



**MINUTES**  
**JUDICIAL & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2023 to follow Public Works**  
**Live Stream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgEMWOzxoFQ>**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Hon. Mark Strong, Chair at **6:11 PM**

**MEMBERS:** Legislators Elane Daly, Andy Dennison, Michael Didio, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Heidi Nightengale, and Chris Petrus

**OTHERS:** Legislators Hans Pecher, Jim Basile, and Tricia Kerr, District Attorney Brittany Antonacci, 911 Administrator Denise Spingler, Supervising Attorney John Price, Probation Director Jay DeWispelaere, Sheriff Brian Schenck, EMO Director Riley Shurtleff, Deputy EMO Director Harry Sherman, Budget Director Lynn Marinelli, Assistant County Attorney Rich Graham, and Secretary to the Chairperson Sarah Blowers

**MINUTES TO APPROVE:** August 8, 2023, Motion by McNabb-Coleman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daly, all in favor.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:**

**Denise Spingler (911) –**

- **Policy Matters for Committee**
  - **Staffing update**
    - 2 dispatchers starting training 9/18/23
      - 1 vacancy
    - Meeting with Chairman Gould, Shereen Androsko, HR, J&PS Chairman Strong to discuss 911 salaries 9/12/23
- **Emergency Communications System**
  - Working through a request from T-Mobile to co-locate on Ira tower site; resolution coming in October
  - **Motorola system refresh**
    - In progress
  - **Eventide Recorder upgrade**
    - Completed at both sites
  - **Public Safety Surveys**
    - Sent to all responding agencies
      - 7 returned
  - **Radio Replacement Applications**
    - Sent to all County FD's / EMS agencies
      - 14 FD's responded
        - 1 late - disqualified
      - 3 EMS agencies
    - Reviewed in coming weeks

**Lloyd Hoskins (Assigned Counsel) –**

- There were **84** arraignments at the Centralized Arraignment Program for the month of August. The Assigned Counsel office calendared thirteen attorneys to cover the 7am and 7pm arraignments. The attorney cost associated with CAP for August was \$12,440.00. *These expenses were paid from an ILS (Indigent Legal Services) grant.* Of the 84 arraignments, **43** (51%) were for town/village courts, **39** (46%) for Auburn City Court and **2** (3%) for Family Court. **49** (58%) defendants were released (ROR), and **35** (42%) defendants were held on bail or held for other reasons. Of the 84 arraignments, 32 (38%) were brought in on arrest/bench warrants. 27 Orders of Protection were issued.
- There were **65** Counsel at First Appearance for Auburn City Court and **11** 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 August was \$9,100.00. *These expenses were paid from an ILS (Indigent Legal Services) grant.*

- The Assigned Counsel office made attorney assignments to **69** defendants in Auburn City Court and **37** defendants in justice courts for August. A total of **33** assignments were made in Family Court.
- Distribution #14 three-year grant in the amount of \$262,098.00 was prepared and submitted to New York State Indigent Legal Services on 08/30/23.
- Legal Counsel Expenses:
  - January - \$82,694.92 + CAP/CAFA - \$19,130.00 = \$101,824.92
  - February - \$88,744.96 + CAP/CAFA - \$16,770.00 = \$105,514.96
  - March - \$92,850.30 + CAP/CAFA - \$19,440.00 = \$112,290.30
  - April - \$101,443.08 + CAP/CAFA - \$18,480.00 = \$119,923.08
  - May - \$179,928.82 + CAP/CAFA - \$19,300.00 = \$199,228.82
  - June - \$153,671.85 + CAP/CAFA - \$20,820.00 = \$174,491.85
  - July - \$134,570.10 + CAP/CAFA - \$19,730.00 = \$154,300.10
  - August - \$159,704.29 + CAP/CAFA - \$21,915.00 = \$181,619.29
- Legal Counsel Revenues:
  - 1st quarter 2023 - \$137,753.82
  - 2nd quarter 2023 - \$205,493.27

**Dr. Adam Duckett (Coroner) – No updates**

**Brittany Antonacci (District Attorney) –**

- Grand Jury Indictments for month of August: 18
- Conducting Interviews to fill the Vacant Senior ADA position.

**Riley Shurtleff (Emergency Services) –**

1. PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER IMPROVEMENTS – Final Designs for Training Site, without Vehicle Storage, rendered on 8/28. Bergmann requesting additional information on County Code Enforcement for the site. Additional information pulled on Parks Department pole barn designs and Infirmary site on County House Road for Vehicle Storage. Presentation to be delivered.
2. The Rehab Vehicle that has been on order is delayed due to manufacturer construction of the chassis. Matthews Specialty Vehicles is waiting on the specced Ford chassis to begin final measurements and construction.
3. The County Building Occupant Emergency Plan for facilities has been undergoing its first revision since 2008 and is in the final steps. This will be for County facilities and employees related to various emergencies that might occur.
4. The US Department of Agriculture Regional Director met with office staff on 8/23 related to low cost loan and grant programs that are available to fire and EMS agencies. Information was shared with County departments.
5. The Regional HAZMAT Team of Cayuga/Cortland/Tompkins met related to training, grant funds, and equipment purchasing processes within State requirements on September 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Operations
    1. County Coordinators: Responded 12 times to assist Incident Command on Emergency scenes.
    2. Fire Investigators: Responded 3 times to assist Incident Command with Cause and Origin of Fires.
    3. Rehab: Responded 2 times at fire scenes to assist in scene support efforts
    4. Special Operations – Dispatched 2 times. 1 call for Rope Rescue in Sennett, 1 for Search and Rescue to Central Square.
  - Training
    1. Surface Water Rescue was held August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in Owasco.
    2. Fire Investigation for the Line Officer (Web-based) will be scheduled for an offering in September.
    3. Interior Firefighting Operations (IFO) began on August 29<sup>th</sup> in Sennett with 19 students.
    4. A Basic Wildland Search Skills Training is scheduled in Scipio on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Personnel
    1. Two Part Time Deputy Fire Coordinator and One Part Time Deputy Fire-EMS Coordinator vacancies were posted on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Openings closed on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    2. The Office has posted a vacancy for a volunteer Intelligence Liaison Officer. This position and incorporated training is sponsored through the NY Department of Homeland Security and works to train first responders in identifying domestic and international terrorist threats on emergency scenes.

In addition to the above, numerous calls and meetings with the State of New York OEM, OFPC, County Coordinators, County Agencies and other organizations were attended.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or to discuss any of the above in further detail.

**Jay DeWispelaere (Probation) –**

- **Staffing:**
  - New Probation Officer I: candidate has been identified and will start October 2, 2023.

- Due to timing of the hiring process incoming Probation Officers will miss the fall training academies and will not be able to enter training until spring, 2024.
- If approved, a candidate has already been identified for the GIVE funded position. This individual may be able to start as early as October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Senior Typist; a department clerical staff member has accepted the vacant Sr. Typist position. This now creates a vacancy for Account Clerk Typist. Candidates for this position are being contacted.
- Training for new clerical staff is being sought from regional probation departments.
- Disciplinary and health issues have contributed to staff shortages which have impacted the ability of the department to handle current work volumes. At this time, functionally, the department is down three officers.
- Normal volume of court ordered reports per month is 35-40; August saw over 70 reports assigned to the department. This volume is un-precedented over the last 15 years.
- **GIVE**
  - Probation Officer Darren Walawender is currently supervising the GIVE caseload
  - Cooperative details have targeted “hot spot” areas in the City of Auburn.
  - Officers involved in GIVE details have conducted searches for reported weapons and have taken offenders with open warrants into custody.
  - Coordination meetings are being held monthly with partner agencies.
- **DCJS Annual Plan:**
  - Contingent approval was received electronically from DCJS September 6, 2023 for the department’s 2023 Annual Plan and Aid Application.
  - DCJS request verification of the department’s DNA Collection Policy.
  - The department has had such a policy in effect for some time; it is anticipated that DCJS will request amendments to the current policy.
  - DCJS practice the last several years has been to require departments to submit various policies for review with the annual plan
  - The department has 30 days to prepare and submit a response.
- **Alternatives to Incarceration Board;**
  - No update at this time.

**Brian Schenck (Sheriff) –**

- The metal detector for the County Office Building is scheduled to be shipped to us on 9-15-23. Once it arrives, we will begin installation of the detector and bag scanner.
- August was a very busy month for all of our divisions. Housing evictions remain steady within our Civil Division (40 in August) and are likely contributing to our local homeless housing crisis.
- On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Detective Sergeant Nicole Stewart and Michelle Fiorelli with Cayuga County Mental Health completed a 40 hour Crisis Intervention for Mental Health Training for numerous members of our Sheriff’s Office, Cayuga County Probation, Auburn Police Department, Seneca Falls Police Department, and the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office. We continue to pursue additional training and strategies to address the mental health challenges facing our community.
- At the time of this report, we are holding 157 incarcerated individuals in the jail. This includes 18 Federal board ins, 1 Local board in, 6 NY State Parolees detained for new charges and 3 Parolees detained for a violation of parole. Our average daily count for 2023 to date is 169 incarcerated individuals as opposed to 146 for year 2022. This population increase has been negatively impacting our budget, especially our medical, prescription, and meal costs.
- Staffing in the jail as reported in previous months remains a challenge. We recently lost a full time Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse due to resignation. Recruiting and scheduling open houses to attract candidates for all divisions remains a priority. We remain down 8 full time Custody Officer positions and have been unable to fill the Chief Jail Administrator position to date. Staffing challenges, along with medical and juvenile transports is continuing to negatively impact our overtime budget for 2023. The decrease in board-in revenue due to our local jail population is also impacting our budget.
- As summer is coming to a close, we will begin pulling our boats from Cayuga Lake, Owasco Lake, and Lake Ontario towards the end of September.
- We attended numerous community events this past summer and continue to schedule them for this fall to conduct community outreach with a focus on recruiting staff.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- 911:**  
9-23-JP-1      Authorizing the Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature to enter into a five-year lease agreement with T Mobile Northeast, LLC for the co-location of telecommunication equipment on a Cayuga County Radio Tower in the Town Of Ira.

**Motion by Petrus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennison, all in favor.**

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:**

9-23-JP-2 Authorization to create and fill full-time Grant Program Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office.  
**Motion by Dennison, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor.**

**PROBATION:**

9-23-JP-3 **(PULLED)** Authorization to fill one (1) Probation Officer Title in the Cayuga County Probation Department.

9-23-JP-4 Authorization to create and fill one (1) Probation Officer I Title in the Cayuga County Probation Department.  
**Motion by Petrus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennison, all in favor.**

**SHERIFF:**

9-23-JP-5 Authorizing budget transfers for the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office.  
**Motion by Dennison, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daly, all in favor.**

**Motion by Dennison to adjourn at 6:58 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor.**