

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2022

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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Fedler, Ferguson, Fisher, Nolan, Campbell, 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 – December 15, 2021
3. Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Alternative Sentencing/Youth
 - 1) Pre-Trial Risk Assessment Validation Update
 - B. Code Enforcement
 - 1) Software Update
 - 2) Septic Renewal Fee
 - C. District Attorney
 - 1) Forfeiture Spending Plan
 - 2) Crime Victim Services Update/Request Permission to Apply for Grant
 - D. Coroners
 - 1) Conference/Overnight Stay
 - E. EMS
 - 1) EMS Advisory Board Appointment – Argyle EMS
 - F. Public Safety
 - 1) Grant Updates
 - a) Recognize Grant Funding – State Homeland Security Program
 - b) Hazard Mitigation Grant
 - c) Grant Project Updates
 - 2) Countywide EMS Survey Project Update
 - 3) Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan-Annual Update/Adoption for 2022
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Clary, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS /REQUESTS:

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

- Pre-Trial Risk Assessment Validation Update – With bail reform this jurisdiction was mandated to use a validated risk assessment when making recommendations on pre-trial risk assessments to the court. If someone is held over in the county jail, his office goes over to the jail and does an interview from which they do a risk assessment to determine their risk to reappear in court. When bail reform came into place, he had to find someone to validate the process and he found a researcher from Niagara University to do it for free. This is an intensive process and he determined that our tool was statistically accurate and was validated per the standards. Washington County is one of five jurisdictions in the State that are operating and using a validated instrument and the instrument used will be revalidated in approximately three years. This was a great outcome for Washington County.

- Planning for community services projects with one project slated in Greenwich doing some painting and other work at the Greenwich Elks Club. They are putting together a list so Supervisors were advised to let him know of any projects in their towns.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – John Graham, Administrator, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Software Update – Project is finishing up and hopefully going live by the end of this month. Training for all the users starts next Tuesday.
- Septic Renewal Fee – All building and septic permits expire after a year and they currently send out renewal notices for the building permits with a \$25 fee. They have not been sending out renewal notices for the septic permits and suggesting instituting a \$25 renewal fee for those, the same as the building permits. A motion to implement the \$25.00 septic renewal fee was moved by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, and adopted.
- Code Enforcement Officer – Six applicants for position and beginning interviews tomorrow.

CORONERS:

- Conference /Overnight Stay – March 18th – 20th – Coroner Lemieux is requesting overnight stay approval for his attendance at the NYSACCME spring conference which he attends for training and certification for his duties. Conference expenses were included in budget. A motion to approve overnight stay request for NYSACCME conference to be held March 18th - 20th was moved by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, and adopted.

EMS – Bruce Mason, EMS Coordinator, addressed the following item:

- EMS Advisory Board Appointment – Argyle EMS has nominated Edward Parker to the Washington County EMS Advisory Board and Stephanie Barker as the alternative nominee. A motion to accept Edward Parker, Argyle EMS, nominee to the Washington County EMS Advisory Board was moved by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Rozell and Mrs. Clary. Discussion. A motion to enter an executive session to matters leading to the appointment of a particular person was moved by Mr. Haff, seconded by Mr. Hogan, and adopted. A motion to return to regular session was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Hicks, and adopted. No action was taken in the executive session. The motion to accept Edward Parker, Argyle EMS, nominee to the Washington County EMS Advisory Board was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Rozell and Mrs. Clary, and adopted on the following roll call vote: AYES (6) Wilson, Hogan, Hicks, O'Brien, Clary, Rozell, NOES (1) Haff, ABSENT (0), ABSTAIN (0).

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Christian Morris, Chief Assistant District Attorney, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Forfeiture Spending Plan – The District Attorney has submitted his plan for the use of their forfeiture funds, plan attached. A motion to approve District Attorney's forfeiture spending plan was moved by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, and adopted. Mr. Haff opposed.
- Crime Victim Services Update/Request Permission to Apply for Grant – The Crime Victim grant from the State provides for three-years of funding for that program. The grant needs to be applied for by March 24, 2022 with a start date of October 1, 2022. A motion to approve applying for Crime Victim Services grant was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Hicks, and adopted.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Handout attached.

- Grant Updates: Glen Gosnell, Director, addressed the following grants:
 - Recognize Grant Funding – Awarded State Homeland Security Program grant (SHSP) in the amount of \$68,285 with \$51,213 allocated to Public Safety and \$17,072 allocated to the Sheriff's Department under the State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (SLETPP) portion of the program. A motion to accept funding FY21 State Homeland Security Program grant in the amount of \$68,285 and allocate the funds accordingly was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Hicks, and adopted.
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant – The current Hazard Mitigation plan was adopted in 2018 and requires updating every five years. This is a federal grant, 75% federal and 25% local share which can be a match in kind so they use their salaries and a formula to use the salaries of town participants towards the County's match. A motion to approve applying for FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant for funding to update our current plan was moved Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Clary, and Mr. Rozell, and adopted.
 - Grant Project Updates:
 - State Interoperable Communication Grant (SICG) – This is a full reimbursement grant for allowable and budgeted expenses and there is no local match required. The State has advised that this grant is combining FY 21 and FY22. Public Safety has submitted the grant application and awaiting award. They continue to utilize this funding to upgrade the communication system.
 - Public Safety Answering Point Grant (PCAP) – Staff is working on the application that is due by February 15th. Full reimbursement grant with no local match required. These funds are allocated to the Public Safety answering point operations.
 - Budget Transfer Request - Emergency Management Performance Grant – A motion to reallocate/carryover 2021 Emergency Management Performance grant funds to 2022 in the amount of \$28,078 was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Rozell and Mrs. Clary, and adopted.
- Countywide EMS Survey Project Update – Tim Hardy, Deputy Director, updated the committee on the Countywide EMS survey project that started late last year and now have responses from six of the eight agencies. Public Safety is gathering data relative to response and call data for all of last year. They plan to set up some workshops with other counties in similar situation and look at some options. Continue to work on this project to see how we can best support our EMS agencies moving forward. He will keep the committee updated monthly.
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan – Annual Update/Adoption for 2022 – The plan has been sent out to their stakeholders for review and comment with a return date of the comments by February 25th. The plan will come back next month for adoption by the Board of Supervisors. He thanked the Supervisors who took part in the emergency management training and stated additional trainings are coming up.

OTHER BUSINESS:

IDA Updates – Mr. O'Brien, IDA Chairman, updated the committee on the following items:

- TDI Project – Yesterday signed off on pilot agreements for the TDI project.

- Fort Edward LPDC – In January, the Warren County Supreme Court Justice dissolved the Fort Edward Local Property Development Corporation (FE LPDC) property and transferred it to the WWIDA. The Fort Edward LPDC no longer has any stake or involvement in the property. Part of what has also happened is that being a public entity, the bridge is now inventoried in New York State and eligible for federal funding and the TIP. He stated the good news is that we got that authority to have that funded by the State. Mr. Hicks asked the Treasurer for the tax status of the former Fort Edward LPDC property. 2019 taxes are owed and when released from the moratorium they will be getting a certified notification that these taxes are due and a foreclosure would commence sometime this year possibly in October. The Treasurer will have further conversations with the Finance Committee about the 2018 taxes and whether or not to hold two different auctions this year.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 P.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WASHINGTON COUNTY – STATE OF NEW YORK

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Investigator

Robin MacNeil

Laura C. Taylor

Emily Hull

Crime Victim Specialists

SPENDING PLAN FOR FORFEITED FUNDS 2022

Current Funds Available as of 1/1/2021: \$55,234.35

Federal Funds Totaling: \$24,208.81

State Funds Totaling: \$31,025.54

Intended usage for the year 2022

1. INVESTIGATIONS: The support of investigations and operations that will result in furthering our law enforcement goals and missions including,
 - A. Payments to informants; “buy,” “flash,” or reward money;
 - B. The purchase of evidence.
2. TRAINING The training of investigators and District Attorney personnel in any area that is necessary to perform official law enforcement duties.
3. EQUIPMENT AND RELATED ITEMS TO SUPPORT OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS: The costs associated with the purchase, lease, maintenance, or operation of law enforcement equipment for use by law enforcement personnel that supports law enforcement activities. Includes, but not limited to, the following: furniture, file cabinets, office supplies, telecommunications equipment, copiers, safes, computers, computer accessories and software, uniforms, clothing, radios, cellular telephones, electronic surveillance equipment and vehicles.
4. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION: The costs associated with travel and transportation to perform or in support of law enforcement duties and activities.
5. AWARDS AND MEMORIALS: The costs of award plaques and certificates for law enforcement personnel.
6. PAYMENT OF SPECIAL PROSECUTOR: The costs associated with the prosecution of conflict cases.

SPECIFIC USAGE FOR 2021

I. Payroll (Point 1)

- A. INVESTIGATIONS: It is difficult to plan for future investigations while not knowing what the future holds for us. I intend to utilize shared funds to cover prosecution for drug investigations, arrests and enforcement details.

\$5,000

II. Contractual (Point 4 Non-Fixed Assets)

- B. TRAINING: I plan on significantly increasing the amount of training offered to and provided for our members, with an emphasis on local and no fee or cost training. There are however several courses and conferences that do charge for attendance and have been avoided in the past.

1. The amount required for the cost or fees related to the registration for training courses and conferences.
2. Travel for out of Town Conferences, including Hotels, mileage, air fares, etc...
3. Web Site fees
4. Promotional items/drug awareness
5. Payment of Special Prosecutor

\$25,000.00

III. Equipment (Point 2 Fixed Assets)

- C. EQUIPMENT: This category would be the largest area of the spending plan. There are several items related to equipment that we would look to use shared funds for which are included in the description on page 1 number 3 *EQUIPMENT AND RELATED ITEMS TO SUPPORT OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS*. Items specifically identified for 2018 include surveillance cameras, identifying uniforms for on-scene investigations, computers and accessories and training equipment.

\$ 20,234.35

IV. Travel, Transportation and Awards and Memorials

- D. The costs associated with travel and transportation to perform or in support of law enforcement duties and activities as well as the costs of award plaques and certificates for law enforcement personnel.

\$5,000.00



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATES

We have the following to report relative to our Homeland Security Grant Programs that our Public Safety team manages:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) – We have received notification of our FY21 SHSP Grant award totaling \$68,285.00, accordingly, \$51,213.00 is allocated to Public Safety and \$17,072.00 to the Sheriff's Office under the SLETPP (State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program) portion of the program. As a note, this grant is a full reimbursement grant for allowable and budgeted expenses, there is no local match required.
 - *Action Requested:* We are requesting a resolution to recognize the award and allocate the funding in the Public Safety & Sheriff's Office Homeland Security Grant capital project lines accordingly by the Treasurer.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) – The county's current Hazard Mitigation Plan was last adopted in 2018, those plans are required to be updated every five years to keep the county (and participating municipalities) eligible for funding of recovery projects post disaster. The HMGP is a match grant, federal share of 75%, local share of 25% (which does allow for the match to be in kind) – the process of updating the plan is expected to take up to 24 months.
 - *Action Requested:* We are **requesting permission to apply for FEMA's HMGP to begin the process of updating our county's multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.**
- State Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG) – Announcement has been received for the FY21 SICG grant program, our application has been completed and submitted to the state accordingly – as a note, this grant is a full reimbursement grant for allowable and budgeted expenses, there is no local match required. The state advised us this grant (which typically covers a single fiscal year) will be inclusive of FY21 and FY22 to bring the program current by the end of the term. We continue to utilize these funds to upgrade the Public Safety radio communications systems within the county. We have completed the upgrade of the primary Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and DPW Radio Communications Systems, we are moving on with replacing the secondary radio base stations at the tower sites, adding additional tower sites, and replacing/upgrading the radio consoles in the communications center.
- Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) – Announcement has been received for the 2021-2022 PSAP Grant program, our application is in progress and will be submitted to the state prior to the due date of February 15, 2022. As a note, this grant is a full reimbursement grant for allowable and budgeted expenses, there is no local match required. We continue to allocate funding from this formula based grant as awarded to our Public Safety Answering Point operation.

REQUEST FOR BUDGET TRANSFERS / AMENDMENTS

- EMPG Grant Funding Annual Re-allocation from 2021 to 2022 – Being the EMPG grant spans over two fiscal years, each year we require re-allocation of funding from the prior year to the current year.
 - *Action Requested:* We are requesting the following budget amendment:
 - Re-allocate the remaining \$23,278.00 from A.3640.2625.99 (2021) to A.3640.2625.99 (2022)
 - Re-allocate the remaining \$4,800.00 from A.3640.4625.01 (2021) to A.3640.4625.01 (2022)

COUNTYWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SURVEY / RESEARCH PROJECT

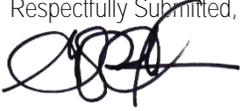
We are continuing to progress the project forward with compiling the data and information received from the EMS agencies throughout the county, to date we have had 6 of the 8 in-county EMS agencies respond to the survey with a submission of their information. In the next few months we will be planning joint information sessions with a few of the counties throughout the state that are similar in size / population to our county and are experiencing (or have experienced) the same, or similar, issues within their EMS systems and participating agencies. Information on the joint information gathering sessions will be shared with the workgroup and we will provide the Committee with an update at each meeting as we progress forward.



COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP) – REQUEST FOR REVIEW

In accordance with our annual practices of including our key partners and stakeholders, we will be distributing the proposed 2022 version of the county's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) for review and comment. As we do each year, we are requesting any proposed changes or comments to be submitted to our Emergency Management team by February 25, 2022. We will review any/all comments and proposed changes and present the complete, proposed version to the Board of Supervisors for adoption at the March 2022 meeting accordingly.

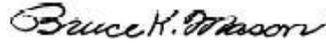
Respectfully Submitted,



Glen P. Gosnell
Director



Timothy R. Hardy
Deputy Director



Bruce K. Mason
EMS Coordinator



Glenn E. Bristol
Fire Coordinator