

Minutes

Public Safety Committee

January 16, 2019, 4:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

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

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, Griffith, Cresanti, Quattrone, Rice, O'Connell

Chairman Niebel called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (12/12/18)

MOVED by Legislator Vanstrom, SECONDED by Legislator Bankoski

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time.

Proposed Resolution- Confirm Appointment & Re-Appointments – Emergency Medical Services Council

Mr. Griffith: Good afternoon.

Chairman Niebel: Just briefly- these people are being appointed or re-appointed?

Mr. Griffith: Mostly re-appointed. The EMS is an advisory council made up of representatives from at-large, both north and south, the medical services, the hospitals, and also the fire battalions. Those people were appointed through that group and the confirmation is through the County Executive and the Legislature.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions about this proposed resolution? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Amend Capital Project Accounts

Mr. Griffith: We had in the capital projects for 2018- we had \$60,000 designated for the paving of the Murphy training center and the Taylor training center. Murphy in Dunkirk- Taylor

in Jamestown. We were able to work with the DPF and get millings put in and then working with DPF Director Bentley, he stated that as long as he had millings he could help take care of our driveways. So, what we need done is we need to put alarm systems in those two buildings. We have quite a few assets in there in the form of wide screen televisions, computer, projectors and things like that. If you're familiar with either one of those training centers- they are both the same. The classroom areas are way in the back. You can't see once you're back. You could never see from the street if someone was there. So, to protect those assets we need to add the security systems. We had two bids on the security system, one from a vendor through the County and one through FS, which we use in our building. FS is a bid you have there for that amount. It was by far and away the cheaper of the two and by moving those monies through capital projects we could take part of that \$60,000 and put those security systems in plus the first year monitoring. It's important to get the first year monitoring because we didn't have that money in the budget. After this, we would put money in the budget for the monitoring.

The other part of that is for an ambulance. In the 2019 budget we have \$6,500 to buy a used ambulance. \$6,500 will buy an ambulance, but \$30,000 will buy a much better ambulance. It's going to be much more reliable, much less maintenance, and much cheaper to maintain and cheaper to keep running on the road. By taking the money from the capital project and refunding the rest of it, which we don't need, we're actually in a way saving the County money by doing it this way as opposed to doing a paving project. By working with DPF and inter facility work we really made out what I think is a great program for the County to do this and to get up and going.

Chairman Niebel: John, just a quick question. So, the county ambulance- to get it up and going is going to be how much?

Mr. Griffith: We're looking to spend about \$30,000 for an ambulance. That will buy a much better ambulance than what \$6,500 will buy.

Chairman Niebel: OK. Above and beyond the \$6,500 that we talked about?

Mr. Griffith: We would put the \$6,500 with it to stock it and get it up and running. So, we could go about \$36,500. We also have two ambulances up in our building that would trade in. I don't believe there's a lot of money in those. One was the old fire police ambulance, which is pretty shot and the other is the old DA's investigation ambulance, which he signed over to me and said I could do whatever I wanted with as long as I got rid of it. So, we would put those up for sale and put that money also towards an ambulance. A new ambulance is about \$200,000. Our home department just bought one for \$200,000. Our old ambulance we sold for \$8,000, but it was an old ambulance. \$30,000 will buy you a really good ambulance with a lot more life- probably a southern one that will run without maintenance costs and give us good return on our investment.

Legislator Bankoski: Have you shopped around for this?

Mr. Griffith: We haven't shopped because we didn't know how much money we would have until got done. We've looked at ambulances and there's a lot of used ambulances out there. Good ambulances in this price range- low mileage, diesels, automatic transmissions-

Legislator Vanstrom: I'm not opposed to this transition, I'm not. It sounds like a good idea, but we just got asked to- we just talked about an ambulance recently. We just talked about these used vehicles being sufficient. I mean, I'm not opposed to what you're asking for, but-

Mr. Griffith: We did-

Legislator Vanstrom: I feel like this is deja vu. We just talked about these other vehicles being sufficient for the program expansion.

Chairman Niebel: Lisa I would just like to add to that. John, have you checked with some of the other departments just to see if they have ambulances that they might be willing to sell the County for little to nothing? One department in particular- Lakewood. Don't they have an extra-

Mr. Griffith: They have two ambulances in service. They're using both of them.

Chairman Niebel: Do they have another one besides-

Mr. Griffith: No, just the two.

Legislator Bankoski: I can speak to that. Dunkirk has two but usually by the time Dunkirk is done with one of them it's pretty much worn out.

Mr. Griffith: I can tell you this. I'm not going to spend \$45,000 on an ambulance if I can buy as good of an ambulance for \$15,000 or \$10,000.

Chairman Niebel: You don't think there are any out there?

Mr. Griffith: There are no local ambulances right now on the market place in Chautauqua County. There are departments who are talking about buying ambulances in 2019 or 2020, but there are no ambulances on the marketplace right now.

Chairman Niebel: One of them is Lakewood?

Mr. Griffith: No.

Chairman Niebel: OK, I thought they were.

Mr. Griffith: The easiest and cleanest way would be to get one of those ambulances, without a doubt.

Chairman Niebel: Yeah.

Mr. Griffith: To be honest with you-

Chairman Niebel: And cheaper.

Mr. Griffith: As budget conscious as I am for my budget, if I could buy a really good ambulance for a lot less money, I would like to and I can promise you I would do it.

Chairman Niebel: OK.

Mr. Griffith: But I need to have the flexibility to shop for an ambulance in a different price range if possible.

Chairman Niebel: OK. Any further questions for John? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement Between Chautauqua County and
City of Dunkirk for ALS-BLS Medicare Billing

Chairman Niebel: John, I saw the write up's in the paper.

Mr. Griffith: I didn't realize that they had voted on it.

Chairman Niebel: Well, the big article was for Tuesday and there was a smaller article in the paper today that it had passed. Maybe you could just touch on the highlights of that.

Mr. Griffith: So, what we're looking at is a billing agreement where- because Dunkirk is a city ambulance; city ambulances are totally different than volunteer ambulances and they can bill. Voluntary ambulances in New York State cannot bill. So, when we operate with the City of Jamestown or the City of Dunkirk in their ambulance, because they're the billing service only one party can bill for an ambulance transport. So, Dunkirk will do the billing and they'll bill at an ALS rate if we're providing ALS service in the back of their ambulance, which is much higher than their BLS rate. Whatever they receive in their monies, they'll give us 40% of the money they received to pay for our ALS piece of that transport. So, if they get \$500 we'll get 40% of that.

Legislator Vanstrom: Nice.

(Cross-talk)

Mr. Griffith: Which is better than what we're getting now, which is nothing. As a side note to that we did meet with the City of Jamestown this week and talk with them about ambulance services going forward. I think we're a long ways with- because Jamestown does not bill, but we did talk to them about how we would work with their ambulance service in the future. We do a lot of work in the City of Jamestown, actually more than we do in the City of Dunkirk because they only have one ambulance and the City of Dunkirk does have two ambulances and they also have Fredonia, which is very close by. This is something we really worked on. We worked hard with Kurt Gustafson from the Law Department, Chief Mike Edwards from Dunkirk Fire was instrumental in getting this done and I think this is really a great deal for everybody going forward.

Chairman Niebel: John, just a quick question. The 40% that the city will bill will be coming back to us? Are you happy with that amount?

Mr. Griffith: I think that's very fair. Oh yeah.

Chairman Niebel: I did too, but I don't have anything to base that on.

Mr. Griffith: I think it's very fair because they're providing the transportation and we just have our medic in the back and the supplies.

Chairman Niebel: OK.

Mr. Griffith: This really is-

(Cross-talk)

Mr. Griffith: This allows us to capture the cost that we're putting into the call plus some.

Chairman Niebel: OK. That's a lot better than what it was.

Legislator Vanstrom: 40% is better than zero.

Chairman Niebel: Because we now have the agreement with the City of Dunkirk do you think we can get one with Jamestown? Besides Jamestown was there another community that we were trying to work with?

Mr. Griffith: We probably will work with Fredonia although we don't do much with Fredonia. They have a more robust system than some. Yes, we'd be looking to go forward. Jamestown has to start the first piece. They have to start to bill for their service first and then we could look at collecting something similar to this.

Chairman Niebel: Possibly they could set up a billing system similar to what the City of Dunkirk does. Anymore questions for John?

Legislator Whitford: Do you have scheduled meetings with Jamestown to try and work through this?

Mr. Griffith: We met with Chief Snellings of public safety and we met with Deputy Chief Salemmi last week and I think we're going to continue to meet with them going forward as we talk about EMS coverage in the City of Jamestown.

Legislator Whitford: It would actually benefit them too because they really haven't done *(inaudible.)*

Mr. Griffith: They have a unique situation down there. It's really tough to explain, but it's different.

Legislator Pavlock: Do you think they plan on putting anymore ambulances in the new plan? Are they looking that way or are they looking at staying with one?

Mr. Griffith: In the City of Jamestown? I really don't know what their plans are. I think it's pretty well known that the City of Jamestown is quite cash strapped. They're struggling to come up with what they can do. So, we will assist them from the County's side and I know the volunteers assist them a lot. They're going into the city on a regular basis. I'm very thankful for the volunteer departments who respond. They do it without hesitation, which is really nice that they'll do that.

Chairman Niebel: Lakewood and Falconer?

Mr. Griffith: Lakewood, Celeron, Fluvanna, Falconer-

Legislator Vanstrom: Celeron only has 15 members now.

Mr. Griffith: But they take their ambulance into the City because if they go in and there's an engine company, an engine company has an EMT so they can use their ambulance and an EMT from the City fire.

Chairman Niebel: Alright. Any other questions?

Mr. Griffith: One quick thing on the city. The city works the other way, too. The last couple of fires we've had, especially the two in Falconer, they were the first engine companies on scene and the first companies putting water on those fires. So, we have a good relationship with the city. It doesn't just go one way, it goes both ways. Their fire service is a good asset to the communities around the city.

Chairman Niebel: Any other questions from John? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Acceptance of Indigent Legal Services Grant for the Period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020

Mr. Rice: I'm Pat Rice and I'm here for the Public Defender's Office. Ned is in the middle of a trial, so he's been tied up. My understanding is that ILS has offered \$300,000 to cover the period in question. It's basically reimbursement to the County for monies that have already been expended and for future monies to be expended.

Chairman Niebel: It's a \$300,000 grant.

Mr. Rice: For three years.

Chairman Niebel: We'll take it. This offsets some of the monies that we've already expended?

Mr. Rice: Right.

Chairman Niebel: Alright.

Legislator Vanstrom: I support this good program and I think we should take this grant.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions for Pat? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Silver Creek Central School District for School Resource Officer

Chairman Niebel: Congratulations on your recent election.

Sheriff Quattrone: Thank you.

Chairman Niebel: Folks, do you want to just go over this briefly?

Sheriff Quattrone: Both of these are existing contracts that we have with the schools. We just have to renew them at the first of the year and they're budget neutral.

Chairman Niebel: Somebody has been coached.

(Cross-laughter)

Legislator Vanstrom: They're the same amount and they're the same account number too.

Chairman Niebel: Yeah. I do have a question on Forestville because last year Forestville was \$62,000 and it's gone up a little bit this year. Is there a reason for that?

Ms. Cresanti: That is because Forestville didn't have their contract for the full year last year. They started in February or March of last year.

Chairman Niebel: Oh, OK. Any further questions on the Silver Creek resource officer? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Forestville Central School District for School Resource Officer

Chairman Niebel: This is pretty much the same thing?

Sheriff Quattrone: Yes.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions for the Sheriff's Department on that? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Wyoming County for Inmate Housing

Chairman Niebel: Jim, \$85 dollars per day- oh, I think this is a little different. \$170 per day for inmate under constant watch? I haven't seen one of these before.

Sheriff Quattrone: When they're under constant watch we have to have another CO sitting right there with them, so it adds to our costs.

Chairman Niebel: Twenty-four hours?

Sheriff Quattrone: However long they're on constant watch.

Chairman Niebel: Really?

Sheriff Quattrone: It could be days at a time.

Chairman Niebel: As far as the per diem thing, that's about what we've worked out in the past I think?

Ms. Cresanti: Yes. The dollar amount per day is slightly different from one of these to the other and that's simply because our board-out cost for them-

(Cross-talk)

Ms. Cresanti: We set these board-in contract proposals to match the board-out contract prices. So, whatever price they allow us to board- out at, we will board-in for them at the same rate.

Legislator Vanstrom: Does Wyoming County utilize our jail?

Sheriff Quattrone: We have- yes-

Legislator Vanstrom: Because they're pretty tiny.

Sheriff Quattrone: We have one inmate there right now from Wyoming County that happens to be on constant watch and has been the entire time he's been there.

Ms. Cresanti: And since constant watch requires the additional expense- we aren't typically in the position where we have boarded-in a lot, at least in the recent past. So, we figured it would be a good idea to include that-

Chairman Niebel: So, we have to have a second CO watching the guy?

Sheriff Quattrone: Yes.

(Cross-talk)

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

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Allegany County for Inmate Housing

Chairman Niebel: Pretty much the same thing, although the rate changes a little bit.

Legislator Vanstrom: Because they're closer?

(Cross-talk)

Chairman Niebel: Any further questions for the Sheriff's Department?

Legislator Pavlock: Do the rates cover the costs? On the last one you said you had \$170 a day person, does that cover the cost?

Sheriff Quattrone: It would depend on if we have to call in on overtime or not. So, I think the costs sometimes are fluid, if you will.

Legislator Pavlock: So, this week it may cover it and next week it may not.

Sheriff Quattrone: Right. I think overall it's pretty close. If you look at the numbers that have been calculated of what it costs to keep somebody in a day-

Legislator Pavlock: Do you choose the inmates that you accept from them? If it's hard to have a constant watch person, can you switch?

Sheriff Quattrone: Generally, no. Sometimes what happens- we had one from Allegany County and the reason they had to bring him to ours was he was related to one of the administrators-

Ms. Cresanti: It was a personal issue with an administrator of their county.

Sheriff Quattrone: So, sometimes those are the reasons. The case in Wyoming, the victim of the crime was associated with the Sheriff's Office. It was easier to bring him here.

Chairman Niebel: OK, any further questions for the Sheriff's Department? Those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

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

Unanimously Carried (4:40 p.m.)

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