

**COUNTY OF OSWEGO
PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

November 28, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.
County Office Building, Oswego, NY
4th Floor Conference Room “E”

PRESENT:

Leg. Linda Lockwood, Chair
Leg. Margaret Kastler, Vice Chair
Leg. Mary Flett
Leg. John Martino
Leg. Amy Tresidder

EXCUSED:

Leg. Kevin Gardner
Leg. Shawn Doyle

STAFF/GUESTS:

Leg. Morris Sorbello, John Proud, Barbara Brown
Philip Church, County Administrator
Patricia Egan, Emergency Management Director
Michael Allen, E-911 Director
Deborah Meyer, Probation Director
Janet Clerk, Public Information Coordinator
James Jones, EMS Coordinator
Greg Oakes, Assistant District Attorney
Carol Alnutt, Personnel Director
Donald Forbes, Fire Coordinator
Eugene Sullivan, Undersheriff
Reuel Todd, Sheriff
Wendy Falls, Clerk of the Legislature
Luann Jerrett-Hofmann, Probation
Paul Santore

=====
Committee Chair Lockwood called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Recognitions:

A. E-911 – Recognized Gift from DSS Adult Protective Services Employees to Project Lifesaver

DSS Employees unable to attend.

B. Probation – Employee Recognition (Luann Jerrett-Hofmann)

Presentation made in the Legislative Chambers for years of service, picture taken.

2. Minutes of October 24, 2011:

Motion to approve: Legislator Flett

Second: Legislator Kastler

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

3. Fire Coordinator:

A. Activity Update

Fire Coordinator Donald Forbes distributed the department update. He reported that in November there were eight (8) major structure fires in the county, some with burn related injuries. Some of the causes were space heaters and fire places. It was reported that 17 people were left homeless due to house fires. There were three (3) hazardous materials responses. Fire Coordinator Forbes also reported that the department is working on a couple of grants, currently working with Entergy.

B. Update on Building Code & Inspections

Fire Coordinator Forbes reported that moving forward with a local law establishing Codes Enforcement Office; he said that once it's approved by the legislature he will be trained along

with two (2) other Deputy Coordinators. He mentioned a meeting with the state to work with their Codes Enforcement Department on paperwork and reports to start going through needed inspections. County Administrator Church stated that the impact on the budget will be for travel and mileage. Fire Coordinator Forbes responded that was correct and added that there may be an increase in part time hours but will be offset by the savings in inspections.

EMS Update

EMS Coordinator James Jones reported that there were 1,410 EMS calls for the month; which is an increase over the previous year of 16.7%. He stated the number of times two (2) or more services were out of service was nine (9). Coordinator Jones mentioned that there are three (3) courses going on; there was no NYS reimbursement this month; and there is a critical incident stress management class for new members with 20 enrolled. He remarked that he will be handing a letter to Chair Lockwood regarding Air One, and stated that there may be some funding available. Administrator Church commented that he received a formal request from Onondaga County for \$10,000 per year to offset the costs of flying for emergency services for Oswego County; however they don't have FAA 135 authorization. Administrator Church explained that the proposed 2012 Budget has gone to the floor; if the committee is interested a member can make a motion on the floor at the December 15th Legislative Meeting to amend the budget. He said that it will be a straight forward expense but won't endanger the tax cap.

Leg. Kastler inquired if the FAA part one 135 is holding it up. EMS Coordinator Jones explained that this will allow Air One to charge the patient for services and believes they will have authorization in 2012. Leg. Kastler asked if the committee could do something to speed up the process. Coordinator Jones said he will find out more. Fire Coordinator Forbes gave an example of a drowning in Sandy Pond where Air One was not available and the nearest helicopter was out of Albany. Director Allen commented that the designation Onondaga County is looking for is to be able to bill patients; but it still won't cover the costs of Air One; there will still be many hundred thousands of dollars of operational costs to cover. Leg. Martino stated that now that there is a dollar number he will support it. Leg. Tresidder inquired if a motion was needed. Administrator church remarked that it would be helpful if the committee could send any type of message to Onondaga County for possible support. Committee Chair Lockwood asked if the E-911 homeland security grant money could be used for this purpose. E-911 Director Allen inquired where the grant money come from under the current budget; stating that the county received funds from homeland security that was not anticipated, which could be a potential source that can be put towards Air One funding. Administrator Church said he would talk to the Treasurer's Office to show in budget. Leg. Kastler remarked that once it's in the budget it can be done every year. Leg. Martino asked how much of the E-911 grant money could be put towards Air One. County Administrator Church responded that \$56,000 was encumbered and he will look into rolling over some the grant funding.

Motion to bring recommendation of Air One funding to the Legislature floor on December 15th: Legislator Kastler
Second: Legislator Tresidder
Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

4. E-911:

A. 911 Center Activity Report

E-911 Director Michael Allen reviewed the monthly report and noted that the requirement to answer calls within 10 seconds is at 86.62%, below the 90% requirement.

B. Update on Radio System Project

Director Allen reported that last Monday the center cut over from the existing system to new microwave system as a first transition and it went off without any major hitches; there are still some issues with coverage but being worked on. He said that existing radio sites are also

operating on the new radio system and almost half of new radio system is up and running. Director Allen stated that the next several months they will be making the connection to Onondaga County and training users. They will be in the process of installing radios in the spring, and still on track for September being on line with new radio system.

C. Time Analysis

Director Allen offered the committee a number of alternatives for scheduling dispatchers, and said that the 12 hour schedule is most beneficial. He stated that overtime payments are not negotiable under the contract. Leg. Martino inquired if the employees can be reclassified to be exempt from overtime. Personnel Director Carol Alnutt said she was not sure but can look into it. Director Allen stated that even with paying overtime the payment is lower with everything considered with 12 hour shifts. Administrator Church mentioned that the other route is to lobby state representatives to change the law to include telecommunicators as public safety personnel. Director Allen said he would like to see the classification and the job title change to Public Safety Telecommunicator.

5. Sheriff:

A. Resolution Authorizing Budget Modification – SCAAP (State Criminal Alien Assistance Program)

Sheriff Reuel Todd reported that funding is down this year and is requesting \$499.00 be placed into forensic medical fees.

Motion to support resolution: Legislator Tresidder

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

B. Resolution Replacing Patrol Vehicles

Sheriff Todd presented a resolution asking for twelve (12) vehicles for the Sheriff Department. He commented that the department really needs fifteen (15). Sheriff Todd remarked that they are unsure what to buy; there are plus and minuses with all vehicles. He proposed purchasing 4 of each vehicle: Charger, Caprice and Tahoe to test them out. Leg. Tresidder inquired if the county would be purchasing the vehicles to decide which ones to go with in the future. Sheriff Todd explained that he hasn't driven the vehicles in the snow so doesn't have an opinion right now, but he is interested in vehicle safety. Committee Chair Lockwood asked if cages would fit in the vehicles. Sheriff Todd responded that they would have to be modified and that he would like to see bars added on to the front of the cars. Administrator Church suggested putting resolution through as is and then Purchasing can negotiate the best price for each. Sheriff Todd mentioned that Ford is coming out with a vehicle but not sure when. Leg. Kastler inquired if GPS were going into these cars. Director Allen responded that GPS will be put in. Leg. Tresidder asked for an explanation of commuting vehicles. Sheriff Todd explained that if the employee uses a county vehicle to drive to and from work they are working when they leave the driveway. Leg. Kastler inquired if the department was using the railroad station in Lacona. Sheriff Todd said yes, that it is very convenient to doing paperwork.

Motion to support resolution: Legislator Kastler

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: 4 yes, 1 opposed (Leg. Tresidder), motion carried

Leg. Kastler asked if there was anything further on the Probation Department charging fees for individuals on probation. Probation Director Meyer remarked that surcharges can be worked on internally.

6. Executive Session – Matters pertaining to appointment of particular person(s):

Motion made to enter executive session at 2:54: Legislator Martino

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

Motion made to re-enter open session at 3:03: Legislator Flett

Second: Legislator Tresidder

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

7. Resolution Appointing Director of Emergency Management – Patricia Egan

Motion to support resolution: Legislator Kastler

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

8. Resolution Appointing Director of E-911 – Michael Allen

Motion to support resolution: Legislator Kastler

Second: Legislator Martino

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

9. Adjournment:

Motion made to adjourn the meeting: Legislator Martino

Second: Legislator Tresidder

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.