

Minutes  
Public Safety Committee  
**August 16, 2023, 4:00 p.m., Legislative Chambers**  
**Livestreamed on YouTube**  
**Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY**

Members Present: Bankoski, Hemmer, Proctor, Nelson

Members Absent: Niebel

Others Present: Lee, Swan, Thomas, Slagle, Quattrone, Makowski, Gregory, Jaroszynski

**Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube**

Legislator Bankoski called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (7/19/23)

MOVED by Legislator Hemmer, SECONDED by Legislator Proctor.

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time.

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Proposed Resolution – Amend 2023 Budget for Office of the Sheriff – *Presented by Jim Quattrone, Sheriff*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Execution of Lease Renewal with Federal Bureau of Investigation for Tower Space 10/1/2023- 9/30/2033 – *Presented by Jim Quattrone, Sheriff*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – FY2022 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program – *Presented by Noel Guttman, Director of Emergency Services*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Setting Salary for Chaplain – *Presented by Jim Quattrone, Sheriff**Unanimously Carried*Other –Late Proposed Resolution – Authorize Acceptance of Indigent Legal Services Grant for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023 – *Presented by Derick Gregory, Assistant Public Defender**Unanimously Carried*Discussion – Temporarily Housing Assistance

My name is Jim Jaroszynski and I am the Mayor of the Village of Falconer. If you need an address, I guess 101 West Main Street in Falconer, New York. First of all thank you for letting me speak today. I know I was not on the agenda so I didn't know if I would be allowed to so I just want to say again, thank you. I just would like to maybe reiterate more on a personal level. I appeared last month at the Legislature meeting in regards to the situation at a motel here in the Village of Falconer that is currently being used by the Department of Social Services for what I feel to be an overabundance. I guess I'm seeking some guidance from the County Legislature for some over sight on social services as to maybe finding another location other than this motel in the Village of Falconer because it is just gotten outrageous within the last 4 or 5 years especially this past year of the homelessness and what the residents in the Village of Falconer have seen and sometimes been a victim of. In saying that, we citizens, we all realize the homeless situation in the County of Chautauqua, and are compassionate for people who are in this situation of needing some help but why, as I guess I speak for my residents in the Village. Why does it always seem to be the motel in the Village of Falconer. I was wondering if I could have some help from the County Legislature and from committees as far as looking into if there is another alternative other than the Village of Falconer and the motel? You know of the comments that I made last month. I brought a copy of it again just to go over some numbers again. Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 146 police calls from (*inaudible*) to this motel. 146, my gosh. The Falconer Fire Department has been there 35 times since January 1<sup>st</sup>. I realize family relocation – I guess what I'm really concerned about is a public safety issue. I mean, when families get put in there, I can sympathize with a family that has been a victim of a fire and needs to be placed somewhere for a temporary amount of time but even when I see a school bus, now we have school that is going to be starting up in September. I know in past years I've seen school buses from various districts around Falconer; Southwestern, Jamestown, Frewsburg pulling into that lot picking up a child or dropping a child off. What is a family doing living in a motel for that amount of time? Is a motel really a place for a family to live? I mean, we all travel. We all go to motels. Is there a proper kitchenette? Is there proper living? So why are they not being put out into –this family finding an alternative apartment somewhere in Chautauqua County? Why is a school bus picking them up? And like I said, I come here representing my Village and I just want to ask – you know, I'm going to be at the committee meeting after this at human services and speaking to them but I also just wanted to bring it to public safety and ask for some assistance

and maybe your oversight of social services and see why, why does it seem to be this motel in Falconer.

Legislator Bankoski: Do you think the owner of this building is soliciting this?

Legislator Proctor: If I may add, I did meet with Diane Anderson and she certainly is willing to sit down with you and have a face to face meeting which I could be into but there are other hotels, motels that they use. She said the Clarion Point in Jamestown, the Colony, Budget Inn and then the Dunkirk motel is used but only for singles because they don't take families because they only have single beds. So they do use other hotels and they do use like the (*inaudible*) mission and some other facilities. And they do place families because they are obligated by the state to place people when those people come and seek temporary housing assistance. So we do have an obligation.

Mr. Jaroszynski: That's why I said, I sympathize all day with the family that needs that emergency temporary type of service but why are they so long that a school bus is picking them up. Why are we not transitioning after all transitional housing, why are we not moving them into an apartment?

Legislator Proctor: Unfortunately, there's really not affordable housing in the County. Their assistance gets – and I probably have these numbers mixed up but I think a family could get \$350 to \$400. \$167 is what is supposed to be used for rent. You can't find a place for \$167.

Legislator Bankoski: Not even for \$350.

Legislator Proctor: No, not even for \$350 or \$400 which is to be used for – now they have SNAP benefits for food and for other living expenses. I was in Olean for work a couple weeks ago and I came through and got a burger at Burger King and I sat at the CVS parking lot and it's not an attractive situation there but I don't know who was placed there by Chautauqua County. Cattaraugus County – any other county can place people in Chautauqua County as we have placed people in other counties when we can't find (*inaudible*) at our expense. We have to put them on a bus and pay for a bus ticket and take them to Olean. Cattaraugus County does place people here which Chautauqua County might not even know about. They are supposed to interact but I don't think they do as I understand it.

Mr. Jaroszynski: And that's another situation with you know, people that are placed there with addictions whether it be alcohol, drugs or have a mental health problems is you go to DSS during the day or you're supposed to go to DSS Monday through Friday 8:30 to 4:30 but off hours they can just show up at the hotel and have the officer sign the form and then they're there for a day or two. But what's the follow up? Like we all know what was in the paper here just a day or two ago with the shop owner, a business owner who is investing in the Village and is refurbishing it and just happened to be there at late hours and had this gentlemen walking by back and forth and he exposes himself but this isn't his first time doing it.

Legislator Proctor: Was that in Chautauqua County?

Mr. Jaroszynski: This is in the Village of Falconer. It just happened two nights ago.

Legislator Proctor: I know, but was it a Chautauqua County placed client?

Mr. Jaroszynski: I'll look into it, but I'm pretty sure it was.

Legislator Proctor: It's bad no matter what.

Mr. Jaroszynski: I would (*inaudible*) he was because he's done it so many times before that he's into the system and he was probably placed there. I'll do 99.9%, I won't do the 100%, and I'll do the 99.9%. But regardless, as you mentioned the other hotels, I'm very familiar with the Quality Inn down there and the Town of Ellicott. The Clarion is in the Town of Ellicott. The Colony is in the Town of Ellicott. But you have those 3 hotels plus the one in the Village of Falconer and the one up in Dunkirk. I mean come on, where is the City of Jamestown?

Legislator Proctor: Well they have to have grants (*inaudible*).

Mr. Jaroszynski: I was going to also ask, is there contractual agreements?

Legislator Proctor: (*Inaudible*) think it's a contract.

Mr. Jaroszynski: Or it's just a pay as you go type thing?

Legislator Proctor: It's pay as you go, I believe.

Mr. Jaroszynski: And they are willing to accept it?

Legislator Proctor: The owner does, sometimes request you know, we got room, but Diane would be best to answer that.

Mr. Jaroszynski: I know this is something – it was probably Diane that I talked to on the phone and she said that the – because we usually just have the code blue in the winter and that's going to be coming up again and conversations are going to start up again because this is August. We're going into September and October.

Legislator Proctor: (*Inaudible*)

Mr. Jaroszynski: But now it seems that this program is 365 a day. 365 days a year program and I just found this out by her and she said that it has been enforced since 2017, 2018 but really not used during the summer months but has recently been just this past year used during the summer months. I'm bold enough to say that she was kind of shocked when I told her that the Town of Ellicott police were putting out this voucher. And she said "well I thought that was only for the sheriff's department?" I said "No, the sheriff does not do all of Chautauqua County, they are some municipalities that still have their own police force". I said "And the Town of Ellicott is responsible for the Village of Falconer and Celoron and so I told them they just show up there and they sign the same form that the code blue is and they get the night or two

there” But again, where is the follow up for them to get out of the motel and into a housing situation and not stay there for months? I’ve been told there’s some people – and there’s some things on a Village level. I got code enforcement and that (*inaudible*) do fire inspections and stuff like that so I mean, there’s a little bit here on the Village which I have done but we’d just like some real serious help here from the County as it just seems that this motel is the one main one. I was aware of the Clarion and all that but it just seems – and I’ll get some figures, it seems like this motel in Falconer is the one that’s being overly used.

Legislator Nelson: How many units are in that hotel? It doesn’t seem very big to me.

Mr. Jaroszynski: Well I’ll tell you, back in day, I grew up and lived all my life in Falconer and that plaza and motel use to be called the Heritage House (*inaudible*) Inn. It use to have a nice little restaurant in it called the Bongo Room and for us that are old enough for all of that. Yeah, I don’t have those exact numbers of rooms, Legislator Nelson that are in there right now. I can certainly get those.

Legislator Nelson: I think you’re right, there needs to be the next step.

Mr. Jaroszynski: It’s the next conversation.

Legislator Nelson: What is the next step because it doesn’t sounds temporarily when –

Mr. Jaroszynski: When people are in there for months. I’ve told those people in there for years. That’s not a healthy situation.

Legislator Bankoski: There needs to be some type of time frame on it where you can stay there for 60 or 90 days and then you have to leave.

Mr. Jaroszynski: Well there’s all sorts of housing assistance from New York State as far as HUD and all that is there not? You say there’s only 300 or something that there (*inaudible*) but isn’t there other avenues from New York State that offers assistance for rental?

Legislator Proctor: I don’t know that.

Mr. Jaroszynski: Yeah, so to get them into an apartment, that’s all part of our DSS is it not for then to transitional housing?

Legislator Proctor: Well, we’re going to have a conversation after human services about safe housing to with Lead. Our housing stock, especially in Jamestown is not good.

Mr. Jaroszynski: Well I know I’ve gone over 3 minutes and such but again I just wanted to come up. And I’ll be here next week again because I just feel that strongly about this with this situation and my residents feel, and they’re not my residents but the village residents feel this strongly like we need some help from Chautauqua County on this. Let’s try to, if it means getting a CARTS bus maybe working 3-11 and working a police shift, not saying 11-7 but to take them to a motel but then if you take them to a motel in hypothetically Silver Creek, I’m not sure if

they have a motel in Silver Creek. Is there something to pick them up and bring them back to Dunkirk for social services to get the proper attention? It seems they are put there and forgotten or they're told to show up to this and this and this but who makes sure that they do show up for there – you know, if they have an addiction problem, alcohol, drugs or have a mental health problem.

Legislator Proctor: As I understand it, during code blue they don't even have to do anything. Everything is suspended so to speak.

Mr. Jaroszynski: I don't know if I said it in my introduction last week but I spent 25 years at the Town of Ellicott police department full time and I'm still technically occasionally I guess but yeah I can remember a person getting a code blue every day from December, January and February. He would just leave and he would come back every day and get that code blue every day. I don't mean to say DSS is the bad person here but why wasn't this person found to be somewhere else. Because when I said "for this person to do this, is this all legal, that they could go every day?" I think it even got to be a point where, nothing against the dispatch but it got to be a point where they would call Ellicott police and say so and so is back at the motel and wanting his code blue. Really? Every day that winter, it was 2 or 3 years ago, 2 or 3 winters ago. The Ellicott police got to know him by name. The dispatchers got to know him by name and when I asked social services if this was all legal and everything, they said absolutely, they can do it every day. He did it every day that winter. So again, wanted to come more in person and meet with a committee or 2 and answer any questions and as a request of the residents of the Village of Falconer. And I appreciate all of your time today. Does anyone else have any questions or anything of me? Okay, thank you very much.

MOVED by Legislator Nelson, SECONDED by Legislator Hemmer to adjourn

*Unanimously Carried (4:36 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,  
Olivia Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/Kristi R. Zink, Deputy Clerk