

Minutes

Public Safety Committee

December 12, 2018, 4:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

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

Others: Tampio, Ames, O'Connell, Dennison, Lis, Schuyler, Cresanti, Gerace, Griffith, Gregory, Harley, Hewitt, Rettig

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

Approval of Minutes (11/14/18)

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Vanstrom

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

*No one chose to speak at this time.*

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Proposed Resolution- Amend 2018 Budget for Computer Purchases for Public Health and Jail Nurses

Mrs. Schuyler: This is Valerie Lis, the Director of Administrative Services for those of you that don't know.

Chairman Niebel: I know her husband.

*(Cross-talk)*

Ms. Lis: Hi. Would you like to explain what we're buying?

Mrs. Schuyler: This resolution- we are implementing an electronic medical record system for the jail. This is the first time ever and it's a big deal. We've also found software that's compatible with public health, so the same system will be used for all of our public health programs. Our expenditures for medical supplies in our family planning grant are projected to be lower than what we had budgeted in the grant for that. The State Department of Health has approved a budget modification for our family planning grant to reallocate some of those funds

to use for computes. So, we are asking that we make these budgetary changes. It will actually decrease the use of fund balance.

Chairman Niebel: I see that.

Mrs. Schuyler: And enhancing computer and technology-

Chairman Niebel: That helps your argument.

Mrs. Schuyler: Once again, I – some of you have heard me say this; there are a lot of economies of scale when we try to most efficiently manage and administer these programs.

Chairman Niebel: There can be. Basically you have computer purchases- the computers are a little bit more than what was budgeted, but it's being offset by the state aid?

Ms. Lis: We didn't quite expect to be able to get them with family planning money. We talked to the family planning administrators and they said to go ahead and put a budget modification in for that grant and they accepted it so that we could buy computers for our clinic. We're going to use some trust and agency money for the software. That was decided a while ago. We also needed- because the jail nurses are going to be using the same system they need some computers for it as well. What we did there is we're actually bringing some of our jail medical state aid revenue into the budget because we didn't budget for any of this. This was something that we worked out this year that there's certain types of work that we do for certain people or certain issues that we can actually get state aid on. It's very limited but it's there. So, we brought that into the budget to cover for the computers for the jail-

Chairman Niebel: OK, Val. So, the state aid revenue is actually in excess of what was budgeted?

Ms. Lis: We had no budget because it was something we worked out this year with the state aid people and ironed it out what we could actually claim.

Chairman Niebel: OK.

Ms. Lis: No one could do that until it came under us.

Chairman Niebel: OK. Folks, any questions for Christine or Val?

Legislator Vanstrom: Good job.

Chairman Niebel: Those in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Amend 2018 Budget Appropriations and Revenues –Emergency Services

Mr. Griffith: This is basically the movement of monies to offset the cost of the continuing medical education program, which has taken off extremely well. It's a program that allows for EMT's to refresh online without having to sit for a New York State test. It has been very successful and we're just moving money from the account other public income that we had.

Chairman Niebel: John, did you say they could sit for the test online?

Mr. Griffith: They don't have to take a test as long as they do their online work- their continuing medical education- they no longer have to sit for the New York State test. It's a big deal. We hope it's going to retain EMT's.

Chairman Niebel: It should help.

Mr. Griffith: We have lost 25% of the EMT's in this county in the last three years.

Chairman Niebel: Is that right?

Mr. Griffith: Yeah.

Legislator Pavlock: Due to not-

Mr. Griffith: Due to not refreshing, yes.

Chairman Niebel: But you think this-

Mr. Griffith: We're hoping that this program will retain the ones that we have left.

Chairman Niebel: Sounds good. Any questions? Those in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Setting Salary for Emergency Medical Technician

Mr. Griffith: We have to create a new position for the Emergency Medical Technicians. We've never had them in the County before. We're looking at setting the salary range- this basically just gets us into the beginning stage of a position. HR is working on comparative starting wages to come up with an exact pay grade. This resolution, from what I understand, really just gets us in the process of creating that position in the County.

Chairman Niebel: Would this be for a 35 work week?

Mr. Griffith: No, this is a 19 hour work week. These are all part time positions.

Chairman Niebel: 19 hours?

Mr. Griffith: If you remember in the budget when we did that, all of the basic EMT's are part time.

Chairman Niebel: OK. Any questions on this proposed resolution?

*(Cross-talk)*

Mr. Griffith: The grade may change as HR works on it, but this establishes the position and gets us started.

Legislator Whitford: This will be incorporated in CSEA as far as the CBA- they're a collective bargaining agreement? It will be added to that?

Mr. Griffith: Yes, this would be a new position in the County that we've never had before.

Legislator Whitford: OK.

Mrs. Dennison: I don't think you just mentioned this because I was having a side conversation and I apologize- but at Administrative Services there was some discussion that the committee wanted to propose that the grades be higher- be a grade 6-

Chairman Niebel: Who did this?

Mrs. Dennison: Administrative Services.

Mr. Griffith: I just mentioned that HR is still working on that communication that I had today with Jessica- was that this may change the grade, but this resolution is establishing the position.

Chairman Niebel: Kathleen, the conversation last night was that it would possibly be higher than grade 4?

Mr. Griffith: Grade 6 is what we're looking at.

Chairman Niebel: Really?

Mr. Griffith: I believe one of the comments from one of the Legislators was that, "I would rather have the person working on me if I code making more money than the person who served me my french fries."

Chairman Niebel: Sounds like Mr. Scudder.

Mrs. Dennison: It was Mr. Davis.

Chairman Niebel: It doesn't matter. So, if you're still talking about a possible grade increase do you want us to act on this now?

Mrs. Dennison: Yes.

Mr. Griffith: Yes because we want to get the position started to be established-

Chairman Niebel: And if you change it to a higher grade you'll come back later? How will that work?

Mrs. Dennison: I think this would-

Chairman Niebel: We're establishing it right now as a grade 4?

Mrs. Dennison: This would establish the position. It says that the HR Department- they classified it as a grade 4 but they are still- their analysis is not completed. It's possible that the grade would change.

Chairman Niebel: But you'd come back for the change in grade?

Mrs. Dennison: I believe so.

Legislator Pavlock: Do you have any idea what the comparison of wages would be?

Mr. Griffith: The comparison would take it up towards a grade 6 from what we've done and seen. It would get it up to starting around \$15 an hour.

Mrs. Dennison: Yes. The grade 6 range is \$15.10 - \$19.26-

Legislator Vanstrom: Wow. How do you feel about that Terry?

Mrs. Dennison: We did discuss on Monday night, the financial implications of that. The way that we budget part time positions is kind of a lump sum and then John's department takes that money and figures out how many positions and how many hours. We have budgeted for 2018 a lump sum of approximately \$191,000. If the positions come out to be graded at grade 6 the lump sum- that cost, assuming the same number of hours would be \$203,000- an increase of approximately \$12,000.

Chairman Niebel: OK. We were just talking about the grade 4 versus the grade 6. Lisa, I think Human Resources is looking at it and I don't think we should-

Legislator Vanstrom: Human Services doesn't look like they're looking at it. It only looks like Audit & Control and Administrative Services. It's not on the resolution.

Mr. Griffith: No, Human Resources is looking at it.

Legislator Vanstrom: Human Resources isn't listed on the sheet either.

Chairman Niebel: HR is just looking at changes to the grade. I don't think we can do anything because it's still under review by Human Resources. We can go ahead and act on this just to establish the grade and you can come back later and request that it be moved to a grade 6.

Mr. Griffith: Correct me if I'm wrong- this establishes the positions. We can change the grade later.

Mrs. Dennison: Correct.

Mr. Griffith: This at least gets the position started.

Chairman Niebel: It not only establishes the position, it establishes the grade as well.

Mr. Griffith: I understand-

Chairman Niebel: But the grade could be susceptible to change later on.

Mrs. Dennison: Yes.

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

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Amend Budget Appropriations and Revenues Associated with Vehicle Purchases by the District Attorney

Mrs. Dennison: I am here to speak on behalf of the District Attorney with Assistant District Attorney Gregory. The District Attorney's Executive Assistant was planning to be here also to present the resolution, but she had a personal emergency and had to leave early today. With regard to the resolution, there's a lot of accounting stuff going on with this resolution. The big picture is that the budget for- the DA has a budget in 2018 to purchase two new vehicles. That budget was established on the net price of the vehicles- a purchase price minus a trade in. Instead of doing the purchase in that way, he purchased the vehicles without a trade in and then sold one car at auction and will sell the second car at auction next year. So, the purchase price was higher than originally budgeted because there was no trade in. We have to increase the capital budget expenses and revenues for the purchase of the vehicle, but we're also getting some income from sale of equipment. So, we're increasing the sale- establishing an increase in the sale of equipment line in the budget for this year and next year because it will be one car sold this year and one car sold next year. The other part of the resolution is that since the vehicles were more expensive than originally anticipated, the vehicle purchase allocation amount is different. We take the amount of the car purchase and divide it into four years and the department essentially gets charged for that purchase a quarter of the expense each-

*(Cross-talk)*

Mrs. Dennison: So, there's an overall increase in the price of the vehicle and that triggers an increase in the purchase allocation expense that's in the budget for this year and next year. To balance that there is also revenue from the sale of cars.

Legislator Vanstrom: Is this for one car or two cars?

Mrs. Dennison: Two cars.

Legislator Vanstrom: So, this is going to be for two cars?

Mrs. Dennison: Yeah. The increase in the purchase price- that's the \$27,168. That's the additional price for both cars combined.

Legislator Pavlock: And only one fourth of that-

Mrs. Dennison: They are charged one fourth of the overall purchase price every year.

Legislator Pavlock: Right, but this is only showing one fourth-

Mrs. Dennison: It's one fourth of the increase.

Legislator Vanstrom: What did they buy?

Mrs. Dennison: Because the-

Legislator Vanstrom: Is that right? This is only the increase in what we already budgeted for vehicles?

Mrs. Dennison: That is correct.

Legislator Vanstrom: So, these two vehicles accidentally cost us \$27,168 more than originally planned?

Mrs. Dennison: That is correct but keep in mind that the budget was a net amount- the purchase price minus the trade in.

Legislator Vanstrom: But what did we buy?

Mrs. Dennison: We bought a 2018 ford explorer- both of them.

Legislator Vanstrom: We used to have sedans I think.

Legislator Bankoski: We live in Western New York.

Mrs. Dennison: At the DA's request- his request for vehicles was for two SUV's.

Legislator Pavlock: Is the \$6,792 for both vehicles or just one?

Mrs. Dennison: That is the increase in the annual allocation for both vehicles. The original amount- the one year amount was originally \$11,919. That would be the charge for-

Legislator Pavlock: The \$6,792 is the amount we're getting for the cars we're selling?

Mrs. Dennison: Correct.

Legislator Pavlock: But that is one or two cars?

Mrs. Dennison: One car.

Legislator Pavlock: That will go up when we sell the-

Legislator Bankoski: And next year you'll get another \$6,792-

Legislator Pavlock: That will help offset it some more.

Mrs. Dennison: Yes, that's correct.

Chairman Niebel: Kathleen, how many vehicles do we have in the District Attorney's Office?

Mrs. Dennison: Just two I believe. Is that right Derek?

Mr. Gregory: I'm only aware of two county cars.

Legislator Vanstrom: Who gets those?

Mr. Gregory: One is for the DA and one is for the senior investigator.

Legislator Vanstrom: Who is the senior investigator driving this brand new ford explorer?

Mr. Gregory: That's Mr. Johnson, he's the senior investigator.

*(Cross-talk)*

Chairman Niebel: Anything else?

Mrs. Dennison: I just want to stress that what was budgeted for the vehicles was \$48,000- the purchase price was approximately \$75,000, so there is a big change there. Part of the reason the change is large is that we budgeted- I don't want to say we made a mistake when we did the budget, but we've changed the way that we account for these vehicle purchases and the way that we budget for them. As I said, in 2018 we're assuming that the purchase price is lower because



the trade in. There is just one budget for the purchase of the vehicle and what has happened in actual terms is that there was a budget for the purchase of the vehicle and now there is a budget for revenue for selling cars. You've got additional revenue of \$6,700 this year, \$6,700 next year. So, it's not all bad news, but yes the cars were more expensive than originally anticipated.

Chairman Niebel: OK, any other questions?

Legislator Whitford: I'm just curious why they changed as far as their decision to trade in versus sell at auction? Was there some underlying reason why- because initially it was going to be trade in, right? Who made the decision to do it differently? I'm just curious. Did they find out they would be further ahead?

Mrs. Dennison: Yes. That's not only in the DA's Department. We're finding that in most county departments- the Sheriff for example- when they buy vehicles they don't turn in their vehicle and then get in a trade in allowance, they sell the vehicles at auction because they generally fetch more at auction than they do as a trade in.

Legislator Whitford: OK.

Mrs. Dennison: Going into 2019, we changed the way that we budget for vehicle purchase. Starting in 2019 the capital vehicle budget is budgeted at 100% of estimated purchase price- no trade ins.

*(Cross-talk)*

Legislator Bankoski: Wasn't there a vehicle that belonged to the District Attorney's that was repurposed to Mr. Griffith for an ambulance?

Chairman Niebel: That wasn't from the District Attorney's Office, that was from some other place.

Legislator Bankoski: I thought it was.

*(Cross-talk)*

Mrs. Dennison: For the ambulance? Did John leave us already?

Chairman Niebel: He did.

Mr. Gregory. That may have been from the *(inaudible)* team somehow. I'm not positive.

Chairman Niebel: Any other questions for Derek or Kathleen? Those in favor of this proposed resolution? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Acceptance of the Crimes Against Revenue Program Grant ("CARP") Funds for 2019

Mr. Gregory: I'm appearing on behalf of the District Attorney's Office for this resolution as well. This applies to all the resolutions. Mr. Swanson wanted to be here today but he's meeting with the family of the victim down in Fredonia. The Crimes Against Revenue Program- I believe we started this grant in 2014. This is just a continuation of that grant. The Department of Taxation and Finance has renewed it and it pays for a portion of part time ADA. We're asking that the resolution be passed so the County Executive can sign the contract.

Chairman Niebel: So, this is for \$80,400?

Mr. Gregory: I'm not sure of the exact amount.

Chairman Niebel: OK. Any questions for Derek on this one? It's just a grant.

Legislator Vanstrom: It's a good grant.

Chairman Niebel: Yes it is. Those in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Acceptance of the 2019 Stop Violence Against Women (VAWA) Grant Program

Mr. Gregory: 2019 will be the fifth year that we've received the Violence Against Women Grant. The overall grant pays for two positions. It pays for an assistant district attorney and it also pays for a part time deputy sheriff. When we initially implemented the grant we had asked for- we had a number of budget lines for travel, training, equipment, and essentially the increased amount of revenue. The overall grant's administered by the DA's Office. The increase in revenue of the \$12,350 basically comes from travel and training and equipment that was originally allocated to the Sheriff's Office. Their budget accurately reflects the money that they receive for their deputy sheriff and we're using that funding to increase salary and benefits.

Chairman Niebel: Derek, part of it is for an interpreter too?

Mr. Gregory: We do have a contract with a Spanish speaking interpreter. If the police go out to a call and the person speaks Spanish, she's on call. They can call her to do interpreting or come out to the scene. She also does interpreting for us at grand jury. That saves us having to hire somebody.

Chairman Niebel: She's on call 24 hours?

Mr. Gregory: I believe so. They can call her- yes, she's got a cell phone. She also listens to jail phone calls if they're in Spanish.

Chairman Niebel: OK. Any questions on this one? Those in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Acceptance of the 2018-2023 Victim Assistance  
Through Attorney Services Program Grant

Mr. Gregory: I'm appearing on behalf of the DA's Office along with Mr. Hartley and Mr. Hewitt from Law New York and Valerie Rettig from our Office of Victim Services is also here as well.

Chairman Niebel: \$600,000.

Mr. Hartley: That's over a five year period.

Mr. Gregory: This is essentially, as far as the County is concerned, a pass through grant. The Office of Victims Services has provided a grant to essentially provide civil legal services to individuals that are victimized by crime. We would be contracting with Law New York to provide those services. They would essentially administer the grant and it would provide for an attorney position and a paralegal position in the County. So, it would provide increased employment and revenue to the County.

Chairman Niebel: Have you had this grant before? Is this relatively new?

Mr. Gregory: This is a new grant. The Office of Victim Services had \$25 million?

Ms. Rettig: Now you caught me off guard. Well, the New York State Office of Victim Services got a large sum of money out of a VOCA fund, which is a federal fund for civil attorneys. I can't remember exactly how much they had, but they had a lot of money. Mr. Hartley wanted to come in under our grant. He had to come in under an established grant with the Crime Victim's Unit for the DA's Office, so that they could have a civil attorney that would help victims of crimes in certain areas. We can refer them- usually I'm not allowed to refer to a certain attorney. I had to just tell them to seek one out, but now I can refer them to their office.

Chairman Niebel: Alright, very good. Any questions?

Legislator Whitford: This is \$600,000 for five years. Is this renewable each year based on performance?

Mr. Gregory: I anticipate it's \$120,000 per year based upon available funding.

Legislator Whitford: It says \$600,000 and talks about \$120,000 each year for the continuing four years. I just wondered if that renewed-

Chairman Niebel: It does talk about the five years in the title- 2018-2023. Val is this- the \$25 million or whatever has been set aside, is that set aside in a fund that people can't- the Legislature can't take away from?

Ms. Rettig: I understand that the grant was completed through New York State Grants Gateway for five years. The budgets have been completed for those five years and the Office of Victims Services has promised to pay those under the certain conditions that the civil attorney's live up to certain services and fiscal reporting. As long as that is done, I'm assuming that they will get the \$120,000 every year for five years. Now, if they for some reason have more money and want to put out another grant or increase the- perhaps they could increase for two attorneys for some reason if it all goes well. So, then we would come before you and the Office of Victim Services would be giving more money.

Chairman Niebel: Val, that's a possibility but in all likelihood if it's for \$25 million- I mean, we're just one county. The other 61 counties probably have gotten their share too and it's probably been allocated.

*(Cross-talk)*

Legislator Vanstrom: It's probably prorated based on the size of the county. Crime usually tends to be-

Chairman Niebel: Probably something like that.

*(Cross-talk)*

Ms. Rettig: There is a match that they have to make that does not come from any County or District Attorney's Office-

Mr. Hewitt: It's 20% match.

Ms. Rettig: Other crime victim assistance programs like the one here at the District Attorney's Office- some did apply for this civil attorney and some did not. So, I think only about 93 other programs throughout the state applied for it.

Legislator Vanstrom: It sounds like a fantastic program because there is a lot of domestic violence in our county. Unfortunately, it happens- anything we can do to reduce it.

Ms. Rettig: It's not just for domestic violence. There's a lot of other people who need civil attorneys-

Mr. Hewitt: Identity theft, credit card theft-

Ms. Rettig: Yes, things like that. Things that the court and the criminal justice system just doesn't make a victim whole on, or look out for all the needs of a person that's been victimized.

Mr. Gregory: There should be no expense to the County. The grant award letter was for \$600,000 over five years. My experience in the past is if for some reason we have a recession or- often times they'll decrease the funding by 5% or whatever. Law New York would then have to decrease their expenses by 5%-

Mr. Hartley: That would all fall on us.

Mr. Gregory: We're happy to partner with Law New York because they've- I believe they have a number of other contracts with the County to provide services.

Chairman Niebel: You guys have a 20% match on this?

Mr. Hartley: That's correct.

Chairman Niebel: You don't anticipate you guys having a problem with coming up with your share?

Mr. Hartley: We do not.

Mr. Hewitt: We can allocate space, insurance, research tools- things like that-

Chairman Niebel: In-kind services?

Mr. Hewitt: That's correct. A portion of my salary goes towards the supervision and that's part of the match as well.

Chairman Niebel: OK, thank you. Any other questions for these folks? Those in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Amend 2018 Budget for Office of the Sheriff

Ms. Cresanti: Mr. Chairman, this is for our DWI sub-department. It's really just because one of the deputies in that department was budgeted with a single health plan and he changed to a family of three this year.

Chairman Niebel: OK, that's a significant increase.

Ms. Cresanti: It is. It's moving money around within our budget, so it's budget neutral.

Chairman Niebel: Questions on this one? Those in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Execution of Statewide Interoperability Communications Grant (SICG) Award FY18

Sheriff Gerace: Mr. Chair, this is a no local share grant from the state and it is targeted in that it is specifically used for communications. We have a plan of action to utilize the money to improve the radio system in the county.

Chairman Niebel: Who writes the grants?

Sheriff Gerace: Matt Trusso.

Chairman Niebel: He does a nice job. You guys- can you thank Matt on behalf of the Committee?

Ms. Cresanti: Absolutely. Yes, he does.

Chairman Niebel: Any Questions on this one? Those in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Legislator Bankoski: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we block resolution #10 through resolution #18.

Legislator Vanstrom: I'll second that.

Chairman Niebel: OK. Those in favor of blocking the next eight resolutions?

*Unanimously Carried to Block the Next Eight Resolutions*

Chairman Niebel: Joe, I just have one quick question. When we get to the court security detail all of these are for \$30.10 per hour and that's the best you can estimate as far as the cost of a deputy. Each one of these may vary a little bit as far-

Sheriff Gerace: It may vary on the number of hours.

Chairman Niebel: It may vary on the number of hours and the tentative agreement you guys worked out, but basically that's what it is?

Sheriff Gerace: Correct.

Chairman Niebel: OK. Alright folks, we're going to block resolutions ten through eighteen. I'm just going to read the resolution and if anyone has a problem or wants to vote against any of the resolutions, you can indicate that.

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Village of Silver Creek for Enhanced Police Protection Services FY19

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Town of Ripley for Enhanced Police Protection Services FY19

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Chautauqua Lake Central School District To Provide Enhanced Police Protection Services FY19

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Town of Ellery for Court Security Detail FY19

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Town of Kiantone for Court Security Detail FY19

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Town of Mina for Court Security Detail FY19

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Town of North Harmony for Court Security Detail FY19

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Village of Silver Creek for Court Security Detail FY19

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreement with Town of Stockton for Court Security Detail FY19

*Unanimously Carried*

Chairman Niebel: OK, do we have anything under “other”?

Legislator Bankoski: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to take this time to thank Sheriff Gerace. I just want to extend our gratitude and great thanks for all your years of service to the tax payers and the people of Chautauqua County.

Legislator Vanstrom: I would like to add to that. I enjoyed working with you on the Traffic Safety Committee for all these years and working with Carol and also Chuck Holder. Thank you very much.

Sheriff Gerace: Thank you. It's been an honor.

Chairman Niebel: Joe, I don't know how many Public Safety meetings you've appeared before. You've always been knowledgeable, you've been professional- I wish you the best in your future endeavors. You've got a great future ahead of you. Best of luck.

Sheriff Gerace: Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Chairman Niebel: Anything else?

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

*Unanimously Carried (5:01 p.m.)*

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