

**Herkimer County Legislature  
Public Safety/Emergency Management and Ways & Means  
Committee Meeting  
Friday, July 31, 2020  
Via Teleconference  
Follows Human Resources and Ways & Means**

**Persons Attending:**

John P. Stephens (Chairman, Public Safety/W&M committee member)  
Gregory Malta, Sr. (Public Safety committee member)  
Raymond Johnson (committee member, both)  
Kurt J. Ackerman (committee member, both)  
William Weakley (Public safety committee member)  
Peter Campione (Public Safety committee member)  
Patrick E. Russell (Ways & Means Committee Chairman)  
Raymond Smith (Ways & Means committee member)  
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (committee member, both)  
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature  
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator  
Brandy Serow, Sec. to County Administrator  
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney  
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer  
Jill Schrader, Personnel Assistant  
Scott Scherer, Sheriff  
John Raymond, Director of Emergency Management

**(Non Committee Members Signed In)**

Legislator Mark Gaworecki  
Legislator Robert J. Schrader  
Legislator Bob D. Hollum  
Legislator William E. Keeler, Sr.  
Legislator John L. Brezinski  
Legislator Peter F. Manno  
Legislator Ray Donley

**Absent:**

N/A

Mr. Stephens called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.

**Items Discussed:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

1. Approve corrected monthly report of the Sheriff – November 2019
2. Other

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:**

3. Approve bid for shelter installation at Spohn Hill in Emergency Services
4. Approve extension of temporary position in Emergency Services
5. Accept funding, create account and amend budget for COVID-19 grant in Emergency Services
6. Approve purchase of License Plate Reader/Speed trailer and transfer of funds in Sheriff's Department
7. Approve amendment to the inmate telephone services agreement in Sheriff's Department
8. Other

**Committee Vote Record:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

Mr. Stephens: "First on the agenda is to approve the corrected monthly report of the Sheriff from November 2019. It was brought to our attention that there was an error, a typo, so the Sheriff had one of the girls fix that, it was resubmitted and placed on the website."

Mr. Johnson: "Just the one thing, I don't know if the guys are aware of it, I got educated by one of my constituents that constant means constant care that is the difference in the numbers if you add the two up, that is the oddball figure. Maybe we could start adding that if we have that anymore, maybe drop that down so the two numbers would add up?"

Mr. Stephens: "Sheriff are you on?"

Sheriff Scherer: "I am on."

Mr. Stephens: "Ok. Did you hear Mr. Johnson?"

Sheriff Scherer: "I did. We just haven't been boarding out this year. If someone is in the hospital or we have an extreme situation we can write it up a different way for that."

Mr. Johnson: "Thank you."

Item #1 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Campione for Public Safety, Item #1 was voted on and approved. Unanimous.

Item #2 – N/A.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:**

Mr. Stephens: "Number three, approve bid for shelter installation at Spohn Hill in Emergency Services. There is a cost of \$19,500 for the low bidder which is Fred Nudd. John are you on?"

John Raymond: "I am here."

Mr. Stephens: "Can you just give a brief description of what you are doing here?"

John Raymond: "Yes, this is a shelter. As you may recall the previous bid with another grant, we bought a shelter which is being manufactured out of concrete, just like the ones you see at the bottom of cell towers. This is for the installation of that shelter, to perform the concrete work and to set it in place with a crane. That's what this is for. Fred Nudd has done a lot of work, they do good work and we would like to move forward with this."

Jim Wallace: "John, where is the 20% going to come from to pay the County cost? I hope it's not 50%, at minimum it will be 20% I think."

John Raymond: "If need be, I do have \$40,000 in my balance for miscellaneous contracts in A3021, and I also have \$16,000 in A3020 contractual. My grant rep tells me that we are going to get 100% of this but I understand the worries that are out there."

Jim Wallace: "You have to talk to the budget people, the program people all think the money is coming. It's not coming. They can't even pay their bills, the State."

John Raymond: “We are very close to getting this operational. We have had a lot of work done. I am going to get the system up and operational, any future stuff we are just going to pause until next year. This is something we need to do to finish the project. Everything I am doing right now is to get it operational.”

Item #3 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Weakley for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Stephens for Ways & Means, Item #3 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: “Number four, approve extension of temporary position in Emergency Services. If you recall we did get a grant to partially fund the extension of the gentleman we brought on to assist with COVID, we are going with that until July 2021.”

Item #4 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Johnson for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: “Number five, accept funding, create account and amend budget for COVID-19 grant in Emergency Services, this will be to cover what we just discussed.”

Item #5 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #5 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: “Number six, approve purchase of License Plate Reader/Speed trailer and transfer of funds in Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff, can you give us a little bit of an update on this?”

Sheriff Scherer: “Yes I will. This is a 2017 Homeland Security Grant through the Federal government. Back in 2017 we put in for a license plate reader/speed trailer and for some reason it was never acted upon prior to me coming in. It closes down August 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, we have the money for it, if we do not use it by August 31<sup>st</sup> the Federal government just takes it back from us. I put in for the license plate reader/speed trailer. The speed trailer tells your speed, plus the license plate reader picks up license plates in real time. So if there was a missing person or an abduction or something like that and we put it out there we would get it in real time back on our computer at our stations showing the plate going through and if we had a hit on that plate or not. Other departments in our County can use it too.”

Mr. Russell: “Is this costing us anything?”

Sheriff Scherer: “This is costing us nothing.”

Mr. Russell: “Ok because I don’t necessarily think we need it, but that is just me.”

Item #6 – On motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Malta for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Shaw for Ways & Means, Item #6 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: “Number seven, approve amendment to the inmate telephone services agreement in Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff?”

Sheriff Scherer: “Yes this is GTL. They are going to supply tablets at no cost to us and maintain those tablets. Any time an inmate uses those tablets for a visitation, messaging, or playing a game we are going

to get anywhere between 20% to 80% off of it. So it is just money the County is going to make off of them supplying services.”

Mr. Johnson: “Just a question Mr. Chairman, will this carry over to the new facility or do we start all over again? I was just looking for when it ends and I didn’t see it.”

Sheriff Scherer: “This will be for the new facility. We don’t have the means to do this in the current facility. But the new facility is outfitted with the means to have the tablets there.”

Mr. Johnson: “Thank you.”

Item #7 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #7 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Item #8 – N/A

At 10:57 a.m., on motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee adjourned.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.