

Minutes

Public Safety Committee

September 19, 2018, 4:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Niebel, Bankoski, Whitford, Pavlock, Vanstrom

Others: Tampio, Ames, Chagnon, Dennison, Cresanti, Gerace, Griffith, Volpe, Wendel, Schuyler, Wilfong

Chairman Niebel called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (8/15/18)

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Vanstrom

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time.

Proposed Resolution- Amend 2018 Budget for Office of the Sheriff

Ms. Cresanti: These budget amendments primarily pertain to equipment leases that would be computer equipment for these two particular departments. We have leases that rotate out and there are probably one or two that end up rotating out every year and sometimes there are additional equipment needs in these departments.

Chairman Niebel: So you are just increasing the appropriation accounts and decreasing the personnel services for the Sheriff's Department?

Ms. Cresanti: That is correct.

Sheriff Gerace: Yes.

Chairman Niebel: OK. That is simple enough. Any questions for the Sheriff's Department? All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Erie II BOCES for Culinary Arts Instruction

Sheriff Gerace: Mr. Chairman, this is a program we have had in operation for a long time- I think over a decade. We utilize it to teach inmates culinary arts. They work in the kitchen and they leave there with a certificate which can help them for employment. It is one of three certificate programs that we have through BOCES for inmates. There is one for blueprint reading and custodial- I think we have one for OSHA, as well. So actually, that would be four certificate programs. We are working to get our welding certifications back. We used to have one for welding. We teach them blueprint reading and then the (*inaudible*) they have to do when they are placed in a work place.

Chairman Niebel: I have seen this for at least the last five years and it is the same. Any questions on this one? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Erie II BOCES for School Resource Officers

Sheriff Gerace: We have had a school resource officer at BOCES for a number of years. We actually have two separate contracts. One is for an SRO at- are they all on one now?

Ms. Cresanti: Yes.

Sheriff Gerace: We had one in each- one at Hewes, one at Loguidice and then they merged to be one. Then, they added the Alt. Ed. Center in Cassadaga and put a full SRO there. That was a year or two ago. So now, we have two SRO's. Of the two SRO's, one splits between Loguidice and Hewes.

Chairman Niebel: Joe, this is for two Deputy Sheriff's from the period of July 1st through June 30th of 2019?

Sheriff Gerace: That is correct.

Chairman Niebel: Shared between the three facilities.

Sheriff Gerace: Yes.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions for Joe or the Sheriff's Department on this one? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Execution for New York State Office of Homeland Security Grant for State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (SLETPP) FY18

Sheriff Gerace: Mr. Chair, this is a grant that has no local match that we use to offset some of the costs to Matt Trusso's salary, who is head of our technology radio program.

Chairman Niebel: All state funds?

Sheriff Gerace: That is correct. There is no local share.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions on this? All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Execution for New York State Office of Homeland Security And Emergency Services Grant for Explosive Detection Canine Team FY17

Sheriff Gerace: Mr. Chair, this is monies that we can utilize for overtime for the canine officer, backfill because there is time that they will be training and we will backfill their shift, and equipment supplies. Again, there is no local share to this, but it is specific to explosive detection.

Chairman Niebel: Joe, I didn't print the whole thing out but this doesn't affect 2018? Just the 2019 budget because we aren't going to be using it in 2018- there won't be any budgetary-

Ms. Cresanti: Correct.

Chairman Niebel: No budget adjustments in 2018.

Ms. Cresanti: Right.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions on this one? All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- 2017 Hazardous Materials Grant Program

Mr. Griffith: Good afternoon. This is a grant that Dan Imfeld, the hazmat coordinator, has applied for and we have been fortunate enough to get that. This is a combination grant that we use with the Counties of Alleghany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua. This is a cooperative effort. The bulk of it is run through our office because we are the only one with an active hazmat team and it works out really well for Chautauqua County- it works out well for all three counties.

Chairman Niebel: It is for \$80,000 and it's- we increased three appropriation accounts and it's offset by the increase in the revenue account?

Mr. Griffith: Yes.

Chairman Niebel: Is this only State funds?

Legislator Vanstrom: It says both State and Federal.

Chairman Niebel: OK. Any questions for John?

Legislator Whitford: Are we the lead agency on this?

Mr. Griffith: We are. I work this along with the Emergency Services Directors Chris Baker from Cattaraugus County and Jeff (*inaudible*) from Alleghany County.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions from John? All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Establishment of Certified Ambulance Service

Chairman Niebel: We already have the ALS service, but this is going a step further?

Mr. Griffith: Correct. We have the ALS Intercept Service.

Chairman Niebel: So this goes further than the fly car service?

Mr. Griffith: Right. The biggest reasons for this- well there are several reasons. We have a crisis going on not only Chautauqua County, but in New York State- actually in the entire United States. There is a lack of volunteer first responders to come in and man ambulances. We have several instances in Chautauqua County where- 25 times since the first of the year, more than three departments have been called for EMS calls with no one responding and the fire coordinators have then been toned out. Different coordinators have done different things. I have taken calls in Falconer, the Fourth Battalion Coordinator has taken calls in Frewsburg, the Second Battalion Coordinator has helped on calls from Westfield, and Steve Cobb has helped on calls on the North end. We use a three-three-two call out system. That means we call and three minutes later we call again, and three minutes later we call again, and then two minutes after that we call the next department. It is a crisis to be calling an ambulance and to be sitting there- it doesn't have to be in the middle of the night. This could be the middle of the afternoon or in the evening, but the majority of the time it is in the middle of the night. It doesn't have to be on a weekday, it could be on a weekend. It has happened several different times throughout the year. We have to have a better system that will respond to those things. The current ALS intercept system that we have right now only works from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. It does not work on Sunday and it does not work at night. By expanding the current system to 24/7, 365, we would have ALS and BLS ambulance service throughout the night. We

are looking hours of operation for it to go from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with three or four ALS intercept vehicles and one BLS ambulance and then from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. with one ALS intercept vehicle and one ALS staffed ambulance. We don't have to take every call. If a local department can crew up, that is fantastic. If we have to take a call, we need to take that call and move forward. Staffing for the thing would be ten full time paramedics and ten part time paramedics, six basic full time EMT's and four basic EMT's part time.

Chairman Niebel: John, let me just interrupt you a little bit. Right now, we are just talking about the establishment of the Certified Ambulance Service. Some of that we will get into a little bit more with the discussion on the fly car service. My question is the reason that we need a certified ambulance service is- does it have something to do with the Medicare?

Mr. Griffith: It has everything to do with the Medicaid.

Chairman Niebel: Right, Medicaid.

Mr. Griffith: We cannot bill Medicaid at this time. We live in a county that is older and not as wealthy. We have a lot of Medicaid calls and we cannot bill those calls right now.

Legislator Vanstrom: Why not?

Mr. Griffith: Because you can't bill them on an ALS intercept system alone, you have to have an ambulance- what's called a municipal CON, certificate of need, and that allows you to bill Medicaid because you have an ambulance. Only ambulance services can bill Medicaid.

Chairman Niebel: So this is kind of the reason for this resolution?

Mr. Griffith: This is a big reason for it. The reason right now is to create this. We would have to put an ambulance in service, we would have to do a certain minimal amount of work to do this and that would allow us to bill Medicaid.

Legislator Vanstrom: Which the fly cars can't do?

Mr. Griffith: The fly cars cannot bill Medicaid. If we treat a Medicaid patient at this time, we can't bill them. It is very hard to really understand. Until I got into this, I didn't understand it.

Legislator Bankoski: Do you have any projections on what you would- what is this going to cost compared to the revenue this will bring in?

Mr. Griffith: How much the Medicaid brings in- I brought a lot of figures with me today, but I didn't bring that one with me. It's in the thousands of dollars. I will get that number to you.

Legislator Whitford: It would be nice to know what percentage of this certified ambulance service would be covered by Medicaid if we initiated it.

Mr. Griffith: Well, if you take the certified ambulance service and if you run it as a true ambulance service and you are going out to run it and do ambulance work, you can pick up roughly- I can't remember the exact number, but I believe it is roughly \$300,000 because you would actually be doing transports and handling those calls where you can bill them both on a BLS and an ALS situation depending on if you are providing ALS in the ambulance or not. Those numbers will come out in the budget.

Legislator Pavlock: I have a question. Just because you would be a certified ambulance service, would only the ambulance be able to charge Medicaid, or would it enable the fly cars to be able to bill Medicaid?

Mr. Griffith: It enables the fly cars to charge Medicaid.

Legislator Pavlock: So everyone would be able to charge Medicaid.

Mr. Griffith: Right.

Legislator Vanstrom: Do we need a fleet of ambulances?

Mr. Griffith: No, only one.

Legislator Bankoski: Where would this be stationed at?

Mr. Griffith: Right now, it would probably be stationed right here in Mayville. It's about as central of a location as you can get. The response time out of Mayville to pretty much anywhere in the County is pretty good. There is a lot of discussion about this. Some people think Sinclairville would be the most central but that's not as good East/West as it is North/South. Here in Mayville is pretty good East/West and North/South.

Chairman Niebel: And you could always adjust that based on the calls-

Mr. Griffith: Without a doubt. Yes.

Chairman Niebel: Because at one time you had a fly car stationed in Arkwright and you moved it to Sheridan because more of the calls were down in the Silver Creek, Fredonia, and Dunkirk area.

Mr. Griffith: Plus we had housing thing- we could house in Sheridan Fire Department. We have a great relationship and we are very thankful for the Sheridan Fire Department who lets us house in their fire hall, just as Falconer lets us house in the South end.

Chairman Niebel: We will get into more of the fly car situation during the discussion, but as far as the certified ambulance service, if we have this and pass this it will allow us to charge for Medicaid? For the ALS service and the BLS service?

Mr. Griffith: Yes, for any ALS or BLS service that we do.

Chairman Niebel: Is everyone clear on that?

Legislator Vanstrom: I just have one more question. So, we buy one ambulance, we establish this service- then are we mandated to do this 24/7?

Mr. Griffith: No, we are not.

Legislator Vanstrom: So we could keep the same hours that we have or increase them-

Mr. Griffith: They are related but they are unrelated. One does not require the other.

Legislator Vanstrom: The staff that you started talking about, that is-

Mr. Griffith: That would be if you took the system that we have today and expanded it. Expanding the system is not required by the municipal CON. We could maintain the hours we have now with the municipal CON.

Legislator Bankoski: Do you have an estimate on what the ambulance would cost?

Mr. Griffith: We figured that for roughly \$6,500 we could put an active ambulance in service. Used ambulances are relatively cheap and we have everything to put inside it. We actually have a vehicle that we could use. It is going to take a little work to get it up and running. It was the District Attorney's unit and he doesn't need it anymore and we could use that unit if we just re-letter it.

Chairman Niebel: John that is equipment, but what about personnel?

Mr. Griffith: We would not have to change personnel. Not right now. We are not looking to go into service until 2019.

Chairman Niebel: Any further questions on this resolution? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Discussion- Fly Car Update- John Griffith- Director of Emergency Services

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Vanstrom to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (5:03 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia L. Ames, Committee Secretary