

**Herkimer County Legislature
Public Safety/Emergency Management and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 23, 2020
Via Zoom**

Follows Public Safety/Emergency Management, County Properties 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 J. 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
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer
Scott Scherer, Sheriff

(Non Committee Members Signed In)

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 9:49 a.m.

Items Discussed:

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

1. Approve monthly report of the Sheriff – October 2020
2. Other

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:

3. Approve creation of accounts for Project Lifesaver in Sheriff's Department
4. Renew support plan with Black Creek in Sheriff's Department
5. Approve Court Cleaning contract
6. Authorizing renewal of contract for Forensic Toxicology Services
7. Other

Committee Vote Record:

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Mr. Stephens: "Approve the monthly Sheriff's report for October 2020."

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

Item #2 – N/A.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Stephens: “Approve the creation of accounts for Project Lifesaver in the Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff, can you give us a little detail.”

Sheriff Scherer: “Sure. Project Lifesaver that deals with children with needs and some folks who have Alzheimer’s Disease. It’s a program that we have here. What we used to do is any donations that we get in we send to Project Lifesaver International. They would hold our money and if we purchased something we would purchase it through them and they subtract it out of that account. We created our own account so we can audit it through the County and we won’t have to send it out for someone else to oversee our money. We would have it here in the County to purchase the equipment we need for this program.”

Mr. Stephens: “Can I get a motion?”

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

Mr. Stephens: “Number four renew support plan with Black Creek in Sheriff’s Department.”

Mr. Johnson: “Mr. Chairman, I have a question. We are adding four additional SallyPort User licenses at the new jail that brings us up to a total of seven so the letter says. When we close the jail do we get credit for the additional three that we are not going to use? Or are we upping this for the new system?”

Sheriff Scherer: “I can answer that. Back about six months ago we added the four licenses already. We paid for that last year because we needed a total of seven for the new facility. We are still using the three here plus the opening of the new facility we need four more licenses. What we are doing is renewing the total of seven licenses that we purchased half way through last year once we started building the facility so now we need a total of seven because we added three for each pod. When doing the cell checks they need a license because the person in that pod will have the computer up and running the whole time and writing into it where right now we are writing it in a log book. So that is three of the licenses. We needed that one additional for the master control tower and the nurse’s office that we have. We needed a total of seven at the minimum. We approved that last year just to renew that support plan for that with no additional cost from last year.”

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

Mr. Stephens: “Number five approve court cleaning contract. This is reimbursed to us, correct Jim Wallace?”

Jim Wallace: “Correct. Sheri can speak to it better than I can but yes, that is what we ask the State to pay us.”

Mr. Stephens: “Okay.”

Item #5 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weakley 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 authorizing renewal of contract for Forensic Toxicology Services. Is this from the Sheriff?”

Jim Wallace: “John, that came from the Auditor.”

Mr. Stephens: “Yes, this is the one you sent us right Jim?”

Jim Wallace: “Absolutely.”

Mr. Stephens: “Okay. Is there any discussion or motion?”

Jim Wallace: “We do not have an awful lot of options guys.”

Mr. Stephens: “Right.”

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

Mr. Stephens: “Anything under other from anybody for Public Safety?”

Item #7 – N/A

Mr. Schrader: “John, I don’t know if this falls under Public Safety or what, with the snow storm, I know we signed a contract with a gentleman to plow it. Now being that we are not in there, we are not occupying it, if I remember right the agreement was, until we get our occupancy thing they are required to plow the driveway, correct?”

Mr. Russell: “You mean the contractors have to plow it?”

Mr. Schrader: “Yes. That’s what I was told that whoever the contractor was, until we get our occupancy they were supposed to, when we were dealing with the contract, they were supposed to keep it clear until we got our Certificate of Occupancy and I’m just curious with this last snow storm, because I know I got about 18 inches at my house, I am curious on who is footing that bill?”

Mr. Weakley: “Should be the contractors still working there, right? That’s what you mean, contractor.”

Mr. Schrader: “Right. Exactly Bill. Not the one that we hired.”

Mr. Weakley: “Correct.”

Mr. Bono: “Sheri, who is doing it?”

Sheri Ferdula: “Well, that’s a story. So, the contractor was required to do it if they were on site however, they are no longer on site so there is nobody there to plow. We set it up before the snowstorm, I had asked Highway to come in and just take care of the main area where the employees are going right now and get that done. When the snow storm came, I happened to be up there that morning and Art Bass was there.

So, I asked him, seeing that they were already there just to finish what they were doing but after we discussed it, if we didn't have him plow the whole parking lot at that time we were going to have two feet of snow sitting there getting hard and we didn't know if we were going to end up getting more snow so we did have him plow that day but going forward, there is no contractor on site so we don't have anybody to plow the area if it snows."

Jim Wallace: "And just to jump in Sheri, you and I talked and we did this together. We did talk with Mark's staff and they struggled to get us open by 9:00 a.m. so the Highway availability was just not there that morning."

Mr. Johnson: "So my question is what was the bill that Bass submitted for a day of plowing up at the jail?"

Sheri Ferdula: "We do not have a bill yet."

Mr. Johnson: "But it's coming."

Sheri Ferdula: "It's coming."

Mr. Johnson: "So to Mr. Schrader's question, we are plowing even though we don't have the Certificate of Occupancy because the contractors are not on site nor is their equipment?"

Sheri Ferdula: "Yes."

Mr. Johnson: "Okay."

Mr. Russell: "I guess then I would like to say honestly I am not aware of what the heck is going on there. At some point we need to go into executive session. We don't have a Certificate of Occupancy and nobody is up there is what I'm being told and I don't know why."

Mr. Schrader: "My question Sheri is there is another situation there that we need going back when we settle up with these individuals that you guys hired to build this Taj Mahal. It's just money on top of money. I know when you say it was only \$1,300 or whatever for the insurance but it adds up after a while. That's all I am saying and here is another situation where they are not fulfilling their full expectations shall I say. I have lost all expectations for these people."

Mr. Bono: "So in the mean time we have to have this plowed so let's have our contractor that we hired, our snowplow guy plow it as needed, when needed and bill it back if we have to but in the meantime it's got to get plowed. God forbid there is a fire or whatever. It has to get plowed. And our Highway guys in a snowstorm are, like Jim said, they struggled to get us open at 9:00 a.m. and they don't need that headache either. I say just let Bass do the contract. Its business guys. We have to keep it open. We will work that out later with the final end, the final bill."

Mr. Schrader: "I agree with that too Jimmy."

Mr. Ackerman: "Don't mislead anybody. We are not going to get that money back."

Mr. Weakley: "You are probably right but let's keep positive."

Mr. Schrader: "Can we get that number Sheri when we get that in please?"

Sheri Ferdula: "Absolutely."

Mr. Schrader: "Thank you."

Mr. Stephens: "Is there anything else before we adjourn Public Safety?"

At 10:03 a.m., on motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Campione, the Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee adjourned.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.