

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 19, 2022**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steven Schreier, Russ Fisher, Tom Kelly, and Mike Timmons (arrived @ 9:42 a.m.)

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT: Diane Harris

OTHERS PRESENT: Shari Gorney (Corporation Counsel), Patti Finlan (Branch II), Heidi Ihn (DA Office), Amy Franzen (Probate), Luke Johnson (Medical Examiner), Brenda Behrle (Clerk of Courts), Jean Meyer (Branch I) Sheriff Grady Hartman, Jake Simkins (Emergency Management)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Schreier 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 (Fisher/Kelly, PASSED).

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the April 21, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes (Kelly/Fisher, PASSED).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for June 23, 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 (Fisher/Kelly, PASSED)

CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH I

Retirement of Judge Patrick O'Melia

Jean Meyer reported Judge Patrick O'Melia's retirement date is August 1, 2022. Meyer shared the process to replace Judge O'Melia. The Governor takes applications and will appoint a new judge. Meyer stated the new Judge would have to run in the April election. There was discussion on where the applicants come from and when the application process begins. Meyer stated there could be more information by the next meeting date. Chairman Schreier asked this item be on the agenda for the June meeting.

REGISTER IN PROBATE

Approval for Juvenile Clerk to attend Juvenile Clerk's Conference in Madison, WI, July 20-22, 2022

Amy Franzen stated the Juvenile Clerk has one in-person conference per year, but they are trying to get more Zoom-type meetings/presentations throughout the year. Franzen stated Lisa Hilgendorf has been in this position for one year as of June 1, 2022 and it is extremely important for her to attend. Lodging/fees paid for, county pays only for meals.

MOTION: To approve the Juvenile Clerk to attend the Juvenile Clerk's Conference in Madison, WI, July 20-22, 2022 (Kelly/Fisher, PASSED).

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff's Annual Report

A short discussion was held about the Sheriff's Office Annual Report.

No motion needed, informational report only.

Corrections Officer Wage Schedule

Sheriff Hartman stated this topic has been discussed with this committee in previous months. The Oneida County Jail staff consists of 26 employees (including one captain and one lieutenant), and they are currently down six (6) employees at this time, not including one still on FTO and a dispatcher who was a former CO. The first printout (Exhibit 1) jail employees, hire date, and the step they are on at this time. There are six vacancies, of which one person took a job as a garbage truck operator with better wages/hours/benefits, one went to a bank with better wages/hours/benefits, and two are going on the road in patrol. Sheriff Hartman reported Vilas County went to hire on bonus, which is going away. Vilas County is raising wages considerably for jail staff, with the rest of their employees in wage study. All 72 sheriff's are in same boat with jail staff and some with dispatch also.

Sheriff Hartman put this on agenda as there have been no applicants. Two interviews were held yesterday, with backgrounds needing to be completed before offers made. CO's Hollands, Hable, Miramontes, and Nelson are at the retirement point and can at any time if they choose.

Sheriff Hartman presented a proposal to change the wage schedule for Corrections Officers and Corrections Sergeants. The proposal today is to delete Steps 1-5 on the wage scale and start Corrections Officers and Corrections Sergeants only at Step 6, and they climb once per year (instead of once every other year) to Step 11. The employee list with step employee is currently on is for reference (Exhibit 1). Kelly asked how this would affect the budget. Hartman stated it would cost money.

Hartman noted that in 2019, the Carlson Dettman was reviewed and it was suggested the county implement a raise of 4% plus cost of living. The County approved and did implement 2% and other 2% was never addressed. The county wage scale is now behind 2% because of that, and the Last CPI was 5.9%, so in theory, the county wage scale is

now behind 8%. Hartman noted that the county board should be prepared for this budget cycle to be one of the toughest ones because of wages, inflation, etc. and be prepared for cutting services, increasing wages, etc. to all be on the table.

Timmons asked if Hartman's proposal will be okay for this year's budget to get to next year, where there should be substantial vacancy review monies. Hartman stated yes. Timmons noted this should be alright with any proposal to start, due to vacancies. Timmons noted that going forward we will need to be creative.

Kelly asked if the six (6) vacancies were creating overtime. Hartman stated tons. By the end of the year there could be an estimated 540 hours of OT for each CO. Hartman stated the last couple years has been rough for jail and the staff are feeling it and morale is lowering. The burden is being shared a bit, and they are being creative, with deputies covering at jail (some promoted from jail are fully capable to work there).

Schreier stated that unless the committee feels there is some reason they would not support what a department head brings to them, he has no problem supporting what Hartman is suggesting. Schreier noted that on average, this proposal would be a \$3/hr raise. Hartman stated those on Step 4 & lower would gain, Step 10 won't, but would get yearly instead of every other year. Timmons noted that if you look anywhere, businesses are starting people at \$20/hr. Timmons noted that LRES has their hands full. Hartman stated he had come to the committee for many months with this problem, and now they need to bite the bullet and something's gotta give.

MOTION: To approve the Corrections Officer Wage Schedule changes as presented by Sheriff Hartman and move the proposal on to LRES Committee (Timmons/Kelly, PASSED).

Ambulance Service Agreement

It is anticipated that a motion will be made, seconded, and approved by Roll Call Vote to enter into Closed Session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e), Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (Ambulance Service Agreement). A Roll Call Vote will be taken to go into closed session.

MOTION: To enter into closed session pursuant to WI Stats Section 19.85(1)(e), Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (Ambulance Service Agreement). (Kelly/Timmons, On Roll Call Vote: Schreier: Aye, Timmons: Aye, Fisher: Aye, Kelly: Aye).

The Committee entered closed session at 10:04 a.m.

MOTION: To return to open session (Kelly/Fisher, On Roll Call Vote: Schreier: Aye, Timmons: Aye, Fisher: Aye, Kelly: Aye).

The committee returned to open session at 10:42 a.m.

No action was taken in closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Retirement of Judge Patrick O'Melia (updates)

ADJOURN

10:45 a.m.

Steven Schreier, Chairman

Andi Seidel, Committee Secretary

Russ Fisher, Vice-Chairman

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