

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 15, 2021**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Karilyne Roberts (Hodag Country Festival), Dixie Nieuwenhuiz (Hodag Country Festival), Gerry VanHarpen (Hodag Country Festival), Dawn Eckert (Hodag Country Festival), Keith Troutman (Bubba's Big Party and Bubba's Bog Bash), Mike Fugle (Corporation Counsel), Chad Lynch (Corporation Counsel), Shari Gorney (Corporation Counsel), Sheriff Hartman, Amy Franzen (Register in Probate), Heidi Ihn (District Attorney), Jean Meyer (Branch I), Jen Allen (Branch II), Traci Running (Clerk of Courts), Todd Troskey (Public Health), Tracy Hartman (County Clerk) 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 (Ives/Kelly, PASSED).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the March 11, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes (Fisher/Kelly, PASSED).

**SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)**

The next meeting was scheduled for May 20, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

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

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

**Large Assembly**

*Public Comments on Bubba's Big Party*

None.

*Discussion with Bubba's Big Party Organizers regarding health guidelines and orders and compliance issues*

Keith Troutman present. Troutman indicated the event is on an open 80-acre field, events are located outdoors, state mask mandate lifted, vaccinations are available and neither of his events last year had someone, had staff nor family come down with COVID-19.

Troskey stated there is no safe or easy way to hold large gatherings even though there are vaccination clinics and stated the Department of Health Services provided considerations for gatherings. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services Considerations for Gatherings was presented to committee members, Exhibit #1.

The Committee reviewed Exhibit #1.

*Bubba's Big Party Large Assembly-Decision on 2021 Permit Application (Keith Troutman)*

Chairman Timmons stated it is an outdoor gathering, businesses are opening, people are social distancing and wearing masks and according to television media it was reported that Oneida County is 25% vaccinated. The Chairman is in favor to move forward.

Supervisor Ives agreed, stated this is on Troutman's private property and is in favor of the request.

Supervisor Fisher referred to Eagle River snowmobile racing event, Forest County's Brush Run event and getting back to normalcy.

Supervisor Kelly referred to a personal experience with someone who has lasting effects. Supervisor Kelly stated he will vote against the permit.

Supervisor Fried indicated last year he did not support large assemblies, felt last year we were trying to prevent the virus from getting here and slow down the curve and saw a spike. Supervisor Fried agreed to move forward this year and give private individuals the ability to hold events, leave it up to individual decisions. Supervisor Fried indicated private businesses need to be responsible and take guidance from the Health Department to give options to participants to participate in a safe manner. Supervisor Fried referred to past applications normally being forwarded onto the Health Department for review with applicant. There was discussion.

The County Clerk explained the process for notifying the Health Department and, the large assembly permit application process and review.

Supervisor Fried sits on the Health Committee, stated the Health Department did not know these permits were coming. Moving forward, if the permit is approved it should be on the condition the individual running the event meets with the Health Department to review guidance on what can be implemented.

There was a question if the Health Department licenses large assembly events. The County Clerk stated the Health Department licenses the food vendors and works with sanitation and water. License comes from the Public Safety Committee.

The Chairperson referred to pre-pandemic large assembly events and mentioned any past event issues were corrected going forward.

**MOTION:** To support Bubba's Big Party Large Assembly Permit as presented under the condition of meeting with the Sheriff's Office and the Health Department with any concerns and implement guidance (Fried/Fisher).

Troutman agreed.

Discussion on motion:

Supervisor Ives asked if the organizer needs to meet with the Health Department. Corporation Counsel indicated the application includes sanitary requirements, referred disclosures of Section 4c and stated this committee determines if application is complete with standards set forth, if meets criteria, the application for license is processed, review by this committee and law official's. Corporation Counsel indicated there is nothing within statute to meet any specific health code, can ask him to but cannot revoke license on that. There is no basis to revoke the permit if Troutman doesn't meet with the Health Department.

Supervisor Fried stated discussions did not occur as they have in the past and wants to ensure that it does.

Troskey stated the Health Department has been working together with Troutman and with Hodag Officials for a long time pre-COVID and things ran smooth.

Sheriff agreed with Troskey, working together smoothly with Troutman and Country Fest Representatives and have open communication.

No public comments submitted by email.

**MOTION:** To support Bubba's Big Party Large Assembly Permit as presented under the condition of meeting with the Sheriff's Office and the Health Department with any concerns and implement guidance (Fried/Fisher, Vote: 4-ayes 1-nay, PASSED).

*Public Comments on Bubba's Bog Bash*

None.

*Discussion with Bubba's Bog Bash Organizers regarding health guidelines and orders and compliance issues*

Supervisor Fried asked if something occurred last year. Troutman heard something happened with campers but it was hear-say.

The Sheriff was asked if he had any concerns with last year's event, the Sheriff had no concerns.

Supervisor Fisher explained the application was approved pre-COVID and was brought back up again. Supervisor Fisher asked if a large assembly permit was needed. Troutman stated both events do not require a large assembly permit.

*Bubba's Bog Bash Large Assembly-Decision on 2021 Permit Application (Keith Troutman)*

**MOTION:** To approve Bubba's Bog Bash Large Assembly as presented and discussed (Fried/Ives, Vote: 4-ayes 1-nay, PASSED).

*Public Comments on Hodag Country Festival*

For the record, the Chairman read and cited emails received, all positive.

No additional comments were given.

*Discussion with Hodag Country Festival Organizers regarding health guidelines and orders and compliance issues*

Hodag Representatives present: Dawn Eckert, Dixie Nieuwenhuiz and Gerry VanHarpen. VanHarpen presented a Hodag Country Festival 2021 Safety Plan Relative to COVID-19, Exhibit #2. The Committee reviewed it.

Supervisor Ives stated the handout was a good outline, had no concerns, reiterated this is a private event and is in favor of granting the application.

Troskey had the same comments as earlier.

Sheriff had the same comments as earlier.

*Hodag Country Festival Large Assembly-Decision on 2021 Permit Application (Hodag 50)*

**MOTION:** To approve the Hodag 50 Country Festival Large Assembly (Ives/Fisher Vote: 4-ayes 1-nay, PASSED).

### **Corporation Counsel**

*Introduce new Assistant Corporation Counsel*

Chad Lynch was introduced to the Committee. Corporation Counsel Fugle stated Lynch was with the Public Defender's Office in Rhinelander. The Committee welcomed Lynch.

### **Sheriff's Office**

*Sheriff's Office Write Offs*

The Sheriff provided the Committee with a write off document showing the amount, noted the yearly write offs are for people who do not pay and stated the office has a better debt collection system in place. Surcharges will be brought forward during budget time.

**MOTION:** To approve the Sheriff's Office Write Offs as presented in the amount of \$233.64 (Timmons/Fried, PASSED).

*State Inmate Count Update*

As of today there are 69 state inmates, 16 state inmates currently in the jail that are waiting to be transported to state prisons and there is a hold up at the state to accept inmates. The Sheriff added there is COVID money that will pay for and back pay for state inmates. There was discussion regarding Camp McNaughton inmates and cost if those inmates.

Information only.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Supervisor Fried would like to add: Single Point of Entry and discuss combining two Court Branches and the Clerk of Courts Office.

**ADJOURN**

**10:19 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