

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 9, 2023**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Steven Schreier, Russ Fisher, Diana Harris, Tom Kelly and Mike Timmons.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Andy Faust (North Central WI Regional Planning Commission), Mary Rideout (Social Services), Heidi Ihn (District Attorney's Office), Patti Finlan (Branch II), Shari Gorney (Corporation Counsel's Office), Brenda Behrle (Clerk of Circuit Court), Amy Franzen (Register in Probate), Jean Meyer (Branch I), Crystal Schaub (Medical Examiner), Sheriff Grady Hartman, Chief Deputy Dan Hess and Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Schreier 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 (Kelly/Harris, PASSED).

**9:30 a.m. Conduct Public Hearing on the Oneida County All Hazards Mitigation Plan**

Andy Faust/NCWRPC introduced himself, provided an update of the plan indicating FEMA requires an update every five years, looking for comment(s). Faust explained the five parts of the plan (process, planning area, risk assessment, mitigation and plan update.

No one from the public was present, no public comments given.

There were discussions regarding rainfalls, dams, managing water flows, monitoring shoreland activity and insurance coverage.

The Chief Deputy informed the Committee dam plans (and contact lists) are on file in the dispatch center. Staff meets with dam officials and participates in tabletop exercises.

Faust indicated the All Hazards Mitigation Plan is listed on agenda and recommends forwarding it onto the county board for adoption. Faust explained municipalities are covered under county adoption and the City can either adopt the county's plan or can develop their own plan. Faust mentioned FEMA changed plan requirements and explained the County's plan will be completed before the change takes effect. WI Emergency Management approved the county's plan.

Supervisor Harris inquired if there were any major differences in updates. Faust noted there weren't any and referred to demographic updates and list of projects updated.

Supervisor Timmons had a previous committee meeting and joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

The public hearing closed with no public comment.

**9:45 a.m. Regular Meeting**

Regular meeting began.

**Sheriff's Office**

*All Hazards Mitigation Plan*

The Sheriff presented the resolution.

MOTION: To approve the All Hazards Mitigation Plan and forward onto County Board (Fisher/Kelly, PASSED).

Committee members signed the resolution.

**APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the January 5, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes (Harris/Kelly, PASSED).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)**

The next meeting was scheduled for March 9, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

**BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS**

MOTION: To approve the bills, vouchers, line item transfers and personal expense vouchers for Public Safety Departments (Timmons/Harris, PASSED).

**Contracting for Secure Detention bed at Marathon County**

Social Services Director present and proposed entering into a joint contract with Vilas County to contract with Marathon County for a secured detention bed. The Director informed the Committee their office is contacted when the Sheriff's office deals with a youth and that youth may need to be placed in a secured detention. The Director referred to Lincoln Hills intake schedule, other facilities throughout the State that only accept youth in their area, previously Marathon Co. secured detention was shut down and shared difficulties in finding a facility. Marathon Co. reopened their Secure Detention Center and are requesting counties to buy into their detention facility, contract for one bed for the year (365 days) which would be shared with Vilas Co. to have a bed available. Contract is \$91,250 for one bed for the year, if not contracted, the one bed would cost \$500 per day. The Director proposed to enter into a one-year contract and shared historical data of detention days shared by both Oneida and Vilas Counties.

The Chief Deputy stated Oneida Co. would be guaranteed a bed and would share costs with Vilas Co. The Chief Deputy recommended entering into a one-year contract and review data before extending contract.

The Sheriff explained the County budget for juveniles is different, Social Services works with juveniles and finds a bed but the budget is under the Sheriff's Office.

The Social Services Director explained if another bed was needed in Marathon Co., it would cost Oneida/Vilas Co. \$250 per day if under contract versus paying \$500 per day non-contract expense. The Director anticipates Oneida Co. and Vilas Co. each paying approximately 50% of the Contract and explained Oneida Co. would bill Vilas Co. based on percentage of actual beds used by each county.

Chairperson Schreier inquired if the request needs to be forwarded onto County Board. The Social Services Director indicated the request only requires the Public Safety Committee's approval to contract with Marathon Co. as the funds are already in the budget and we will review data in December before entering into a new contract. Corporation Counsel was present and indicated he reviewed the contract.

**MOTION:** To approve contract as presented pending Vilas County's commitment (Harris/Timmons).

Discussion on motion:

If Vilas Co. doesn't enter into a joint contract, would Oneida Co. enter into the contract? The Social Services Director stated that it may not be worth the cost without partnering with Vilas. The first and second agreed to amend the motion.

**MOTION:** To approve contract as presented (Harris/Timmons, PASSED).

### **Corporation Counsel**

*Corporation Counsel Travel to Madison 1/24-1/25 for CAP Team (as requested/approved by County Board Chair)*

Corporation Counsel mentioned county board members and administration staff attend the WI Counties Association and explained the County Board Chairman requested Corporation Counsel to attend. Corporation Counsel wanted to share the request and attendance to the committee for approval. If not approved, then staff would have to pay for mileage, etc.

Supervisor Timmons stated UWEX/Land Conservation Committee approves notification to the Committee Chairperson for out of county travel. Corporation Counsel stated county code requires that the Committee of Jurisdiction or the Board Chair approve out of county travel. Public Safety Committee may delegate approval as UWEX/Land Conservation does by motion.

**MOTION:** To approve the reimbursement of item #9 on the agenda Corporation Counsel Travel to Madison 1/24-1/25 for CAP Team (Timmons/Kelly, PASSED).

*Corporation Counsel Travel to Legislative Exchange 2/27-3/1*

Corporation Counsel explain this pertains to the WCA Officials and county staff addressing issues facing counties and information to discuss with legislators, etc.

MOTION: To approve Corporation Counsel to travel to Legislative Exchange 2/27-3/1 (Fisher/Kelly, PASSED).

*Joint County Human Services Agreement Update – Date for joint meeting with Social Services*

The Social Services Director was present. Corporation Counsel suggested scheduling a joint meeting to give county staff direction.

The Social Services Director mentioned the Social Services Committee meeting is scheduled on March 27, 2023 at 9 a.m. and would like to have a joint meeting to share information on how Human Services is structured in WI, each county is structured differently, most counties have human services in one department and what that would look like if our county was structured that way.

Chairperson Schreier referred to concerns expressed by the Sheriff to renew the contract and was inquiring if those concerns would be brought back concerns and be part of the March Social Services Committee meeting. The Social Services Director indicated yes at the joint meeting. Supervisor Timmons inquired if the Sheriff's and Social Services concerns were discussed. The Sheriff informed the Committee that there have been meetings with Social Services and we need guidance on what direction the Committee wants to take, if updating the agreement to fix issues or if take in house then work on structure, etc. The Chief Deputy suggested bringing a model to the Committee that's efficient and will work and then the Committee can proceed with a model and added, even if a new contract was requested it wouldn't be efficient and offered the opinion of in house to be efficient.

Corporation Counsel provided an example of an OWI court and the Human Services Center pulling out of the contract. Human Services does not do on scene screening and converses with the person on the phone. Since COVID, Human Services hasn't conducted in person screenings.

The Social Services Director put a list of items together and the Sheriff has a document to ensure they are on same page to take care of community.

Supervisor Fisher stated a joint meeting is needed to get services we are not receiving and paying for. Chairperson Schreier affirmed the county is paying a lot of money for services and expressed displeasure that Human Services is failing to provide services. Chairperson Schreier preferred to schedule a special meeting to hear concerns, Supervisor Harris agreed. The Social Services Director will take information back to her committee.

The Committee agreed to attend a special meeting with Social Services Committee, March 27, 2023, 9 a.m. or earlier.

The Committee decided to go into three closed sessions.

*It is anticipated that a motion will be made, seconded, and approved by Roll Call Vote to enter into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) for purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (Corporation Counsel Annual Evaluation).*

*It is anticipated that a motion will be made, seconded, and approved by Roll Call Vote to enter into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) for purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (Medical Examiner Annual Evaluation).*

*It is anticipated that a motion will be made, seconded, and approved by Roll Call Vote to enter into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (Lac du Flambeau, Arbor Vitae, and Ambulance Intercept Agreements).*

MOTION: To go into closed sessions pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) for purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (Corporation Counsel Annual Evaluation); pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) for purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (Medical Examiner Annual Evaluation); pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (Lac du Flambeau, Arbor Vitae, and Ambulance Intercept Agreements) (Fisher/Harris, On a Roll Call Vote: Timmons 'aye', Schreier 'aye', Fisher 'aye', Harris 'aye', Kelly 'aye')

The Committee entered into closed session at 10:45 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 (Timmons/Kelly, On a Roll Call Vote: Timmons 'aye', Schreier 'aye', Fisher 'aye', Harris 'aye', Kelly 'aye').

The Committee returned to open session at 11:56 a.m.

*Announcement of action taken in closed session, if such announcement will not undermine the need for the closed session*

MOTION: To forward Corporation Counsel's Evaluation onto LRES (Timmons/Fisher, PASSED).

MOTION: To approve the Sheriff to continue negotiations and to draft a letter concerning ambulance intercepts and assistance with calls for service (Timmons/Fisher, PASSED).

The Committee took a brief break.

### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Medical Examiner's Annual Report.

#### **Sheriff's Office**

*Wages and benefits package for Telecommunicators and Correction Officers:*

- A) Step Plan for Telecommunicators
- B) PTO Increase
- C) Max Comp Time Bank Increase
- D) Weekend Pay
- E) Special Activity Pay: Field Training
- F) Overtime Bonus Plan

The Sheriff addressed difficulty in obtaining applicants and agreed to a step plan with Corrections Officers. The Sheriff's Office has some new hires and had some employees leave and continues to be in the same place.

The Sheriff indicated Dispatch is in good shape, shared other Sheriff Offices are not and is concerned if someone leaves for other opportunities, it may be difficult to fill positions in dispatch. There is one person who will be starting in dispatch. The Sheriff would like to bring a package forward to County Board for a potential resolution to resolve the issue and introduced an idea.

Chairperson Schreier inquired who the County dispatch's for and the Sheriff identified the city and municipal law enforcement agencies. The Sheriff informed the Committee there is a contract with Rhinelander P.D. to dispatch for the city since they are required to provide their own service, contracts were discussed. The Sheriff referred to indeed.com listing jobs and shared wages. The State is 15-16 Correction Officers short. The Sheriff would like to sweeten the package to attract more applicants and at this time has not discussed the package with LRES, wanted to come to the Committee first.

A: The Sheriff proposed a step plan for Telecommunicators the same as Corrections Officers, Step 6 and a step every year until at the top. Normally it takes 17-years to get to the top of the wage scale (Classification G) and proposes to get to the top in 5-years. The Sheriff stated correction officers applications have increased with some possible lateral movement inquiries, a touch better but it is still a struggle, mentioned Minocqua is struggling to obtain dispatchers and asked the Committee to think about the proposal. Supervisor Timmons inquired about the fiscal impact. The Sheriff will attach fiscals to each proposal for the next discussion. Chairperson Schreier referred to graduations right around the corner and would like to have a proposal in place before graduation.

Supervisor Harris mentioned PTO increase or Max Comp may be more attractive to have a work place balance by offering flexibility.

The Sheriff does not want internal inequity/compression and carefully took that into consideration when proposing idea of increasing PTO for Correction Officers and Telecommunicators only, Exhibit #1, and noted, weekend pay incentive may be more attractive to GenZ generation.

F: The Sheriff indicated staff is working a lot of O.T. due to lack of staff. The Jail is short ten correction officers and O.T. was offered to civilian staff and dispatchers and 25% of those employees agreed to work in the jail to help relieve the burden. The Sheriff proposed, Exhibit #2 and asked the Committee to think about the proposal. Supervisor Timmons requested fiscal impacts.

In looking back at the COVID Pandemic, the Sheriff stated staff worked during the time with no additional money. The Sheriff will provide fiscals for proposals at next month's meeting and asked the Committee to bring their ideas to the next meeting to discuss. The Sheriff brought proposals and topics to the Committee during first quarter to discuss to address.

Supervisor Timmons stated the County needs to inform citizens what the costs are to continue services and suggested getting representatives involved if need be.

Chairperson Schreier inquired about a contract for housing inmates. The Sheriff stated there are 22 Dane Co. inmates housed in the Jail and a contract is in place charging \$60/hour (previously charged \$40/hour). There was brief discussion regarding the loss of revenue for State inmates.

#### *2024 Staffing Request: Technical Support*

The Sheriff is requesting a new Technical Support full-time position. The department is experiencing a significant increase in work and are unable to keep up. The Sheriff mentioned he is conservatively asking for position, this is the first position he has requested during his tenure as Sheriff. Technical Support handles open records requests, types reports, data management and covers the front desk. Work is exceeding what we can expect staff to get done. The Sheriff presented a fiscal impact of \$67,986 including fringe benefits. The Chief Deputy added, open records increased by 25% which requires redacting, etc. and reiterated staff cannot keep up. Discussion regarding the number of staff, 3 staff that do the work. The Sheriff stated this not a staffing request for today, request is for the 2024 budget, presented to the Committee.

MOTION: To approve the 2024 staffing request and forward onto LRES for new hire in 2024 (Kelly/Harris, PASSED).

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURN**  
**12:33 p.m.**

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Steven Schreier, Chairperson

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Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary

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Russ Fisher, Vice-Chairperson