currently required updated vests; CCSO and EMO are assisting with funding.

- **Location and Space Requirements:**

- Main department location is 3rd floor of the County Court House Annex; 1400 sq. feet for ten staff last renovated in the 1990's. Six staff are located in the former Sheriff's Civil Office on the 1st. floor.
- Current location lacks; secure storage for evidence; sanitary location to test and maintain urine samples or to properly dispose of test materials; training or conference facility; separated, secure storage for department firearms and ammunition.
- Staff rest rooms open directly into the department's public waiting area, with obvious privacy and security concerns; staff do not have access to shower or changing facilities in the event they are exposed to blood, urine or saliva.

- **Upcoming Contracts and Resolutions:**

- **Sex Offender Polygraph Tests;** the department is required to provide for polygraph tests for convicted sex offenders under probation supervision. A new therapist to conduct these tests is required and one has been identified. A draft contract has been provided to the County Attorney for review. A resolution to may be forwarded for the February cycle.
- **Electronic Monitoring services;** at this time the department does not provide Electronic Monitoring services for adult offenders. A small, focused EM program is desirable as an alternative sentence, or as a graduated sanction. Several vendors have been contacted and have provided information regarding their services. Once a vendor is identified, more information will be provided and a resolution and contract for EM services will be brought forward.

- **COVID;**

- Prior to the current increase in COVID infections, the department had returned to all staff working in the office as scheduled. Following the Chair's permission to allow discretionary remote work 01/04/22, staff are being given permission to work remotely on a voluntary basis.
- All staff are using current COVID guidelines in the office and while conducting field work.
- Contacts with probationers in the office remains limited to scheduled visits and only as necessary
- Walk in business remains very limited.
- As of the date this report was prepared (01/07/22), one Probation Dept. employee is currently quarantined after a recent positive COVID test.

- **Brian Schenck (Sheriff) –**

- At the time of this report we are holding 141 incarcerated individuals in the jail. This includes 26 Federal board ins, 9 NY State Parolees detained for new charges and 3 Parolees detained for violation of parole. 30 individuals are sentenced and 83 are unsentenced.
- Staffing in the Custody Division continues to be a concern due to vacancies, medical, COVID, injuries, and administrative leave. Our inhouse training academy for new hires in the Custody Division is underway and currently in week 4 at the time of this report.
- We just learned that we were awarded a \$66,000 grant to assist with the implementation of body worn cameras for our Patrol Division through a Department of Justice Body Worn Camera Program. This development will be brought to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion and exploration.
- To date we have received 441 community survey responses from the public seeking input related to our law enforcement services. We will continue seeking feedback until the end of January.
- Deputy Slobe and K-9 Pitt completed narcotics detection training. K-9 Pitt is now being utilized for drug detection as well as apprehension and searching.

Discussion of Sheriff presenting on body cameras to the February meeting.

SHERIFF:

Motion by Petrus to bundle JP 4 & 7, 2nd by Dennison, all in favor.

1-22-JP-4 Authorizing the Sheriff to abolish one vacant Deputy Sheriff Corporal Position in the Patrol Division and fill a Deputy Sheriff Position in the Patrol Division

1-22-JP-7 Authorizing the Sheriff to fill one vacant Custody Corporal Position in the Custody Division of the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office and any resulting backfill positions

End of bundle

1-22-JP-5 Resolution authorizing the Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature and the Cayuga County Sheriff to extend a contract with East Hill Family Medical to provide nursing staff referrals for the Jail Medical Division. **Motion by Dennison, 2nd by Petrus, all in favor.**

1-22-JP-6 Authorize the Sheriff to create and fill an Identification Officer Position within the Road Patrol Division of the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office. **Motion by Dennison, 2nd by Petrus, all in favor.**

1-22-JP-8 Authorize the Sheriff of Cayuga County to fill seasonal personnel positions for the Marine Patrol Unit. **Motion by Dennison, 2nd by Daly, all in favor.**

1-22-JP-9 Authorizing the Sheriff's Office to purchase and equip one (1) new marked patrol vehicle to replace existing patrol car that was destroyed due to being struck by another vehicle while said patrol vehicle was parked. **Motion by Dennison, 2nd by Nightengale, all in favor.**

Discussion on the Mobile Crisis Response and Brian Schenck/Ray Bizzari presenting at Ways.

Motion by Petrus to adjourn at 7:06PM, 2nd by Daly, all in favor.