

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 9:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Eygnor, Verno, Bender, Donalty, VanLaeken, Groat and Johnson, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Wayne Pre-Trial Services Director Martha Bailey, Coroner Keith Benjamin, Probation Director Mark Ameele, Public Defender Andy Correia, District Attorney Mike Calarco, Victim Witness Coordinator Debbie Coons, Sheriff Robert Milby, Undersheriff Tammy Ryndock, Emergency Services Director George Bastedo and 911 Project Manager Jim Lee.

Minutes from the March 1st Committee meeting were approved as written.

The Annual Report for the District Attorney's Office was received and filed. A copy of the report was electronically sent to all Supervisors prior to today's meeting. Mr. Calarco reviewed the difficulty in filling positions within his Office. The Office carried over 1,100 cases in Justice Court and have 333 felony cases pending. The Office prosecuted 13,987 motor vehicle cases and 224 DWI cases. There were 209 felony arrests in 2021 compared to 192 the prior year. Felony indictments were up 54% over the past two years. Disposition of felonies were up by 67% compared to the two previous years. Of those 209 arrests, 184 were indicted or waived indictments. There were 405 misdemeanor arrests in 2021 compared to 361 the prior year. Appellate work continues to be outsourced due to vacant full-time DA positions. The Victim/Witness Services Program served 550 victims with more than 3,950 contacts; that represents an increase of 140 victims and 654 contacts over the prior year.

Mr. Calarco presented a transmittal requesting authorization to allow his Office to contract with an attorney to alleviate understaffing issues due to vacant positions at a rate of \$90 an hour. He noted the staff shortages in the District Attorney's Office and the need to have court cases addressed. The Office is currently operating with half of the legal staff needed for County Court; full-time attorneys have over 150 cases each and Mr. Calarco has over 60 County Court cases he is handling along with Office administration. The Office has not been fully staffed since he became DA. Positions are not only advertised through the Human Resource Department, but on internet sites and internet employment web platforms. Mr. Calarco said he is not sure how much longer current staff can continue with their existing work load. Changes in Discovery Laws have placed more stress on the Office and it has constantly been difficult for rural counties to hire attorneys. Supervisor Donalty asked if increasing salaries of legal staff would result in the filling of more vacancies. Mr. Calarco said there have been candidates for the vacant positions; however, they do not want to accept the salary offered. Mr. House said there are many reasons open positions are hard to fill in many County Departments. He is working with Department Heads and Unions on ways to increase recruitment and retention of employees. Approved 5-0.

Mrs. Bailey review activities in the Pre-Trial Office since the last Committee meeting. There were 25 new Release cases, resulting in a total of 56 open cases. There were four new Enhanced Pre-Trial Release cases, resulting in a total of 11 open cases. Two individuals were added to the

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Agency's Electronic Monitoring System, resulting in three electronic monitoring cases under supervision. The Agency already exceed the required number of cases by the State for program funding; cases in excess of these numbers do not qualify for reimbursement.

The monthly Coroner's report showed there were 19 death investigations in Wayne County during March with four autopsies requested. The State's new Database Access for Vital Events reporting system is making record keeping for coroners much easier.

The Annual Report for the Sheriff's Office was received and filed. A copy of the report was electronically sent to Supervisors prior to today's meeting. The Sheriff's Office operated on a budget of \$18.6 million, with a County cost of \$16.5 million. The budget broke down as follows: Corrections Division \$7.49 million, Road Patrol \$5.6 million, Juvenile \$1.3 million, Detectives \$1.4 million, Administration \$1.2 million, Court Security \$576,821, Civil Division \$539,346 and Records Division \$215,785. During 2021 the Sheriff's Office added a Specialized Tactical Rescue Vehicle to the fleet; the vehicle was donated by Brinks US. The vehicle will be used to transport emergency response team members to critical incidents and evacuate innocent bystanders and victims that maybe near a critical incident. Students from the Wayne Technical and Career Center assisted the Sheriff's Office with minor body shop repairs to vehicles and other projects involving carpentry and welding within the Sheriff's Building during the year. The report noted the retirement at the end of 2021 of Sheriff Barry Virts and others with long term employment with the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's monthly reports were included with the agenda. They were reviewed by Sheriff Milby:

- Corrections Division: During February there were 38 males and four females committed to the Wayne County Jail. Four inmates were visited by private attorneys, 10 by a Public Defender, and seven by Wayne Pre-Trial Services. Inmates were seen by medical staff 200 times during the month. The Facility collected \$17,852 in bail and \$2.75 in fines from nine inmates. A total of 3,838 meals were served.
- Activities: The Sheriff's Office addressed 1,808 complaints in February; Road Patrol made five DWI arrests, 42 criminal and 16 Vehicle and Traffic arrests. There were 86 motor vehicle collisions during the month resulting in two persons being injured. The Records Division processed 48 pistol permits and 58 amendments. The Civil Division process 78 papers, served 67 Family Court papers and six eviction notices. At the end of February there were 364 sex offenders living in Wayne County, 15 of these individuals reported to the Jail during the month for verification and 89 were verified at their residence.
- Tickets by Town: There were 167 tickets issued in February, the majority in the Towns of Lyons, Sodus and Ontario.
- Overtime: Staff worked 2,149 hours of overtime in February, the majority due to staffing shortages in the County Jail and Road Patrol. The Sheriff's Office is currently sponsoring 11 individuals in Police Academy.
- Court Security: A total of 1,712 individuals entered the Hall of Justice during the month; courts are still not operating at the same level as pre-pandemic.

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The following transmittals were presented for the Sheriff's Office:

--Authorization to amend the budget to carry over the remaining balance for the 2018 Stonegarden Grant Program in the amount of \$8,487. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to carry over the remaining balance in the 2019 Stonegarden Grant Program in the amount of \$27,034. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to carry over the remaining balance of the 2020 Stonegarden Grant Program in the amount of \$21,946. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to carry over the remaining balance of the 2020 State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant in the amount of \$33,508. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to carry over the remaining balance of the 2019 State Law Enforcement Terrorism Program grant in the amount of \$42,488. Approved 5-0.

The monthly activities report for the Probation Office was distributed with the agenda. During March the Department supervised 531 cases, 19 individuals on electronic monitoring, 260 individuals on the ignition interlock program and 33 individuals on community service. There were 10 non-secure bed days served during the month, 11 specialized secure detention days and four raise the age cases. In the first quarter of the year the Department collected over \$38,600 in fines, restitution and surcharges.

Mr. Ameele spoke to the Commissioner of Social Services regarding the need for DSS to have to secure an outside contract with either Catholic Charities, YAP or another organization for services they provide for the Probation Department. He will be meeting with the DSS Commissioner to discuss alternative arrangements to keep the services within Probation and DSS. This would reduce the need for another costly contract. Mr. Ameele will keep the Committee updated.

Mr. House reviewed a discussion from yesterday's Human Services Committee meeting regarding an ETS (Expiration Term of Service) Sponsorship Program, a new initiative between the New York State Association of Counties and Department of Veterans Administration. The program is in place to assist service members in transition to civilian life in the post-military community. The possibility of having some returning Veterans working in County Departments is being looked into.

Mr. Correia stated there are currently 365 open cases in the Public Defender's Office. There were 91 new cases opened during March. Mr. Verno noted the reduction in cases in the Department, Mr. Correia said the numbers are almost up to pre-pandemic levels. In the last three weeks the Office has been assigned parole cases to handle. These are complex issues that are time consuming for legal staff.

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Mr. Correia said he is waiting to see what the State budget will have in regarding to Criminal Justice Reform. He was told assigned counsel rates will be increased from \$60 an hour to \$100 an hour for misdemeanor cases and \$75 an hour to \$125 an hour for felony cases. He will keep the Committee updated.

Supervisor Donalty asked if filling legal positions in the Public Defender's Office has been difficult. Mr. Correia noted there are not many lawyers in rural counties; however, he has been fortunate and consistently works on an internship and recruitment program.

Mr. Correia updated the group on the March 23rd meeting of the Reform and Reinvention Oversight Formation Committee. The next meeting of the Oversight Formation Committee is scheduled for April 27th at 9:00 a.m.

The monthly report for the Emergency Management Services Office was reviewed. Mr. Bastedo brought to member's attention several upcoming large attendance events scheduled for this summer. The Department continues with efforts to distribute COVID tests kits and masks. The County's State of Emergency was terminated due to the declining number of COVID positive cases. The Department still has about 12,000 test kits; the kits expire in July. Lake Ontario is 13 inches higher than it was last year at this same time; if it continues to rise the Sodus Point Emergency Plan will be activated.

The following transmittals were presented for the Emergency Management Services Department:

--Authorization to remove Chris Ferrante and Kevin Flynn from the County's Technical Decon Team. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to carry over remaining 2019 State Homeland Security Program grant funds in the amount of \$39,531. Funds will be used for public safety tower security upgrades, unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) with accessories, and the final payment for the Radiological Emergency Response Plan when approved by FEMA. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget to carry over the remaining balance of 2020 State Homeland Security Program grant funding in the amount of \$19,119. Funds will be used for the purchase of a network access control system, COVID personal protective equipment, soft target protection and related items. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to amend the budget and carry over the remaining balance of the 2021 State Homeland Security Program Grant in the amount of \$30,956. Funds will be utilize for the purchase of computer software and equipment. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Lee reviewed the milestones he believes are needed for the success of the County's EMT Transporting Agency Project. 1) Personnel: develop job specifications and level of supervision needed, will the County sponsor or host classes, develop personnel schedules and secure and

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allocate funding. 2) Vehicles/Equipment: should the County purchase or lease vehicles, vehicle specifications need to be developed, bid documents created, contracts approved, determine and purchase vehicle equipment and secure and allocate funding. 3) Operations: develop staffing level requires and dispatching policies for back-up function, develop system status management plan, develop and implement departmental policies. 4) Land/Facilities: determine suggested locations and bases, identify and purchase parcels, develop building space, purchase furnishings, facilitate for training, develop security and allocate funding.

A transmittal was presented requesting authorization to issue requests for proposals for implementation services for the County's EMS Capital project. Mr. Lee stated the need to locate a qualified firm or individual to develop the County's EMS Transportation Project on a temporary basis. He noted there will be a need for an Oversight Committee, as the County has had for other large projects. Mr. House noted Supervisors would be included on the Oversight Committee. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Lee was requested to provide an update on the Macedon communications tower. At this time there is a receiver at the former Jindal building; future tower sites will allow for both transmission and receiving. Mr. Lee was in discussions with Verizon for several months about going on their tower proposed for the old village water tank. Verizon has since said they will be working with a third-party to construct this communications tower. Mr. Lee said discussions are now needed with the third-party to make arrangements for the County to utilizing the tower. He would prefer the County pay a one-time fee for usage, not a monthly lease. Construction of the tower has begun. Mr. Verno requested Mr. Lee update Supervisor Leonard on the progress of this tower.

Mr. Lee said he would like to see the County's communication system digitalized; however, this cannot be done until additional communication towers are added. At a minimum, this will require new towers in the southwest section of the County, the southeastern area and in the Sodus area.

Supervisor Eygnor reminded Supervisors of the County's Unity Festival scheduled on Saturday, May 14th at Perkins Park in Newark. All Supervisors are asked to attend at some point during the day.

Mr. Verno requested an executive session at 10:14 a.m. for a personnel matter with only Supervisors in attendance, Mrs. Bender second. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3rd at 9:00 a.m.