

Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee Meeting

Date: September 25, 2006

Time: Called to Order at 2:03 p.m. by Vice Chairman Brewer

Location: Oswego County Building

Attendance:

Present: Vice Chairman Clayton Brewer; Legislators James Bryant, Arthur Gearsbeck, Leonard Ponzi, Milferd Potter, and Paul Santore

Excused: Chairman Tom Bullard

Staff/Others:

Sheriff's:	Reuel Todd, Robert Lighthall
E-911:	Michael Allen
Emergency Management:	Patricia Egan, Terry Bennett
Fire Coordinator:	John Hinds
County Administrator:	Stephen Lyman
Legislative Chairman:	Russ Johnson
Guests:	Legislators Jack Beckwith, Michael French

1. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To accept minutes of the August 28, 2006 Public Safety & Emergency Services meeting

Made by: Legislator Bryant

Seconded by: Legislator Ponzi

Vote: 6 Ayes (Brewer, Bryant, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Potter, Santore),
0 Nays. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Discussion: Minutes stand approved as amended to read the September meeting would take place on Monday, 9/25/06, not Thursday, 9/25/06.

2. Emergency Management: *(Presented by Director Egan)*

a. NIMS Compliance Project

The final report regarding the National Incident Management System, which is tied to federal grant funding, was given by Director Egan. Emergency Management personnel have worked diligently to meet NIMS compliance with Oswego County municipalities, Fire Departments, Police Agencies, and other agencies. Nearly 100% of the municipalities are in compliance. Five municipalities (Village of Central Square, Town of Mexico, Village of Phoenix, Town of Schroepel, and Town of Williamstown) are considered compliant because their compliance targets will soon be complete. Two municipalities remain non-compliant, the Village of Altmar and the Town of Boylston. The Village of Altmar has expressed interest in becoming compliant, however, they have not yet initiated the process. The Town of Boylston has chosen not to participate. Some school districts are involved at their choosing; some are not, as the guidelines for schools are unclear. Most of the fire departments in the county are compliant. The Certification was signed today by Legislative Chairman Johnson and will be submitted to meet the deadline of September 30, 2006.

b. **Budget Modification – Equipment Purchases**

Motion: To support a resolution to move \$26,500 from expenditure line 3640.5451 (Medical Supplies & Expenses) into expenditure line 3640.5260 (Other Equipment).

Made by: Legislator Gearsbeck

Seconded by: Legislator Santore

Vote: 6 Ayes (Brewer, Bryant, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Potter, Santore),
0 Nays. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Discussion: This budget modification request will enable the purchase of equipment necessary to support both the radiological and natural disaster preparedness programs. Money was allocated in the 2006 budget to expenditure line 3640.5451 (Medical Supplies & Expenses) to cover the replacement cost for potassium iodide (KI) inventories and distribution that will expire in early 2007. It has since been learned that the replacement cost for KI will be covered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, therefore, making this money available for other uses. The matter will be forwarded to the Finance & Personnel Committee for review.

3. **E-911:** *(Presented by Director Allen)*

a. **Budget Modification – Equipment Purchases**

Motion: To support a resolution to move \$60,300 from revenue line 3642.4330.4 (911 State Aid) into expenditure lines 3642.5260 (Other Equipment) in the amount of \$52,600 and 3642.5210 (Furniture & Furnishings) in the amount of \$7,700.

Made by: Legislator Gearsbeck

Seconded by: Legislator Santore

Vote: 6 Ayes (Brewer, Bryant, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Potter, Santore),
0 Nays. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Discussion: The transfer will accommodate the purchase of radio console equipment with an estimated cost of \$44,600, to fund the cost of upgrading a telephone switch on the alternate PSAP located at the Emergency Management Office estimated at \$8,000, and to purchase chairs at an estimated cost of \$7,700. The requested \$60,300 is covered by unanticipated revenue received from New York State as reimbursement of eligible 911 service costs. With committee support, the matter will be forwarded to the Finance & Personnel Committee for review.

b. **Contract with Nextel for Planning Funding for Rebanding:**

Motion: To support a resolution to enter into an agreement with Nextel, who will cover the reconfiguration costs associated with planning and preparation, prior to the process of rebanding.

Moved by: Legislator Ponzi

Seconded by: Legislator Potter

Vote: 6 Ayes (Brewer, Bryant, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Potter, Santore),
0 Nays. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Discussion: As a result of the FCC's mandated reconfiguration regarding the rebanding process, E-911 is eligible for reimbursement of the costs incurred in the planning and preparation of the reconfiguration process. An agreement has been negotiated with Nextel to cover these costs. With committee support, the matter will be forwarded to the Legislature for review.

- c. **Other Business:** Legislator Santore initiated a discussion regarding sex offender notification and asked Director if E-911 could look into how it could assist in making notifications. Legislator Ponzi inquired about the legality of releasing this information, to which Chairman Johnson indicated public dissemination of Level 2 and 3 offenders needs to be looked into. He indicated school districts are meeting or have met to discuss this issue as well. He feels the next step is to work toward achieving a partnership between the schools and the county regarding notification. Sheriff Todd said the information is available through Internet search and by the use of toll free numbers. Sheriff Todd and Chairman Johnson agree it is not the legal responsibility of police agencies to disseminate this information. Sheriff Todd indicated the only information his agency could release would be the information held by his agency, not information held by other police agencies. The central repository is held by State and Federal government agencies. Legislator Gearsbeck asked if officers go routinely to the residences of registered sex offenders to check on them, to which the Sheriff explained the lack of manpower does not allow this to happen due to the hundreds of Level 2 and 3 sex offenders that are registered in Oswego County. Making it even more difficult, is that the state offers no definition for residency. For example, if an individual lives in one township and works in another township, staying during the week in the township in which he works, a question remains as to which township is considered the legal residence. Law directs the Sheriff's Office to register sex offenders. Law does not direct the Sheriff's Office to make notification. Legislator Beckwith suggested the Probation Department might be able to assist with notification. Asked about state funding, the Sheriff replied there is none available to assist in sex offender matters.

4. **Sheriff's Office:** *(Presented by Sheriff Todd)*

a. **Position Upgrade:**

Motion: To support a resolution to reclassify part-time Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) position 3150.0902 to a full-time Registered Nurse (RN) position.

Made by: Legislator Bryant

Seconded by: Legislator Ponzi

Vote: 6 Ayes (Brewer, Bryant, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Potter, Santore),
0 Nays. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Discussion: Recent directives from the NYS Commission of Corrections indicate RN's must perform specific duties formerly assigned to LPN's working in the Oswego County Correctional Facility. Part-time LPN position (3150.0902) is currently manned 50–89.9 percent of a full-time schedule. In light of the part-time LPN position being vacated due to resignation effective 9/29/06, based on the percentage of time currently scheduled to that position, and based on the NYS Commission of Corrections' requirement that most duties must be performed by an RN, the committee is asked to support a resolution to reclassify part-time position 3150.0902 to a full-time Registered Nurse position. The personal services line contains the funding necessary to accomplish this upgrade. The matter will be presented to the Finance & Personnel Committee for review.

b. Patrol Vehicles:

The request for a resolution to purchase 15 patrol vehicles to replace models 1999-2003, at a total cost of approximately \$330,000 was tabled in August to be brought forward at the September meeting.

As requested during the August meeting, Sheriff Todd presented a report and plan for the vehicles he has requested to be replaced, which included repair sheets, mileage, needed repairs, and estimated mileage under a five-year plan and under a four-year plan.

Discussion: Legislator Gearsbeck indicated he could not support replacing 15 patrol vehicles, stating his research at E-911 revealed only nine cars of the 65 in the Sheriff's fleet were on duty during an eight-hour shift. He compared this to the NYS Police fleet which he said also have nine cars on duty during an eight-hour shift, but out of a fleet of 13 cars. He continued that there is no need for the Sheriff's fleet to consist of 65 vehicles. He cited a cost of approximately \$18,000 for gasoline use during July and August. Having fewer vehicles in the fleet, Legislator Gearsbeck said, should save money on gasoline. The Sheriff asked him if the nine cars he talks about include CID cars. Legislator Gearsbeck repeated there were nine vehicles on duty and said he does not agree with take-home cars. The Sheriff addressed Legislator Gearsbeck and said the matter could be settled right now if the Legislators would agree to compensate the officers with increased wages comparable to the State Police. Legislator Gearsbeck would not commit and said he could not support replacing these vehicles.

Legislator Santore then moved to:

Motion: **To support a resolution to purchase 15 patrol vehicles to replace models 1999-2003, at an estimated cost of \$330,000.**

Seconded by: Legislator Bryant

Discussion: Legislator Bryant asked why the report submitted by the Sheriff did not indicate the cars were used for commuting to and from work. The explanation was that the officers do not commute to and from work as they begin their shift as soon as they

sign on in their vehicle. Many times an officer works in the field and the opportunity to drive to the office doesn't always present itself.

Legislator Gearsbeck said if a vehicle is going to be taken home, the officer assigned to that vehicle should be available to answer a call at any time and feels the E-911 Center should have telephone numbers of all officers so the E-911 Center can call them out to respond to a complaint. He said robberies take place on the north shore of Oneida Lake near his residence and on one occasion when a patrol car was visibly parked in a driveway five minutes away, he claimed the officer didn't respond. The Sheriff offered to research the issue if Legislator Gearsbeck would give him the date and time of his complaint and he would let him know why the officer didn't respond. Legislator Gearsbeck would not offer the information.

The discussion continued, the Sheriff countering with the fact that an Officer is on duty 24/7 in our dispatch room and that any time a complaint is taken by E-911 personnel, it appears on a screen in dispatch for our officer to review. If no vehicles are in the area and available to respond and if it is deemed an emergency, that officer has the ability to call out an officer who is off duty, which creates overtime. The Sheriff asked how Legislator Gearsbeck could think it would be okay for another department head to create overtime for his agency. It is the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office to determine when an officer should be called out. Further, many officers have unlisted telephone numbers as well and this information should not be shared with another agency.

Sheriff Todd read from an article that appeared in a local newspaper indicating recent approval for the Health Department to replace eight vehicles. The article indicated the Health Department vehicles to be replaced have between 90,000 and 130,000 miles on them. The article continued, "...these cars are called on any time of the day or night. They have to be in good shape and ready." The Sheriff compared the mileage on the Health Department vehicles to the patrol vehicles, which have between 130,000 to 175,000 miles on them and said must be the vehicles in the Sheriff's fleet don't have to be in good shape and safe for his people.

Legislator Bryant moved to Call the Question at this point.

Vote: **5 Ayes** (Brewer, Bryant, Ponzi, Potter, and Santore). **1 Nay** (Gearsbeck).
All in favor. Motion to Call the Question Carried.

Motion: Vice Chairman Brewer was then urged to call for a roll-call vote on the original motion to **support a resolution to purchase 15 patrol vehicles to replace models 1999-2003, at an estimated cost of \$330,000.**

Vote: **3 Ayes** (Bryant, Ponzi, Santore), **3 Nays** (Brewer, Gearsbeck, Potter)
Motion Failed.

Legislative Chairman Johnson indicated the executive session regarding performance evaluations would be postponed until the October meeting when Chairman Bullard would be in attendance, then exited the meeting.

Discussion: Legislator Santore asked if the issue could be forwarded to the full Legislature for review. Legislator Bryant said it needed to be addressed at the Committee level. Legislator Bryant asked what the next move was regarding the vehicles. Were the Legislators going to wait until after the arbitrations were finished to bring it up again. Would the issue be re-visited when Chairman Bullard was available like the performance evaluations. The topic will be placed the October agenda.

5. **Next Meeting:** Monday, October 23, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Oswego County Building

6. **Adjournment:**

Motion to Adjourn: 2:53 p.m.

Made by: Legislator Bryant

Seconded by: Legislator Santore

Vote: **6 Ayes** (Bullard, Brewer, Bryant, Gearsbeck, Ponzi, Potter, Santore),
0 Nays. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Prepared by:

Linda S. Baker, Secretary to the Sheriff

Reviewed by:

Reuel A. Todd, Sheriff

Patricia Egan, Emergency Management Director

Michael Allen, E-911 Program Director

Accepted As Written:

Chairman

Date