

**Herkimer County Legislature  
Public Safety/Emergency Management and Ways & Means  
Committee Meeting  
Friday, March 5, 2021  
Via Zoom  
Follows Human Resources and Ways & Means**

**Persons Attending:**

Gregory Malta, Sr. (Public Safety committee member)  
Raymond Johnson (committee member, both)  
Kurt J. Ackerman (committee member, both)  
William Weakley (Public safety committee member)  
Peter J. Campione (Public Safety committee member)  
Patrick E. Russell (Ways & Means Committee Chairman)  
Raymond Smith (Ways & Means committee member)  
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (committee member, both)  
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature  
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer  
Brandy Serow, Secretary to Co. Administrator  
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney  
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer  
Scott Scherer, County Sheriff  
Garry Murphy, Director of Probation  
John Raymond, Director of Emergency Services

**(Non Committee Members Signed In)**

Legislator Mark Gaworecki  
Legislator Robert J. Schrader  
Legislator Bob D. Hollum  
Legislator William E. Keeler, Sr.  
Legislator John L. Brezinski  
Legislator Peter F. Manno  
Legislator Ray Donley

**Absent:**

John P. Stephens (Chairman, Public Safety/W&M committee member)

Mr. Malta called the meeting to order at 11:23 a.m.

**Items Discussed:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

1. Approve monthly report of the Sheriff – December 2020
2. Other

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:**

3. Approve extension of contract and authorize chairman to e-sign in Probation
4. Approve SHSP grant and authorize Chairman to e-sign in Emergency Services
5. Approve electrical contract for 911 Center and radio towers in Emergency Services
6. Approve bid and transfer funds for a back-up DC Power Plant in Emergency Services
7. Approve change orders for new correctional facility
8. Other

**Committee Vote Record:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

Mr. Malta: "First on the agenda is approve monthly report of the Sheriff for December 2020. Is the Sheriff on?"

Sheriff Scherer: "It's our standard monthly report. As you can see our population is up. We are up around forty-three so we are boarding out and with the training we have going on we are boarding out four extra just so we can get that training done and try and get this jail open by the beginning of April."

Mr. Malta: "Thank you Sheriff. Can I have a motion?"

Item #1 – On motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Weakley for Public Safety, Item #1 was voted on and approved. Unanimous. Absent: 1.

Item #2 – N/A.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:**

Mr. Malta: "Number three on the agenda is approve extension of contract and authorize chairman to e-sign in Probation. Is Mr. Murphy on?"

Garry Murphy: "Yes Mr. Malta. Thank you very much. Good morning everybody. This is just an annual grant of our ATI Program which is Alternatives to Incarceration and essentially it covers both of our pre-trial and our community service programs. It's kind of late in the game because the calendar year for this grant runs from July to June so we just got the award letter late January. I was kind of surprised because it came out of the blue and we were informed that this wasn't going to happen. It's only \$12,000, almost \$13,000 but it does help supplement those programs so it is kind of a surprise that it did show up so we are thankful."

Mr. Malta: "Thank you Mr. Murphy."

Item #3 – On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Campione for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Johnson for Ways & Means, Item #3 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous. Absent: 1.

Mr. Malta: "Number four approve SHSP grant and authorize Chairman to e-sign in Emergency Services. Mr. Raymond, are you on?"

John Raymond: "I am, good morning. This is the SHSP19 grant. The State requires us now to re e-sign if we reassign money in the grant so we had some money left over from projects that we did and we decided we wanted to buy a couple AEDs for the 911 Center and the Emergency Operations Center. The current AED here is dead, it's no longer working, it's no longer functioning. Even though it's a small transfer in scope of a \$3,222 the State requires us to e-sign that so that is what this is all about."

Mr. Bono: "John, you bought two of those for that building? Isn't that overkill?"

John Raymond: "It may seem that way but we thought that because the 911 Center is generally...we are supposed to keep the dispatch room locked at all times and there are some meetings that go on in that conference room. If we ever return to normal, there is a Cyber class that goes on up there, on occasion there is other classes and stuff that go on in there so having one nearby we thought would be smart."

Mr. Bono: "Okay, thank you."

Mr. Ackerman: "Mr. Chairman, how does an AED die? Can't you just replace the battery?"

Mr. Russell: "They are expensive."

John Raymond: "Plus the one we have is like fifteen years old and is no longer serviceable."

Mr. Ackerman: "Okay. Thanks."

Mr. Malta: "Thanks John."

Mr. Ackerman: "It's a grant. It's nobody's money, it's a grant. They have to stop looking at it like that. It's still tax payer money. It came from somewhere."

Item #4 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weakley for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Russell for Ways & Means, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous. Absent: 1.

Mr. Malta: "Number five approve electrical contract for 911 Center and radio towers in Emergency Services. Mr. Raymond."

John Raymond: "So this is a contract we are doing with Doug's Electric Company, LLC. This will be the fourth year that we have done this contract with Doug's Electric. He has been very reliable for us and in a couple instances a godsend. We have had problems with the 911 Center generator not starting or something going wrong and he is usually here within thirty minutes to fix it. On top of all of that he does maintenance on all of this stuff twice a year. He goes through everything, checks the voltages, checks the frequency of this stuff and I would like to continue doing that. This is funded out of the County budget, out of the 44000-455 account which has a budgeted amount of \$55,000 so this is a budgeted item."

Mr. Malta: "What is the dollar amount on that?"

John Raymond: "On the sheet there, I don't know if you have it, it varies between the different sites. The 911 Center is \$2,378, Aney Hill is \$1,995, Dairy Hill is \$1,260 and McCauley Mountain is a little more expensive because of going up and down the mountain is \$3,875. I believe that totals around \$9,000."

Mr. Malta: "What is it compared to last year?"

John Raymond: "It is the exact same amount."

Mr. Malta: "Thank you."

Mr. Russell: "Do they walk up the mountain?"

John Raymond: "No. The big thing there is we can't get a propane truck up to the top of the mountain. We have a generator up there so we have seven or 800 pound propane tanks that have to be taken down two at a time and he does that with a 4-wheeler and cart. We have to bring them down there and then have Helmers fill it up and then bring them back up to the top. Depending on how much the power is up there we do this at least twice a year. Once in the spring time and once in the fall before it snows."

Mr. Russell: "You are having Doug's Electric fill the..."

John Raymond: "Yes. He takes care of that."

Mr. Russell: "Why wouldn't we have somebody local who wouldn't be charging all the travel?"

John Raymond: "I hunted around for somebody up there and came across...I can't think of the name of the company but they were way high."

Mr. Russell: "Well talk to me after and we will..."

John Raymond: "Sure. I would be more than welcome to get input on it."

Mr. Malta: "Can I get a motion?"

Mr. Russell: "I just want to say Doug's Electric, I met him prior and I thought they did very good. The reason I brought that up is because I think it could be cheaper if we got somebody up here to fill tanks."

Item #5 – On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Shaw for Ways & Means, Item #5 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous. Absent: 1.

Mr. Malta: "Number six approve bid and transfer funds for a back-up DC Power Plant in Emergency Services."

John Raymond: "DC Power Plant is generally most 911 systems across the State, radio systems are using these This is going to eliminate a lot of headaches for us in terms of it only seems to happen in the middle of the night on the worst weather of the year. Say a generator doesn't start at McCauley Mountain for whatever reason, there is something wrong...if it doesn't start that whole tower site goes down so what this would do is buy some time. It would provide battery with back-up to run that site approximately eight hours. So that is what this is all about. I'm looking to purchase this for all five of our tower sites and the bid amount from JPJ Electronics was \$102,044.15. There was a lower bidder, a company called Infrastructure of Clifton Park, New York at \$96,000 however, the low bidder did not provide everything we asked for in the bid specs. He did not provide a technical proposal which leaves a lot of questions in terms of how they plan on implementing this. There are many ways you can do this and I put that in the bid specs because I want to know how they are doing this. Jay did provide that, there were four bidders and I would like to go with them. This will be funded out of two different grants. The SIGC Target 2018 grant which this will pretty much close that out and the remainder will go to the SIGC Formula Grant 2018 and pretty much spend that down as well. This is one hundred percent grant funded for the State Interoperable Communication Grants. Any questions?"

Mr. Malta: "Sheri, can you elaborate? Is that the bid process...it's okay doing it like that?"

Sheri Ferdula: "Yes. The bidders that submitted all submitted for the specifications except the low bidder who did not give the technical spec and in this case John could not make an educated decision without that information and so per general municipal law, if a bidder is non-compliant with the bid specifications, we can reject the low bidder and go with the second low bidder."

Mr. Malta: "Okay. Thanks Sheri. Can I get a motion?"

Mr. Gaworecki: "This is Mark Gaworecki. I just have a quick comment. I think with our long history with JPJ, even if they are a little bit more than the minimum, as long as we can go with them we should continue that long standing relationship."

Mr. Malta: "Thank you Mr. Gaworecki. Any further discussion?"

Item #6 – On motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Weakley for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Johnson for Ways & Means, Item #6 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous. Absent: 1.

Mr. Malta: “Number seven approve change orders for new the correctional facility.”

Sheri Ferdula: “We are beginning to wind down our construction contract that is still open out there. The majority of the work other than some things that need to be completed outside in the spring is done. So all of our contractors had an allowance amount built into their original amount. We have not used all of those allowances so we are doing change orders just to lower the contract amount to get rid of that money that is sitting in those contracts. So for Jersen Construction, our original allowance was \$790,500. We have \$465,039.49 remaining but we are going to leave \$50,000 in there just because there is work to be done in the spring, in case anything comes up but we are taking that \$465,039.49, we are taking back \$9,101 from J&K, \$11,565.38 from Weydmen and \$23,552.48 from DiGesare for a total of \$463,258.35 in savings out of those contracts.”

Mr. Malta: “Thank you. I have a question. Where does that \$463,258.35 get placed?”

Sheri Ferdula: “It’s in the construction budget total. It was incorporated into our budget so we have that money set aside but now it’s money we are not going to send.”

Mr. Malta: “Okay. Thank you.”

Item #7 – On motion of Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Smith for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Smith for Ways & Means, Item #7 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous. Absent: 1.

Mr. Malta: “Anything under other?”

Mr. Johnson: “Mr. Chairman, I just had a question. The Sheriff made in his opening statement during the monthly report, maybe he can go into it, the Jail is going to open in April? That is news to me. Is that open for full board, close the other and open the other?”

Sheriff Scherer: “That is our game plan. We are three quarters of the way through our training. We have another week with this group and then it will be another two weeks with the next group. We have some possible part timers that may need to get a few hours in on. We have to do that report to the State and then we are hoping the second or third week of April at the latest for full...move the current prisoners over from the current Jail to the new Jail and do a post plan for the old Jail.”

Mr. Johnson: “Thank you sheriff.”

Sheriff Scherer: “You are welcome.”

Item # 8 – N/A

At 11:41 a.m., on motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Weakley, the Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee adjourned.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.