

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2022

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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Haff

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Ferguson, Shaw, Campbell, Skellie

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Dan Martindale, Deputy County Attorney

Melissa Fitch, County Administrator

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Accept Minutes – August 30, 2022 & September 27, 2022
3. Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Sheriff
 - 1) Emergency Response Package
 - B. District Attorney
 - 1) Update Annual Crime Victims Statistics
 - C. Public Safety
 - 1) Grant Project Update
 - 2) *Future of EMS Workgroup Update*
 - 3) Staffing Updates
 - D. Code Enforcement
 - 1) Exemption Form
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. in the Supervisors' Classroom Room B214, Municipal Center, Fort Edward, New York.

A motion to accept the minutes of the August 30, 2022 and September 27, 2022 meetings was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Hogan, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS /REQUESTS:

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

- Emergency Response Package – There was not a sole vendor to provide all the equipment and the bid is broken down between three vendors totaling \$256,997.02, bid sheet attached. Motion to accept bids for emergency response equipment was moved by Mr. Hogan and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Discussion. Originally estimated the equipment at \$325,000 and the bids came in quite a bit lower. The Sheriff stated he would probably need some type of maintenance line for replacement parts or sending somebody to armory school because there are a considerable amount of weapons to take care of and better storage. There is a trade in value for the old rifles they are replacing and that is not factored into the price. Ammunition is needed. The ARPA funding was based on the estimated cost not guaranteed funding to the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Wilson stated the remaining funds could be used to help establish the program. The County Administrator stated there were additional quotes received for miscellaneous items such as camera mounts, cases and school med kits which came in at \$13,000 plus the bids accepted today leaving \$68,000 out of the original \$325,000. ARPA should fund the emergency response bids and the Sheriff should come back to committee for consideration of other items. The motion to accept the bids for emergency response equipment was moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted. Motion to forward to the Finance Committee was moved by Mr. Hogan and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Discussion. If a budget amendment has already been done this does not need to go to Finance. Messrs. Hogan, and O'Brien rescinded their motion.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Tony Jordan, District Attorney, addressed the following item:

- Update Annual Crime Victims Statistics – The Crime Victims grant period is from 10/1/22-9/30/2023. This is one of the few programs that the state funds for us but the county also provides support. Yearly stats: served 1747 victims and 975 are new, 3855 incidents, phone and face-to-face contact 2555, and notification of case status 2641. Three employees in this unit providing prosecution support, advocacy, going to court with victims, attending hearings totaling 5719. This state grant is goal orientated and they have exceeded all of their goals by significant amounts except for the financial benefits from the state being paid to victims but traditionally victim services the state does well, funding to victims of crime the state does not do quite as well funding, they are very restricted in what can be funded but there has been some recent movement to improve that. Statistics on the victims: 569 from domestic violence cases which is a significant increase, adult harassment or stalking cases 649, child abuse 48 as distinguished from child sex abuse which is 269, and adult sex abuse 36. These cases are personnel intensive in terms of assisting those folks navigate not only the criminal justice system and the challenge of moving forward with what has occurred to them. Factors increasing domestic violence include isolation, poverty driven, and the lack of ability for law enforcement to hold people for this behavior.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Tim Hardy, Deputy Director, addressed the following items:

- Grant Project Update – Domestic Terrorism Prevention Grant – Awarded last month to piggyback on the RFP with Warren County so in review with the state before they went to final contract review and signed contract, they found that there was an M/WBE requirement that is questionable in the RFP that was done prior with Warren County so they are tabling that for now and filing an M/WBE waiver request and if the waiver is not granted then they will have to go back out to RFP. They are continuing to work on a draft plan to meet the state deadline of December 31st and may be into next year revamping the plan with the RFP and the vendor of choice. Motion to allow Public Safety to go out to RFP/bid if they don't get a waiver to meet the M/WBE requirement was moved by Mr. Rozell, seconded by Mrs. Clary and adopted.
- Future of EMS Workgroup Update – The second session was held on October 17th and well attended with good discussion and identified more questions that they were looking to answer. Redistributed updated statistics of all the EMS agencies and did a staffing and benefits survey of each squad. Discussions with GF Hospital to help possibly move forward a procurement agreement where the rescue squads could procure medical supplies and prescription drugs through the hospital versus doing it all themselves. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16th. Additional questions on billing services were sent out and trying to compile as much information as possible from each squad.
- 911 Center Staffing Updates – Still running short and will be another full time employee short with an upcoming retirement. Currently have one full time in training and progressing and two per diems in training with three being the maximum they can train at one time. New test in January and will be looking to fill that other full-time position and training per diems for the foreseeable future.

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

- Town of Kingsbury asked if Washington County Code Enforcement could possibly cover after/off hours and on weekends on call emergency situations such as fires at the request from the Town of Kingsbury Code Enforcement Officer. The Code Administrator stated they have in rare incidents been called out to Kingsbury but technically have no jurisdiction there. Mr. Hogan would like consideration of this request. Will need to look into what has to be in place to make this happen. Board Chairman Hall would like to move forward and find a way to make this work. Discussion item

for next month, what is necessary at the county for Code Enforcement to provide on call emergency coverage afterhours and weekends for the Town of Kingsbury.

- Exception for Code Enforcement – Mr. Hogan made a request for an executive session to inquire about a legal strategy related to religious groups as it pertains to code enforcement and requirements of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. Motion to enter an executive session for information related to future litigation/prosecution which would imperil effective enforcement was moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted. Motion to return to regular session was moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted. No action was taken in the executive session.

Public comment by Mr. Tom Curtis, Argyle, on the topic of the Amish and code enforcement suggesting one rule, no more outhouses in New York State and that would put a stop to a lot of this stuff.

The committee considered two options: having the Amish follow the rules and regulations enforced by Code Enforcement or grant them an exemption. A draft exemption form was presented at last month meeting with the steps to follow. Currently, the Amish are supposed to follow the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code just like everyone else. There have been numerous lawsuits over the Amish and compliance with the code regulations throughout the State and Country. A lawsuit would probably lead to a settlement agreement if it followed that route. Code can continue what they are doing siting violations and follow the legal process or grant an exemption. Not granting an exemption to somebody who claims that due to their religious beliefs they cannot comply with code regulations could and very likely would lead to a lawsuit. Probably be sued with either option but possibly sooner with an exemption form. Discussion on whether or not the application process would still be required also with the exemption form. It was stated the form could be revised later. A motion to create a religious sect exemption form was moved by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Mr. Rozell and adopted. Messrs. Hogan and O'Brien opposed. Chairman Wilson stated if anyone has recommendations for adjustments to the exemption form, they should submit them to the Code Enforcement Administrator. The form will be review by legal counsel and considered at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41P.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors

<u>Bids by Package</u>		<u>Awarded Vendor</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.4</u>
Weapons	\$145,018.78	Amchar	\$ 138,472.08	\$ 6,546.70
Shields	\$53,410.00	Pro-Tech	\$ 53,410.00	
Helmets	\$18,564.00	Amchar		\$ 18,564.00
Miscellaneous	\$27,104.00	Galls		\$ 27,104.00
Bid Total	\$244,096.78			
Quotes	\$12,900.24	Multiple		\$ 12,900.24
Grand Total	\$256,997.02		\$191,882.08	\$65,114.94

\$256,997.02



Submission Compliance
2022-29 Law Enforcement Equipment
 September 29, 2022 at 2:30 PM

WASHINGTON COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
 383 BROADWAY - BUILDING B FORT EDWARD, NY 12828
 PHONE (518) 746-2105
 FAX (518) 746-2108
procurement@washintoncountyny.gov

	Company	Company	Company	Company	Company
	IWI US, Inc 1441 StoneRidge Dr. Middletown, PA 17057	Galls 1340 Russell Cave Rd Lexington, KY 40505	Pro-Tech Sales 1313 W Bagley Rd Berea, OH 44017	Federal Eastern International 1523 Chaffee Rd Suite #12 Jacksonville, FL 32221	Amchar 100 Airpark Drive Rochester, NY 14624
Notary	X	X	X	X	X
Non-Collusive	X	X	X	X	X
Iran Divestment Act	X	X	X	X	X
Addendum	X	X	X	X	X
Lump Sum Package Totals					
Weapon Package	\$104,040.00	\$49,600.16	No Bid	\$79,984.80	*\$145,018.78
Shield Package	No Bid	\$108,500.00	\$53,410.00	\$110,586.00	\$58,580.90
Helmet Package	No Bid	\$35,000.00	\$35,560.00	\$28,280.00	\$18,564.00
Miscellaneous Package	No Bid	\$27,104.00	\$35,224.00	\$28,798.00	\$29,075.20
Award Total by Vendor	No Award	\$27,104.00	\$53,410.00	No Award	\$163,582.78

Total Bid Award: \$244,096.78

* Amchar was the only vendor that bid on the entire weapons package