

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2019**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Fisher, Bob Metropulos, Billy Fried, Mitch Ives, Chairman Mike Timmons

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Crystal Schaub (Medical Examiner), Jennifer Allen (Branch II), Heidi Ihn (District Attorney), Kathleen Belliveau (Branch I), Brenda Behrle (Clerk of Courts), Brian Desmond (Corporation Counsel), Sheriff Grady Hartman, Chief Deputy Dan Hess

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Timmons called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room #2, stated the meeting notice had been posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and noted accommodations would be made for handicap accessibility.

APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the Agenda (Fisher/Metropulos, PASSED).

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the December 20, 2018, Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Fried/Fisher, PASSED).

SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for February 21, 2019

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers, and line item transfers for Public Safety Departments (Fried/Ives, PASSED).

CORPORATION COUNSEL

CAP Team Report & Legislative Briefing Issues

Desmond reported emailing paperwork to committee members. Stated there were four main topics discussed at CAP Team Meeting.

1. Request for increase in children and family aids allocation. The out-of-home costs for social services has sky-rocketed. Asked for an additional 30 million in budget that will help with out-of-home placement costs. Discussed the political process, lobbying, data out there regarding opiate/meth crisis, the average amount of years for the budget. Desmond reported there are no foster homes available right now in Oneida County and DOSS is looking outside to place children. There was discussion on cost vs. aid received, case standards, burn out of social workers, staffing needs. Fisher asked how the case the county filed

for opiate work into this. Desmond stated they would have to wait to see what happened, then up to county board to where money would be placed, how spent. Desmond reported there are more than 5,500 kids in placement across the state right now in out-of-home care (not with parents, but could be with other family members). Discussion on the reimbursement amounts, how it depends on the needs of the child. Desmond reported Mary Rideout at Social Services gets many applications, but once applicants find out what is involved, they back out. Discussion on what to do if funding goes through in Madison, but it's not enough to fund our needs, tax levy exemptions.

2. Closing of Lincoln Hills. Counties need to have a secure facility built. \$40 million out there for grants to do this. Desmond reported Marathon County may build one and that would be the closest. March is the grant deadline, then 6-8 months for architecture, where/what to build. Desmond reported it was asked that the closing of Lincoln Hills be set back 6 months to 1 year and there possibly would be a re-evaluation of the complete closure of Lincoln Hills. There was discussion on a facility built north of Hwy. 29, how many there would be across the state, difference between Lincoln Hills and Marathon Juvenile Detention Center, cost per day at each facility, that the grant only covers brick & mortar and not personnel, monthly costs. Desmond reported they asked that the state offer three-four months of overhead for startup. Sheriff Hartman stated this was pure & simple a shift in responsibility from the state to the county level.
3. Grants for public safety answering points. State trying to move toward digital 911 centers. Asked that the \$7 million from the extra taxes on phone lines be diverted back to grant monies which would be available for counties to upgrade equipment to the new NextGen 911. There was discussion on what counties would need, how many counties do not have the money to upgrade, where they money went when the tax was created. Sheriff Hartman again stated this was cost shifting from the state to county level.
4. Court appointed attorney rate and public defender rates. Wisconsin is lowest in nation at \$40.00/hour for public defenders. Desmond reported that public defenders from Madison would come up here because no one will take certain cases. Discussion on how that raises costs because the suspect sits in the jail longer (feeding/housing/care at jail costs), cost goes up if a public defender is not found (hire a county attorney at \$70.00/hr.) and county foots bill (that price goes to \$100.00/hr in January 2020). Desmond reported the Tri-County Bar is asking \$100.00/hr for appointed public defenders and WCA wants the price to go to \$70.00/hr., how guardian ad litem fall under this category. There was discussion on who is eligible for public defender, indigence determination, qualifications for public defenders.

Desmond stated most felt the public defender issue was the one that had the best chance of being addressed with the legislature.

MOTION: Informational report only, no motion needed.

Pepper Spray Policy per Oneida County Code for Employees

Desmond reported that Oneida County has an ordinance that bans employees from carrying pepper spray while on duty at the courthouse. After the active shooter training, several employees asked if they could carry pepper spray as an employee. Desmond reported other counties, specifically DOSS, carry pepper spray. Desmond contacted insurance company who stated there would need to be training (when considered self-defense and when not), and impose that there is liability involved to use. Fried reported DOSS workers, other employees voiced their concern about what could be done to protect themselves and asked if they could carry pepper spray. Fried stated he wasn't sure the county would want to go that way if there currently was an ordinance/policy against it, and didn't want to solve one problem and create another. Fried asked Sheriff Hartman's opinion. Hartman stated he was all for people being able to defend themselves, was all for employees carrying pepper spray, and thought some probably already did that on their own time. There was discussion on concentration restrictions, training/awareness classes that would be needed, if employees needed to purchase their own goods, who would be responsible for training.

MOTION: To direct Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel to create a policy to forward on to Public Safety/Administration/Sheriff's Office (Fried/Metropulos, PASSED).

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Lodging Report

Sheriff Hartman reported all payments for 2018 on in for the Jail Revenue (Exhibit 1), the gross was approximately \$1.9 million. The jail was up to 100 state inmates the last couple weeks. McNaughton revenue probably double what it was, probation and parole (probation hold) and DOC (sanctions) stable at \$45,000.00. Hartman reported this used to be higher, but the law was tweaked and now the county pays. Fried asked if when McNaughton was full they use the jail. Hartman reported when the McNaughton inmates break the rules/laws, they are housed at the jail until they are transported back to where they came from. There was discussion on the bottom line, budgeted revenue to offset state inmate costs, how that won't change until budget close. Fried asked if there was any talk of upping what the jail is paid for housing the state inmates. Chief Deputy Hess reported not hearing anything. Hartman reported the only thing heard on Evers' platform was that they were going to release some inmates.

MOTION: Informational only, no motion needed.

It is anticipated that the committee will go into closed session pursuant to WI Stats Section 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, & 19.85(1)(f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies, which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. (Topic: Corrections Officer Discipline).

MOTION: To go into closed session pursuant to WI Stats Section 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, & 19.85(1)(f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies, which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. (Topic: Corrections Officer Discipline) (Fisher/Fried, On a Roll Call Vote: FRIED: Aye, IVES: Aye, METROPULOS: Aye, TIMMONS: Aye, FISHER: Aye).

The Committee entered into closed session at 10:18 a.m.

It is anticipated that the Committee will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda.

MOTION: To return to open session (Metropulos/Ives, On a Roll Call Vote: FRIED: Aye, IVES: Aye, METROPULOS: Aye, TIMMONS: Aye, FISHER: Aye).

The Committee returned to open session at 10:28 a.m.

There was no action taken in closed session. Informational only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S)

None.

ADJOURN

10:29 a.m. MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Metropulos/Ives, PASSED).

Mike Timmons, Chairman

Andi Seidel, Committee Secretary

Bob Metropulos, Vice-Chairman