

**Herkimer County Legislature
Public Safety/Emergency Management
Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Via Teleconference
6:30 p.m.**

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)
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Scott Scherer, Sheriff

(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 Raymond Smith
Legislator Ray Donley
Legislator Patrick E. Russell
Legislator Frederick J. Shaw, Jr.

Absent:

N/A

Mr. Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Items Discussed:

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

1. Approve Police Reform Plan
2. Other

Committee Vote Record:

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Mr. Stephens: "The only item on the agenda is approve the Police Reform Plan. Sheriff, could you speak on this?"

Sheriff: "We have engaged in stakeholder community involvement. We put stakeholders together which on page three you will see who our Reform members are. Then we had to have a meeting. Thursday we sent out a survey for stakeholders. We had to take their answers into consideration on how we would move forward with the different mandates the Governor has. We took all of those, put it into a plan, it went out for ten days on the Internet. We had it on our website and other places. We took comments from the public and took them into consideration. We had another meeting and put the plan together. Now it has to get approved by the Legislature and then it gets sent to the Office of Budget for the Governor."

Jim Wallace: “If this plan doesn’t get sent in the State can withhold our revenues.”

Mr. Stephens: “Any other discussion? This was sent to everybody.”

Item #1 – On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous. Absent: 1.

Mr. Stephens: “Does anyone have anything under other?”

Mr. Bono: “I do, real quick John. We are going to have a grand opening of sorts for the jail on April 7th. Everybody is invited. You will get an invite. There will be past and present guests there. It will be a limited amount because of COVID but we will have the Press and what do you feel about bringing your spouses? Any objection to that?”

Mr. Schrader: “What time is that?”

Mr. Bono: “11:00 a.m. and then we have a 2:00 p.m. quarterly meeting. We feel that’s probably the best time to do it. Based on the restrictions coming down I think we might go live for the quarterly meeting. Everybody is getting their shots and those that didn’t will probably get theirs and we will stay with the Zoom for the public. It’s tough when we do half and half but I would like to do it live because I think our meetings suffer with the way information is disseminated and going through texts and emails is just too tough guys. Zoom, you just don’t get the read on everybody and good communications so I am going to try and go back live. If there is any objection let me know. We will try to accommodate everybody but I think society is getting back to normal now and capacities are going back. So, the 7th, 11:00 a.m., everybody will get an invite and we will cut a ribbon and get this thing behind us. That is all I had.”

Item #2 – N/A.

Mr. Stephens: “Anybody else have anything? Motion to adjourn please.”

At 6:35 p.m., on motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Malta, the Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee adjourned.