

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008
Time: Called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Santore.
Location: Oswego County Building

1. Attendance:

Present: Chairman Paul Santore, Vice Chairman James Bryant, Legislators Margaret Kastler, James Oldenburg, Arthur Ospelt, Lee Walker Jr. Also present: Legislature Chairman Barry Leemann, Legislator Arthur Gearsbeck

Staff/Others: **Probation:** Director Barbara Schuler
Emergency Management: Director Patricia Egan, Terry Bennett
Sheriff's: Sheriff Reuel Todd, Undersheriff Robert Lighthall
E-911: Director Michael Allen
Fire Coordinator: John Hinds
County Administrator: Phil Church

2. Minutes:

Motion: To accept the minutes of the Nov. 26, 2007 Public Safety and Emergency Services Legislative Committee Meeting.
Made by: Legislator Bryant
Seconded by: Legislator Oldenburg
Vote: **All in favor. The minutes were approved as presented**

3. Sheriff *(presented by Sheriff Todd)*

a. **Budget Modification Request – STEP Grant**

Motion: To accept \$14,775 from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee into revenue line 3110.4330.6 (STEP-Selective Traffic Enforcement Program) Grant, No. PT-3800133), which will cover the period 10/01/07 – 9/30/08, and to transfer \$12,675 into expenditure line 3110.5120 (Overtime Payments), \$350 into expenditure line 3110.5445 (Other Travel Reimbursement) to cover the cost of related Traffic Safety Conferences/Seminars including meals, and \$1,750 into 3110.5260 (Other Equipment) to purchase one dual-antenna Radar Unit.
Made by: Legislator Walker
Seconded by: Legislator Ospelt
Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Department overview: Sheriff Todd presented a brief overview of the Sheriff's Department, noting that his road patrol deputies cover 968 square miles in the county. The Civil Division is mandated, and brings over \$100,000 into the county's coffers. The jail population is rising and the county boarded out prisoners for the first time in 2007. Currently the population is down, due to innovative measures. The Probation Department is working well with the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Walker asked the sheriff to bring a study on how many personnel the department is lacking for the road patrol and jail to the next committee meeting.

4. E-911 *(presented by Director Allen)*

a. Department overview: Director Allen noted he had provided the committee with a handout listing the department's services, and reiterated his offer to provide a tour to legislators who want to see center.

Director Allen noted that a 33-year veteran of the fire coordinator's office and the 911 center, Carl Wells, will be retiring Jan.31. Wells will be recognized at the Feb. 14 Legislature meeting. The senior-most telecommunicator, John Familo, will step up to provide the training piece for the center, and Director Allen will backfill that position. He is also now training four new full-time and one part-time telecommunicators.

b. Report on National Congress for Secure Communities: Director Allen provided a report to the committee on his recent attendance at the national event in Washington, DC. Much of the cost of the trip was underwritten by a national organization, and there was little cost to the county. Director Allen said the event was very informative, and he was able to discuss 911 issues with people from around the nation.

c. Grant application – Interoperable Radio System: Director Allen noted he had applied for \$200,000 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant through the New York State Office of Homeland Security in partnership with the five county consortium that includes Oswego, Onondaga, Madison, Cortland and Cayuga counties. If successful, Oswego County's portion would be \$6,522. The grant would provide funding to explore a five-county interoperable system. Director Allen noted that budget estimates show it would cost \$19 million to \$20 million to replace the county's current 800 MHz trunked radio system. The study would flesh out the requirements and provide more solid dollar amounts. He also noted that several initiatives to address the radio are currently being investigated, including the FCC's rebanding effort and the statewide wireless network.

5. Fire Coordinator *(presented by Coordinator Hinds)*

a. Department overview: Director Hinds provided a handout listing the Fire Coordinator's Office's overview, and noted some of the major initiatives include opening the former Niagara Mohawk fire school this spring; coordinating state fire training for the county's volunteer firefighters; coordinating mutual aid among the fire departments as well as outside the county through the state Office of Fire Prevention and Control; and overseeing the county's hazardous materials response team and weapons of mass destruction trailers and equipment secured through federal homeland security funding. His office's fire investigators also collaborate with the sheriff's department and district attorney on fire investigations.

b. Update on Fire School: Fire Coordinator Hinds reported that his office expects to move into the facility in the spring. He has been meeting with vendors and former customers to facilitate the opening, but noted it has been empty and unused for several years and may have condition problems. He has hired Don Forbes, who ran the facility for Niagara Mohawk, as a part-time deputy coordinator to run the facility for the county.

c. Fire Advisory Board appointments

Motion: To appoint members to the Oswego County Fire Advisory Board for 2008.

Made by: Legislator Ospelt

Seconded by: Legislator Oldenburg

Discussion: Fire Coordinator Hinds noted that the advisory board serves as a liaison between the fire service, county government, and the state Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The board's seat for District 4 is currently vacant, but he expects to see it filled soon.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Probation Department *(presented by Director Schuler)*

a. Department overview: Director Schuler provided copies of the Probation Department overview and pointed out that in addition to providing investigations to the Courts and supervising those offenders who are sentenced to probation, her department supports a specialized Sex Offender Supervision unit and investigation and supervision services for the Integrated Domestic Violence Court and the Domestic Violence part of Oswego City Court. The department executes its own probation warrants, with qualifications for special services training being handled through the Sheriff's Department.

b. Resolution Authorizing Application for Alternatives to Incarceration Funding

Motion: To authorize submission of an application the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives for Alternatives to Incarceration Classification Funding.

Made by: Legislator Oldenburg

Seconded by: Legislator Kastler

Discussion: Director Schuler noted this is a yearly resolution. The program provides funding for the Pre-trial Release Program and the jail's weekend work program.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Budget Modification – Juvenile Risk Intervention Services

Motion: To set up revenue line 3149.4331.9 J-RISC Revenue Account in the amount of \$218,000 and expenditure line 3149.5455 Contractual Expenses in the amount of \$218,000.

Made by: Legislator Ospelt

Seconded by: Legislator Walker

Discussion: Director Schuler explained that the Probation Department has been selected to receive an annual award of up to \$200,000 for a five-year period with an additional \$18,000 for the first year for training purposes, beginning this year. The funding will allow the county to sub-contract with providers to provide programs that avert the need for out-of-home placement for juvenile justice-involved youth. In collaboration with the Department of Social Services, the Probation Department has decided to implement Functional Family Therapy, a short-term intensive family intervention, throughout the county, and Adolescent Transitions, a school-based, broad stroke intervention, in the Oswego Middle School and Fulton Junior High.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

d. Resolution: Capital Project 162 – Vehicle

Motion: To authorize the expenditure of \$17,000 from Capital Reserve No. 146 – Highway and Automotive Equipment to replace a vehicle in the Non-Secure Detention Program.

Made by: Legislator Ospelt

Seconded by: Legislator Oldenburg

Discussion: Director Schuler reported that the department hopes to replace a vehicle used for transporting youth to and from the detention homes for placement, court appearances, medical and other treatment appointments, and educational purposes. The current vehicle has many mechanical and safety concerns and is not being used. The program coordinator is responsible for transporting youth daily, and the logistics of sharing a vehicle with another program are difficult.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Emergency Management Office *(presented by Director Egan)*

a. Department overview: Director Egan provided a handout noting the department's mission, noting that ongoing activities include nuclear power plant emergency preparedness, partnering with the county's towns, villages and cities on comprehensive emergency management plans, ensuring the county and its municipalities are compliant with the National Incident Management System, and providing emergency preparedness training to community members and partner agencies. She provided a second handout detailing EMO's role as course sponsor for state Emergency Medical Services courses, which was transitioned from the Health Department last year. EMO/EMS has sponsored several courses and used Homeland Security funding to build up and maintain a fleet of multiple-casualty incident trailers. Director Egan noted that her long-term goal is to bring a proposal to create an EMS Coordinator position for the county in the future.

b. REPP Drill 2008: Director Egan noted that the state-evaluated radiological emergency preparedness drill will be held in August this year. The county will also participate in a hostile-action based tabletop exercise in September, followed by a drill in November, in which both licensees and law enforcement will participate. These drills will focus on a scenario of someone intentionally causing a breach at one of the plants, and will test the county's ability to protect the public. Training for the new legislature chairman in his role during nuclear power plant emergencies will take place in early March.

c. Statewide All-Hazards Alert System: Director Egan said the county is hoping to participate in NY Alert, a web-based system for alerting the public about emergencies in their community. The county is on the State Emergency Management Office's list for training authorized users who will be able to place messages on NY Alert for dissemination to the public. Those users include herself as emergency management director, the sheriff, fire coordinator, 911 director, and commissioner of health. Oswego County residents will be able to sign up to receive emergency messages through NY Alert via e-mail, land-line or cellular telephone, text messages, and a variety of web-based services.

d. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant

Motion: To authorize the chairman of the legislature to sign a reimbursable, matching Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application for Oswego County to develop a county-wide hazard mitigation program, in the amount of \$150,000.

Made by: Legislator Walker

Seconded by: Legislator Oldenburg

Discussion: Director Egan and Emergency Services Program Coordinator Terry Bennett explained that this grant will allow the county to hire a contractor to develop a hazard mitigation plan, which is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to receive hazard mitigation funds following a disaster.

The county is one of the last in New York State to start the project. The hazard mitigation plan will include the county and all of its municipalities, and will identify projects that could prevent or reduce damage from natural disasters. The county's share of the project would be \$37,500, which can be provided in in-kind services.

Vote: 5 ayes, 1 nay (Legislator Bryant). Motion carried.

8. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: 3:20 p.m.

Made by: Legislator Walker

Seconded by: Legislator Oldenburg

Vote: **All in favor. Motion carried.**

Prepared by: _____
Terry Bennett, Emergency Services Program Coordinator

Reviewed by: _____
Michael Allen, E-911 Director

Patricia Egan, Emergency Management Director

John Hinds, Fire Coordinator

Reuel Todd, Sheriff

Accepted as written:

Chairman

Date