

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING

September 8, 2020

The regular meeting of Public Safety, Probation, Office of Emergency Services, Coroner, and Stop DWI was held in the Legislative Conference Room at the Ronald E. Dougherty Office Building, 56 Main St., on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 2:30 PM.

Present:

Dennis Mullen	Chair, Public Safety
Joy Bennett	Director, Probation
Edward Hollenbeck	Legislator
Sheriff Gary Howard	Sheriff's Office
Dale Weston	Legislator
William Standinger	Legislator
Mike Simmons	Director, Emergency Services
Stewart Bennett	Coroner
Bob Williams	Deputy Director, Emergency Services (arrived at 2:36)
Marte Sauerbrey	Chair, Legislature (departure at 3:00)

Guests:

Jackson Bailey	Budget Officer
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Legislator Weston made a motion to approve the minutes of August 4, 2020; seconded by Legislator Standinger, and so carried.

PROBATION:

Joy Bennett, Probation Director, presented the following information to the committee. Report is attached.

Budget: On Track

Issues:

1. Courts in the 6th judicial district: this continues to be a confusing situation. At the County Court level, hearings continue to be a mix of in-person, SKYPE and telephone. The Justice Courts in the county have started to schedule court dates, they also have a mix of in-person and SKYPE. There is some confusion with moving cases from the CAP Court to the Justice Court where the crime took place.

2. Court Annex Security –Court Security now has a stationary temp test site in the building, instead of the handheld. Anyone with a temp of 100.1 or above is not be allowed in the building.
3. Probation is continuing to target having high and medium risk cases by having those probationers report in person. Low risk cases will begin reporting in October. We are limiting the number of appointments per day and space them out so there will be no more than 8 people in the waiting room at one time. We have asked probationers not to bring family members or children to the office. All parties must wear masks, hand sanitizer is provided. If a probationer refuses to wear a mask they are not allowed to enter the Court Annex building.

Juvenile Delinquency Services:

August – we received three JD tickets: a, 18 year old male charged with behavior when he was 15 years of age- Sexual Abuse, 1st, Class D Violent Felony, a 15 year old male charged with Sexual Abuse, 1st and a 17 year old male charged with Assault, 3rd Class A Misdemeanor

YTD: 15 JDAT received to date in plus 2 cases of direct file with the court, plus 2 cases handed down from Youth Part for a total of 19 cases to date. 22% of the tickets received this year have been for alleged sexual offending behavior.

- E- Connect: In August we screened three youth (all three youth scored as Class III and were referred to the Mental Health Clinic for an intake assessment specific to suicide)
- Alternative to Detention Programing: Cayuga Counseling program for juvenile is operating and working with Tioga County youth. One part time employee is working the cases, the second position in the contract was just filled.
- We have one youth, a 13 year old male currently in detention. We tried two alternatives (JSSP and EM) with the youth but he did not cooperate so the Court remanded him.

ATI Programs: To date, we have received no information about the Service plan for this program. The program year expired on 6/30/20.

- ❖ Electronic Monitoring – had 1 unit in use, currently 0 units in use.
- ❖ Community Service –No WWP crew since 3/1/20.
- ❖ Pre-Trial Release – Pre-Trial Release – 0 people in the program.

SHERIFF:

Sheriff Howard presented the following information to the committee. Report is attached.

Budget:

- One Tioga County Inmate housed in Monroe County

- Expenditures are on target for 6 months; Revenues are \$440,781 year to date. Inmate Boarders \$118,404 (6 months revenue).

Current Projects:

- Working on upgrading Black Creek to Windows 10. Expected completion by end of year.

Personnel Items:

Civil – all positions filled.

Corrections Division

- a) There are (3) vacant positions; (3) Corrections Officers and (2) part-time Cooks.
- b) We have two (2) C.O.s awaiting Medical Retirement.

Road Patrol

- a) We have (1) Deputy out on 207C medical leave.
- b) We have (2) Deputies on light duty.
- c) We have filled the (2) Deputy positions and they are currently in the police academy.

E911 Emergency Communications Center

- a) We have a new dispatcher starting on September 14th, as of that date all positions will be filled.

Administration

- a) All positions filled.

Resolutions:

- a. Approve the 2020 STOP DWI Plan
- b. Authorize the submission of the 2020-21 STOP DWI crackdown application.

Labor Issues:

TCLEA contract under negotiation

Litigation Issues:

- None at this time.

Other:

- Inmate population is at 32 for the month of August.

Sheriff Howard also presented overview of: *New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Resources & Guide for Public Officials and Citizens*

- A plan is to be in place by April 2021 or may lose funding.

- A board is required to be set up to include members of community, public defenders, local officials, faith based and local police.
- One half of the policies outlined are already in place locally.
- Final plan to be adopted by County Legislature and then forward to NYS Legislature.

CORONER:

Budget:

- Mandated service with increased number of cases every year since 2009, but no funding increases. Autopsy costs are increasing, and additional expenses incurred if felony, accidental or homicide related. Also additional costs for lab work and COVID cases.

ADJOURNED:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:26pm

Respectfully submitted,

Debora J. Stubecki
Account Clerk
9/8/2020

Budget: Within Modified Budget - See attached spreadsheets

Resolutions: No Resolutions

Monthly Activity:

1. Monthly Meetings Attended
 - Zoom Meeting with Lake District Emergency Managers
2. Grants
 - a. SHSP17
 - b. SHSP18
 - c. SHSP19
 - d. SHSP20
 - e. EMPG19
 - f. EMPG20
 - g. SICG18
 - h. SICG19
 - i. SICG20
 - j. Senator's grant for Training Room (MPR)
3. Fire Services
 - a. Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations – Berkshire
 - b. Fire Officer 1 – Completed in Owego
4. EMS
 - a. RFP for EMS Study being reviewed by county attorney. We feel that this study is necessary to accurately determine the current status of area emergency medical and ambulance services as well as develop options for the provision of EMS in the future. Currently, agencies experiencing difficulties recruiting and retaining volunteer members. Paid services are also experiencing financial difficulties due to low revenue generated from insurance companies and uninsured patients. In the future significant changes will need to occur to maintain emergency medical and ambulance services to the residents of the county. It is anticipated that some of our municipalities will lose their local EMS providers within the next few years. One remedy that has been successful in areas of the state has been to develop regional or countywide EMS agencies who can tax and/or bill for services.
5. Communications System

- a. We continue to experience failures of our radio systems which our radio vendors have not been able to diagnose and repair. During the past few weeks there have been multiple failures of the fire, sheriff, and Owego Police radios. Radio technicians from the State Department of Interoperable Communications have responded and been working with Tri-County Communications in an attempt to identify why we keep losing radio communications. The radios, and/or tower sites go off line intermittently and there is no way for dispatchers to know they are not being heard or miss calls from police, fire, or EMS units immediately when it happens. This has resulted in fire calls not being heard as well as outages where they lose contact with police and fire units during calls.
- b. The New Radio System Project is moving ahead very slowly. We obtained our new radio frequencies that were provided to us by Tompkins County. The SICG Targeted Grant that we hope to receive is delayed by about a year. Both Chris Meyer of Motorola and Kevin Karn of NYSTEC have met with Director Michael Sprague of the NYS Office of Interoperable Communications and discussed the county's need to replace it's radio system as well as the difficulties we are experiencing with the current one. They both have reported back that our communications shortfalls have been recognized and we will be considered for the targeted grant whenever it becomes available.

Most recently Motorola has offered to delay lease payments for two years without any additional cost if we authorize them to continue the radio project. At the present time we have paid them approximately \$288,000 as a down payment towards the lease and have approximately \$750,000 in grant money that needs to be used but we have not moved forward to negotiate the lease because the targeted grant is delayed. That leaves us in a quandary regarding how to utilize the SICG formula grant proceeds that will expire at the end of the year.

We met with NYSTEC consultants last week and will be starting the process to create the planning and documentation necessary to apply for the next round of SICG Targeted Grant funding and provide project management assistance. They may be able to assist us in determining how to utilize the grant funding we have on hand to best support the project and stay within the rules of the grant program.

6. EMO

- a. The issuance of personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer has been suspended. All requests for PPE from state stockpiles now has to be reviewed by the executive chamber. Very few requests are being approved.

- b. Bids were received from businesses who were interested in providing consultant work to process COVID19 claims to FEMA. Low bidder is National Disaster Recovery Technical Assistance, Inc. of 59 Court Street, Suite 202, Binghamton, NY 13901. Bid is being forwarded to Attorney for review prior to hiring. After reviewing the expenses for COVID19 we have less than \$20,000 in eligible costs that are not covered under other programs. With this small amount of costs it has been decided that there is no need to hire a consultant and we will process the claims through our office.

- c. Purchase of PPE from contingency funds. While reviewing COVID related claims Stephanie Jerzak of the Treasurer's office and I found that the purchase of PPE may be covered under money received by the Health Department. Stephanie is reviewing the rules governing the Health Department funding to see if any of the \$350,000 can be utilized for PPE instead of using money from contingency funds.

Public Safety Committee Meeting
Probation Department Report
September 8, 2020

Budget Status:

Receive our final revenue from Raise the Age funding for the state fiscal year that ended in March 2020- \$10,995.

Still no information from DCJS on funding cuts for the current state fiscal year.

Issues:

1. Courts in the 6th judicial district: this continues to be a confusing situation. At the County Court level, hearings continue to be a mix of in-person, SKYPE and telephone. The Justice Courts in the county have started to schedule court dates, they also have a mix of in-person and SKYPE. There is some confusion with moving cases from the CAP Court to the Justice Court where the crime took place.
2. There still is no consistent plan for how attorneys attend Justice Court matters. Probation Officers are attending Justice Court hearings on violation arraignments and hearings in person. The DA's office is not attending arraignments in person. The DA's Office sends an email to the Justice with their plea offer. They have agreed to cover a violation of probation hearing on 9/8/20.
3. Court Annex Security -Court Security now has a stationary temp test site in the building, instead of the handheld. Anyone with a temp of 100.1 or above is not be allowed in the building.
4. Department staffing: All Probation staff are working in the office space full time.
 - a. Probation is continuing to target having high and medium risk cases by having those probationers report in person. Low risk cases will begin reporting in October. We are limiting the number of appointments per day and space them out so there will be no more than 8 people in the waiting room at one time. We have asked probationers not to bring family members or children to the office. All parties must wear masks, hand sanitizer is provided. If a probationer refuses to wear a mask they are not allowed to enter the Court Annex building.
 - b. We have successfully implemented CE Check in software for all probationers with a valid email. Probationers are directed to log in via this software program from their phone or computer, answer some questions and take a photo. The software puts the response in the system and flags cases for review based on the answers to the questions.

We have successfully implemented Zoom meetings for all juvenile cases. This software has to be loaded as an app on the phone or computer and allows us to have real time visual conferencing.
 - c. Camera/microphones are now installed on all Probation Office pcs and in the conference room.
 - d. Probation Officers are out in the community making home checks on probationers.
5. Juvenile Delinquency Services:

August - we received three JD tickets: a, 18 year old male charged with behavior when he was 15 years of age- Sexual Abuse, 1st, Class D Violent Felony, a 15 year old male charged with Sexual Abuse, 1st and a 17 year old male charged with Assault, 3rd Class A Misdemeanor

Tioga County Sheriff's Office



DATE: September 2, 2020
TO: Sheriff Howard
RE: August 2020 Public Safety - Reference Notes

Personnel Issues:

1. **Civil Office**
 - a) All positions are filled.
2. **Corrections Division**
 - a) There are (3) vacant positions; (3) Corrections Officers and (2) part-time Cooks.
 - b) We have two (2) C.O.s awaiting Medical Retirement.
3. **Road Patrol**
 - a) We have (1) Deputy out on 207C medical leave.
 - b) We have (2) Deputies on light duty.
 - c) We have filled the (2) Deputy positions and they are currently in the police academy.
4. **E911 Emergency Communications Center**
 - a) We have a new dispatcher starting on September 14th, as of that date all positions will be filled.
5. **Administration**
 - a) All positions filled.

Labor Issues:

1. T.C.L.E.A. negotiations have begun.

Litigation Issues:

None at this time.

Budget:

1. We continue to have an individual inmate that is housed at Monroe County.
2. Expenditures are on target for six months; Revenues are at \$440,781 year to date. Inmate Boarders account for \$118,404 (8 months revenue).

Current Projects:

1. Working to upgrade Black Creek to Windows 10.
- 2.

Miscellaneous:

Average daily inmate population for the month of August 2020 was 32.

Resolutions:

1. Approve the 2020 STOP DWI Plan.
2. Authorize the submission of the 2020-21 STOP DWI crackdown application.