

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Mike Timmons, Billy Fried, Mitch Ives, Russ Fisher and Tom Kelly.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Shari Gorney (Corporation Counsel), Heidi Ihn (District Attorney), Jean Meyer (Branch I), Amy Franzen (Register in Probate), Traci Running (Clerk of Circuit Courts), Patti Finlan (Branch II), Crystal Schaub (Medical Examiner), Chief Deputy Hess, Jake Simkins (Sheriff's Office) and Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Timmons called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Room, 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/Fisher, PASSED).

**APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the January 13, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes (Kelly/Fried, PASSED).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)**

The next meeting was scheduled for March 17, 2022 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 (Fried/Ives, PASSED).

**REGISTER IN PROBATE**

*Approval for Register in Probate to attend the 2022 WRIPA Spring Educational Conference in LaCrosse, WI May 4-6, 2022*

Registrar in Probate stated this is in the budget.

MOTION: To approve Register in Probate's request for travel for WRIPA Spring Conference as presented (Fried/Kelly, PASSED).

## **MEDICAL EXAMINER**

### *Relief Funding Fiscal Impact Form Review*

The Medical Examiner (ME) provided a Relief Funding Fiscal Impact Form and packet information, Exhibit #1. An additional vehicle for transports, additional supplies to stock the additional vehicle was added. Packet information was discussed and state bid pricing was explained/referred to.

Supervisor Fried asked if the proposal was using ARPA funds towards the project including new vehicle, communications equipment and a facility to store the new vehicle in, trailer was not part of the \$105,000 request. The ME explained the trailer is not part of the request and indicated it would go through another funding option.

There were discussions regarding: upgrading the ME's mini-van to a truck, having a backup plan/second request if funds do not come through, on-call process, generated revenues, access to secured areas and challenges with storage.

Chairman Timmons stated the trailer is not part of today's discussion, previously addressed/granted.

MOTION: to support the Relief Funding Fiscal Impact Project as presented and submit an alternate proposal (Fried/Kelly, PASSED).

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

### *Oneida County Code 5.25(2) Duty Weapon upon Retirement: Jim Adams*

Chief Deputy Hess requested the duty weapon of Jim Adams be transferred to Adam's personal possession upon retirement.

MOTION: To approve issuing duty weapon upon retirement to per Oneida County Code (Mitch/Russ, PASSED).

### *Protective Status for Correction Officers*

Chief Deputy Hess stated the department is having difficulty recruiting correction officers, currently are down seven officers and are filling in with Deputies. The Sheriff's Office is proposing to offer protective status for correction officers with a 5.5% increase (per employee) to the State retirement system to help with longevity and retain employees. Chief Deputy mentioned State Correction Officers have protective status.

There were discussions to not increase wages, Carlson-Dettman process and employer cost into the State retirement system.

MOTION: To support the Oneida County Sheriff's Office to go forward with proposal on Protective Status for Correction Officers and forward onto the Labor Relations Employee Services Department or appropriate department for their review (Timmons/Kelly).

Discussion on Motion:

Supervisor Fried agreed giving departments tools (pay for education, upgrade positions, etc.) to address issue. There were discussions regarding signing bonuses, what questions are asked by interviewees and the dollar amount employer would contribute to retirement.

MOTION: To support the Oneida County Sheriff's Office to go forward with proposal on Protective Status for Correction Officers and forward onto the Labor Relations Employee Services Department or appropriate department for their review (Timmons/Kelly, PASSED).

*Ambulance Negotiations*

The Sheriff's Office Captain of Emergency Services introduced himself to the Committee and shared the following: ambulance service negotiations are moving forward, hospitals are transitioning into Aspirus structure and are reviewing last contract for this year's bargaining contract. The Captain of Emergency Services mentioned some language has been cleaned up, asked Aspirus to have employees pay for difference of using the incorrect/higher cost fuel to re-coop expenses with an \$100 charge if needed, staffing at Howard Young Medical Center remains same, do not want to decrease county ambulance service, experiencing staffing issues and are possibly looking at reducing service from Paramedic/EMT staff to two EMT staff units and run an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Unit out of Rhinelander. The Captain stated it is not Aspirus's goal to go down to two EMT's unless cannot put a paramedic on shift. The Chief Deputy stated during meetings, the County is not in favor of lowering staffing levels.

Chairman Timmons suggested possibly reducing staffing levels on the second out/third out ambulances instead of the primary first-out ambulance (Paramedic-EMT Level).

There were discussions regarding the Committee reviewing the ambulance contract/fiscal impact before approving contract, reoccurring contract with Ministry now negotiating with Aspirus, staffing levels (Paramedic/EMT), negotiating process and dollar amounts.

Chairman Timmons requested to review contract and receive frequent updates. The Chief Deputy indicated updates are brought to the Committee and suggested the Chairman request information to be listed on agendas as needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment was given.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Ambulance Contract (April), report back on Protective Status (April).

**ADJOURN**  
**10:47 a.m.**

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Mike Timmons, Chairman

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Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary

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Russ Fisher, Vice-Chairman