

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
December 9, 2021**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Timmons, Tom Kelly, Billy Fried, Russ Fisher

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mitch Ives

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Heidi Ihn (District Attorney), Crystal Schaub (Medical Examiner), Brenda Behrle (Clerk of Courts), Jean Meyer (Branch I), Patti Finlan (Branch II), Mike Fugle (Corp. Counsel), Grady Hartman (Sheriff's Office), Dan Hess (Sheriff's Office)

**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 (Fried/Kelly, PASSED).

**APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the November 11, 2021, Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Fisher/Fried, PASSED).

**SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)**

The next meeting was scheduled for January 13, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

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

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

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Clerk of Courts Long Range Departmental Plan

**Exhibit 1**

Discussion was had regarding the Clerk of Courts' Long Range Plan as well as the progress that staff has made in scanning case files into the system.

MOTION: To approve the Clerk of Courts' Long Range Plan as presented (Fried/Fisher, PASSED)

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Resolution on Double Celling of Inmates

**Exhibit 2**

Sheriff Hartman and the Committee discussed the resolution and Sheriff Hartman advised that he believes, due to state inmates all being transported out, that corrections minimum staffing levels could be reduced from five on day shift and four on night shift to four on day shift and three on night shift, as all inmates could potentially be moved to one side of the jail. Timmons questioned as to if the resolution would need to be followed or if it would simply provide the option to have lower staffing levels when appropriate. Sheriff Hartman advised that the resolution would simply set the bar for minimum staffing requirements, but Sheriff Hartman would have the ability to staff above that as deemed appropriate. Fried questioned potential liability created by the resolution. Discussion was also had regarding money saving to the county if the resolution was accepted. Sheriff Hartman advised that this would save the county money on overtime, as at the time of the meeting, corrections was down seven corrections officers. Sheriff Hartman and Chief Deputy Hess also advised that the resolution was approved by the Wisconsin DOC.

MOTION: To approve the resolution as presented by Sheriff Hartman and forward to the county board (Fried/ Fisher, PASSED)

#### Annual Booking Report per Wis. §59.54(15)

Sheriff presented the annual booking report to the Committee for review and advised there were 3,500 bookings.

MOTION: To accept the Annual Booking Report as presented by Sheriff Hartman (Timmons/ Kelly, PASSED).

Clarification was made that Sheriff Hartman is required by Wisconsin state statute to present the booking report to the Committee every year.

#### Update on County Radio System

Timmons advised that he was looking for an update specifically regarding the progress of the radio systems, due to the inadequate radio service in the Woodruff area. Discussion was had regarding the progress during which time, Sheriff Hartman and Chief Deputy Hess advised the upgrade was slowed down by COVID-19, as the power supplies coming from China have taken six to eight months to be delivered.

#### Update on County Ambulance Contract and Staffing

Discussion was had regarding the contract with Aspirus for ambulance services to the county. Sheriff Hartman and Chief Deputy Hess advised the Committee that with recent vaccine mandates, the hospitals are extremely short staffed, which is a concern with regard to the quality of care that county residents will receive as a result. Sheriff Hartman explained that while the contract is being met on Aspirus' end, there is concern that the way things are being handled at the present time is not sustainable. Sheriff Hartman advised the Committee that Sheriff Hartman was looking for input and

suggestions as to what the Committee would like to see happen (i.e. negotiate with Aspirus or look into other options).

Other options such as private ambulance services and making the ambulance service a county run department were discussed. Discussion regarding the benefits and costs of assisting other jurisdictions such as Lac Du Flambeau and Vilas County was also had.

Timmons advised Sheriff Hartman that the Committee would like Sheriff Hartman to attempt negotiations with Aspirus and report back to the Committee with the results. Fried also advised Sheriff Hartman that it is important to the Committee that the quality of care remain the same or improve, not decrease.

## **CORPORATION COUNSEL**

### Corporation Counsel Long Range Planning

#### **Exhibit 4**

Fugle and the Committee discussed Corporation Counsel's Long Range Plan. Discussion was had that planning for the future is not always possible, due to the nature of what the office handles.

MOTION: To accept the Long Range Plan as presented by Corporation Counsel (Fried/Timmons, PASSED).

It is anticipated a motion will be made, seconded and approved by roll call vote to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility. A roll call vote will be taken to go into closed session (Topic: Reclassification Request Corp Counsel Secretary I to Corporation Counsel Secretary II).

MOTION: To go into closed session pursuant to WI Stats Section 19.85(1)(c) 'for the purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the body has jurisdiction or responsibility. Topic: Reclassification Request Corp Counsel Secretary I to Corporation Counsel Secretary II). (Fisher/Kelly, On Roll Call Vote: Timmons: Aye, Fisher: Aye, Kelly: Aye, Fried: Aye).

The Committee entered closed session at 10:40 a.m.

MOTION: To return to open session 11:06 a.m. (Timmons/Fisher, On Roll Call Vote: Timmons: Aye, Fisher: Aye, Kelly: Aye, Fried: Aye).

The committee returned to open session at 10:07 a.m.

MOTION: To forward the Corporation Counsel Secretary I and Secretary II to LRES Committee for reclassification, as it would be inequitable to only forward the Corporation Counsel Legal Secretary to reclassification that was listed (Timmons/ Fisher, PASSED).

**MEDICAL EXAMINER**

Long Term Plan for Medical Examiner  
**Exhibit 5**

Discussion was had regarding the Medical Examiner's Long Term Plan as well as the previously mentioned possibility of performing autopsies in this area in the future.

MOTION: To approve the Medical Examiner's Long Term Plan as presented (Fried/Kelly, PASSED)

It is anticipated a motion will be made, seconded and approved by roll call vote to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility. A roll call vote will be taken to go into closed session (Topic: Medical Examiner's Performance Evaluation).

MOTION: To go into closed session pursuant to WI Stats Section 19.85(1)(c) 'for the purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the body has jurisdiction or responsibility. Topic: Medical Examiner's Performance Evaluation Review. (Fisher/Kelly, On Roll Call Vote: Timmons: Aye, Fisher: Aye, Kelly: Aye, Ives: Aye).

The Committee entered closed session at 11:14 a.m.

MOTION: To return to open session 11:36 a.m. (Kelly/Fisher, On Roll Call Vote: Timmons: Aye, Fisher: Aye, Kelly: Aye, Fried: Aye).

The committee returned to open session at 11:36 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S)**

Update on the ambulance contract and staffing from the Sheriff's Office

**ADJOURN**

11:38 a.m.

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Mike Timmons, Chairman

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Cambrya Hurlburt, Committee Secretary

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Russ Fisher, Vice-Chairman