

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JULY 26, 2022

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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

SUPERVISORS: Hall - zoom, Shaw, Fisher, Nolan – zoom, Campbell, Skellie

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 – June 28, 2022
3. Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Sheriff
 - 1) Budget Amendment – Computer Equip. Set Up for Stop DWI Dedicated Vehicle - \$6,431.00
 - 2) Police Traffic Services Program Grant - \$11,024
 - 3) Special Patrol Officer Program Rates
 - B. District Attorney
 - 1) Crime Victims Grant Update
 - 2) Emergency Response Protective Order Law Changes/Impact
 - 3) Legal Assistant Position – Backfill
 - C. Alternative Sentencing – Community Service Update
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 11:04 A.M. in the Supervisors' Classroom Room B214 and via zoom.

A motion to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2022 meeting was moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Rozell, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS /REQUESTS:

SHERIFF – Sheriff Murphy addressed the following items with the committee:

- Police Traffic Services Program Grant \$11,024 – The Sheriff stated this is an annual grant and requesting to have it recognized in the budget. A motion to accept Police Traffic Services program grant in the amount of \$11,024.00 for the period of 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2023 and forward to the Finance Committee for a budget amendment was moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Rozell, and adopted.
- Budget Amendment – Previously the Board approved the purchase of a DWI car and now requesting to move funds for computer setup for the dedicated DWI car in the amount of \$6,431.00. A motion to forward budget amendment to the Finance Committee to move DWI reserve funds for the purchase of computer setup equipment for dedicated DWI car was moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Messrs. Haff and Rozell and adopted.
- Special Patrol Officer (SPO) Program Rates – Annually the Special Patrol Officers contracts and pay rates are established. The contract and rate for Fort Ann School was approved at the July Board meeting. Mr. Haff asked if this was the time to have a contract rewritten because it is his understanding that some schools do not have a small office for the SPO. He asked if it would be a good idea to ask the school to provide a small office space for the SPO. The Sheriff stated the contract does state an office area with a phone. Hartford School had a room but had to repurpose it during COVID. The Sheriff stated the Sheriff's Department will talk to the Superintendent. A motion to forward to the Finance Committee approval of the Special Patrol Officer contracts for the following schools: Argyle, Greenwich, Hartford, Hudson Falls and Whitehall, and setting the pay rates for the

Special Patrol Officers in the various schools was moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Rozell, and adopted.

- Mr. Shaw thanked the Sheriff for his help with getting State approval for a crosswalk by the town hall and community library.
- The County Administrator stated it was announced at the NYS Sheriff's Association Conference in Alexander Bay that Sheriff Murphy was given life member status.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Tony Jordan, DA, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Crime Victims Grant Update – Notified by the State of their Crime Victims Grant award but cannot provide an amount yet because the State has to make some adjustments due to additional recipients that qualified for funding. This is a three year grant.
- Legal Assistant Position – Requesting to backfill due to a resignation. Employee accepted position at Homeland Security for more money and closer to SUNY Albany for grad school. A motion to approve backfill, Legal Assistant, and forward to the Personnel Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Rozell, and adopted.
- Backfill Assistant DA – Requesting to backfill due to a resignation due to a better opportunity at a larger office with higher pay. A motion to backfill, Assistant District Attorney, and forward to the Personnel Committee was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Hogan, and adopted.
- Department of Criminal Justice Services – Received notice from the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services that their grant was included in the NYS budget and Washington County's share is just a little over \$204,000. This is similar to the funding he received last year and has to submit a spending plan. This is a lump sum payment.
- Emergency Response Protective Order (ERPO) Law Changes/Impact – Significant change in law as it relates to extreme risk protection orders that will have a profound impact on the County Attorney's office, District Attorney's office and Sheriff's Department. It is a law that has been around since 2019 but a significant change on June 6th that went into effect on July 6th that made two changes. It was always discretionary on the variety of entities/individuals who could file a civil proceeding basically asking a court to order to have someone surrender all their guns and prohibit the acquisition of guns and that is a temporary order, and then a hearing for permanent status. What changed on June 6th was the standard as it applied to law enforcement and his office when they file and then it became a mandatory filing if those circumstances existed. In the past 20 days there have been no fewer than 20 filings. It is a civil proceedings and will impact the County Clerk's Office. More hearings and added burden on Sheriff for proof of service of orders and seizure of guns. The County Attorney is representing the Sheriff's Department in these proceeding to make sure we comply and a couple of hundred weapons have been seized. The Sheriff thanked Buildings and Grounds for their help with setting up a proper storage room for the weapons. This has been a challenge but handling so far. The District Attorney will provide Supervisors with a copy of this legislation. This is a whole new process and it is not criminal but civil proceedings that the Sheriff and District Attorney are dealing with. There is a filing fee but waived for government. This is an extra burden to four different departments: Sheriff, District Attorney, County Attorney and County Clerk.

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING – Sue Mowrey, Director, addressed the following item with the committee:

- Community Service Projects Update:
 - Finished project at Greenwich VFW – painting in pole barn.
 - Finished project at courthouse in Salem and in the process of painting shed with youth employment

- Moved Easton town offices within the town hall
- Whitehall Head Start playgrounds and cleanup of LEAP garden
- Fort Edward Little League – cleared brush (youth employment)
- Fort Edward DPW stain fence (youth employment)
- Ongoing projects: Battenkill clean up – once every week and a half, mow cemeteries, road side clean ups, car washing and if raining then work on projects at Skene Manor and the fairgrounds.
- Civil War Enlistment Center in Hartford – painting project on the list.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors