



**MINUTES**  
**JUDICIAL & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 5:30PM**  
**Live Stream Link: <https://youtu.be/Otkw82OmkJg>**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Hon. Ben Vitale, Chair at 5:31 PM

**MEMBERS:** Legislators Keith Batman, Elane Daly (Vice Chair), Michael Didio, Timothy Lattimore, Heidi Nightengale, and Hans Pecher

**EXCUSED:** None

**OTHERS:** Legislator Tricia Kerr; Secretary to the Chairperson Stephen “Max” Pinchak II; County Attorneys Brittany Massi and Chris Palermo; 911 Administrator Denise Spingler; County Coroner Dr. Adam Duckett; EMO Director Dale Currier; Director of Probation Jay DeWispelaere; Sheriff Brian Schenk; Deputy Chief ADA Brittany Grome Antonacci; Detective Lieutenant Fred Cornelius; IT Support Jeff Gould and Dan Lovell

**MINUTES TO APPROVE: September 8, 2021 Motion by Didio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Batman. All in favor.**

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:**

- **Denise Spingler (911) –**
  - **911 Database Analyst**
    - Progressive process; learning discovery and GIS in concert w/one another; doing well
  - **Grants**
    - 711,972 – SIEC 20 award – maintenance and sustainment of ECS
    - Awaiting RFP for 2021 SIEC
  - **Emergency Communications System**
    - Old Cato Tower – still working through process to get the site decommissioned. Working on finding vendors who can manage a project like this.
- **New Position**
  - Requesting two new positions in the 2022 budget
    - Taking on Auburn City Ambulance effective November 1<sup>st</sup>
    - Workloads increasing on all levels
    - Medical leaves impacting operations

County Coroner Dr. Adam Duckett offered to help 911 Center utilize virtual “video visits” for nonemergent calls in anticipation of increased workloads. 911 Administrator Spingler also called attention to hiring challenges; Hiring lists that used to approach ~100 candidates is down to ~15.

- **Lloyd Hoskins (Assigned Counsel/Stop DWI) –**
  - There were **64** “in person” arraignments at the Centralized Arraignment Program for the month of September. The Assigned Counsel office calendared fourteen attorneys to cover the 7am and 7pm arraignments. The attorney cost associated with CAP for September was \$9,100.00. *These expenses were paid from an ILS (Indigent Legal Services) grant.* Of the 64 arraignments, 27 (42%) were for town/village courts and 37 (58%) were for Auburn City Court. 39 (61%) defendants were released (ROR) and 25 (39%) defendants were held on bail or held for other reasons. Of the 64 arraignments, 17 (27%) were brought in on bench warrants.
  - There were **34** Counsel at First Appearance for Auburn City Court and **7** Counsel at First Appearance in town/village courts. The Assigned Counsel office calendared twelve attorneys to cover the “on-call” arraignments. The attorney cost associated with Counsel at First Appearance for September was \$6,650.00. *These expenses were paid from an ILS (Indigent Legal Services) grant.*
  - The Assigned Counsel Program made attorney assignments to **55** defendants in Auburn City Court and **16** defendants in justice courts for September. A total of **25** assignments were made in Family Court.

- The September 2021 assigned counsel payments for legal and professional services was \$44,834.16. The assigned counsel payments for parole revocations and appeals was \$930.00.
- Cayuga County was awarded \$3,081,747.39 through the Statewide Expansion of Hurrell-Harring back in early 2019. The Assigned Counsel Office was is currently preparing year three of that budget which is anticipated to be \$616,350.00.
- The Cayuga County STOP-DWI Program was awarded \$17,500.00 by the Governor’s Traffic Safety Board for our High Visibility Engagement Campaign. These monies will be utilized to pay overtime for law enforcement agencies for sobriety checkpoints and roving patrols.

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

County Coroner Dr. Duckett stated how this has been a busy, unique and challenging year for the coroner’s office.

- **Jon Budelmann (District Attorney) – No updates**

Deputy Chief ADA Brittany Grome Antonacci gave an update in lieu of DA Budelmann’s absence. She highlighted the DA Office’s efforts in making up ground on the back log of cases due to COVID-19, stating that things are starting to get back on track.

- **Dale Currier (Fire/EMO) –**

HIGHEST PRIORITY

EMS SERVICES - Maintaining consistent and timely EMS and ambulance coverage throughout the county continues to be a challenge. A number of factors are impacting this: Staffing is the primary area of concern, for volunteer, commercial and hybrid agencies. The increased frequency and duration of hospital ER diversions is making the problem worse. Some hospital transfers require patients to be transported a long distance for treatment.

PLANNING

- a. EMO staff are continuing outreach to all the municipalities who participated in the revision of the County Hazard Mitigation Plan project in order to have their respective governing bodies formally adopt the plan. Plan adoption by the local governments is critical for municipalities to be eligible for FEMA disaster response funds and for the billions of dollars in mitigation grant money becoming available in 2022.

OPERATIONS

- a. An after-action review [AAR] conference was held on September 2, 2021, for the Thruway bus crash. The formal incident debrief helped identify a number of lessons learned that are being reviewed for updating communications and operations procedures and plans. The primary objective is to improve emergency response plans and capabilities within the level of resources available.
- b. Lessons learned will also be incorporated, where appropriate, into local and regional Mass Casualty and Mass Fatality plans.

RECOVERY

- a. EMO is awaiting word on NY State’s request for a FEMA Presidential Declaration of Emergency for the recent flooding from Tropical Storm Fred. The County met the threshold of \$311,301.00 to be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance [PA] funding. We do not know if the threshold for Individual Assistance [IA] funding for homeowners was met.

TRAINING

- a. New fire training courses on a variety of topics are continuing to be offered.
- b. The EMO Director did a presentation for meteorology students at SUNY Oswego: “What Information Do Emergency Managers Really Need from the Weather Services?” This same class presentation was requested 2 years ago and was also a topic at the annual SUNY Great Lakes Meteorology and Atmospheric Symposium [GLAS] attended by meteorologists from across the nation.

Legislator Vitale mentioned that towns and villages seem to be experiencing increasingly recurring difficulties in regards to staffing fire departments and emergency services. In response, EMO Director Dale Currier stated this is not only a local issue but statewide and nationally.

- **Jay DeWispelaere (Probation) –**

- **Alternatives to Incarceration Board;**

- Third quarter ATI meeting to be held virtually on October 13, 2021, at 2:30 pm

- Tentative agenda;
  - YTD program numbers
  - Funding/plan update
  - Detention of Adolescent Offenders (AO) in county jails.
  - Program suggestions for the 2022 plan
  - Membership.
- **Sr. Typist position;**
  - Filled effective 10/04/2021
- **COVID;**
  - DCJS/OPCA has rescinded COVID special guidelines for probation operations. The department has returned to operating under regular OPCA operational guidelines.
  - COVID “take aways”:
    - The department has reviewed operational procedures regarding use of electronic media for supervising offenders, specifically real time video.
    - The 8x8 system implemented by the county has been especially useful for the video capability.
    - With a new understanding of “contacts” as opposed to the older “report” model, foot traffic into the department will be reduced from pre-COVID levels.
    - The department is also taking advantage of a module through Caseload Explorer; CE Connect. This modules allows officers to send and receive text messages from offenders. This has been especially useful for cases that are temporarily out of the county or awaiting transfer.
    - Current OPCA guidelines are intended to allow officers more individual flexibility in their time management. Our new focus and understanding should allow officers to spend more time in the community as opposed to time in the office.
    - Officers should be able to return to meeting at off site locations; Sterling, Brutus, Aurelius, Moravia; additional locations may be sought.
    - COVID-19 was helped complete a much needed step forward in the department’s use of laptops and electronic dissemination of documents
    - With the new Sr. Typist in place, sending and receiving of documents electronically will continue to be expanded. This may lead to savings in postage and office supplies for printed materials.
- **Brian Schenck (Sheriff) –**
  - At the time of this report we are holding 152 incarcerated individuals in the jail. This includes 32 Federal board ins, 10 NY State Parolees detained for new charges and 2 Parolees detained for violations of parole. 31 individuals are sentenced and 89 are unsentenced.
  - One additional full-time nurse has been hired within the jail. We are still seeking to fill an additional opening and are continuing to utilize part time staff and a contract nurse to provide necessary coverage in our medical division.
  - October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. During this time we work to promote awareness about this issue and support victims of abuse.
  - Custody Officer Kaleigh Brahney completed her basic Custody Officer Academy training on Friday October 1<sup>st</sup> and will begin field training within the jail. We continue to work to fill staff vacancies that exist in the jail.
  - We continue to partner with Nick’s Ride for Friends, the Cayuga County Drug Free Coalition, and the HEALing Communities Study to engage the public at local events to secure and dispose of dangerous unneeded prescription medication, provide drug prevention, treatment, and peer support information. On October 8, we will be hosting an event in the Village of Fair Haven 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the Fair Haven Church Street Pavilion.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

**CORONER:**

10-21-JP-1 Authorizing a transfer from the General Fund to the Coroner’s Department to cover Medical Examiner Charges. **Motion by Nightengale, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Didio. All in favor.**

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:**

10-21-JP-2 Authorizing the District Attorney to fill FT Assistant District Attorney Vacancy in the District Attorney’s Office. **Motion by Batman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Didio. All in favor.**

**SHERIFF: Motion by Batman to bundle JP 3, 4, 5 and 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nightengale. All in favor.**

- 10-21-JP-3 Authorizing the Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature and the Sheriff to enter into an Agreement with NICK'S RIDE 4 FRIENDS, INC. to provide peer counseling services to victims of overdose.
- 10-21-JP-4 Authorize the Sheriff to create and fill a Senior Account Clerk position and abolish an Account Clerk Typist position within the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office
- 10-21-JP-5 Authorize the Sheriff to fill three (3) vacant Sheriff Custody Officer Positions in the Custody Division of the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office
- 10-21-JP-6 Authorizing the Chair of the Legislature to accept a grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
- 10-21-JP-7 Authorize the creation of a temporary leave bank for a Cayuga County Sheriff's Employee. **Motion by Batman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Didio. All in favor.**

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Didio at 6:17 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nightengale. All in favor.**

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please call the Clerk of the Legislature's office at 253-1308 at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting to advise what accommodations will be necessary