

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 7, 2011

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Suprenant, Hall, Banks, Henke, Pitts, Gordon

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Lindsay

SUPERVISORS: LaPointe, Rymph, Haff

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Mike Mercure, Public Defender

Mike Gray, Alternative Sentencing Dir.

Sheriff Leclaire

Anthony White, Probation Director

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Bruce Mason, EMS Coordinator

Bill McCarty, Code Enforcement Adm.

Undersheriff Mabb

Bill Adamson, Weights & Measures

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2011
3. Department Requests/Reports:
  - A. Probation
    1. Request Permission for an Unpaid Intern
  - B. Alternative Sentencing
    1. Agency Updates
  - C. Code Enforcement
    1. County Wide Code Enforcement Study Update
  - D. Public Defender
    1. Discuss Video Conferencing
    2. Discuss Office Space
    3. Discuss Staffing Issues
      - a. Possible Part-time Employee
      - b. Status of Assistants as Full-time/Part-time
4. Other Business
5. Department Head Evaluation – Director of Weights & Measures
6. Adjournment

In the absence of Chairman Lindsay, Mr. Suprenant called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2011 meeting was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Messrs. Banks and Pitts and adopted.

PROBATION – Anthony White, Director, addressed the following item with the committee:

- Request Permission for an Unpaid Intern – Anthony is request permission to move forward with an unpaid intern in his office for the summer. The pay will be experience earned. The person will accompany Probation Officers in their daily functions and do some tasks and duties that will free up the Probation Officers time. A motion to approve unpaid intern was moved by Mr. Henke and seconded by Mr. Pitts. Discussion. The intern is from Schuylerville attending SUNY Plattsburgh through ACC. This intern will be working into August, six-hour days and supervised by a Probation Officer and Probation Supervisor. A motion to approve unpaid intern was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, reminded Anthony that at the conclusion of the intern's time, he must report out to the committee on what the intern did during this time.

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING – Mike Gray, Director, addressed the following with the committee:

- Agency Updates:
  - All cemeteries and parks were mowed for Memorial Day.

- Future projects include the following:
  - Scrape and Paint Salem train depot and barn
  - Community garden – ground broken and readying for planting, 100 x 200
  - Whitehall on Canal Bank
  - Fort Edward painting fence and museum
  - PV cemetery – will mow
  - Dresden canon
  - Small Jobs – Any Supervisors will small jobs should contact Mike.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Bill McCarty, Code Enforcement Administrator, addressed the committee:

- County Wide Code Enforcement Study Update – Last month the study was distributed for review and consideration at today's meeting. The total County expense for 2011 was \$159,024 providing coverage to 12 towns and 8 villages and the individual towns that do not participate paid \$137,645 for 5 towns and 1 village. The towns that do not participate also pay a share of the county expense. July 1<sup>st</sup> the deadline for making any change with Code Enforcement operations. A motion to leave it the way it is, take no action – leave Code Enforcement as it is, was moved by Mr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Banks and adopted. Mrs. Hall opposed.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Michael Mercure, Public Defender, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Video Conferencing – The Indigent Legal Services fund has advised the Public Defender that additional funds are available totaling \$12,968. The stated purpose of the additional funding is video conferencing. He believes this is really a restoration of some funding that was previously removed. The purpose is to improve communication between the inmates and the Public Defenders and hopefully get on line for video arraignments that would cut down on transportation of inmates to the various courts. He stated there are other things they can do with this funding if video conferencing is not an option. The Sheriff stated the equipment in the Jail, video conferencing equipment on loan, is going back because there was no interest in pursuing video conferencing because of the cost. All the courts would also need to have this expensive equipment. The two pieces of equipment at the Jail cost \$110,000. Regarding another use for these funds, Mr. Mercure stated they are starting to get a lot of cases out of felony treatment court, Hudson Falls Village court and increased volume in all other courts, and he suggested possibly a part time employee for this additional work. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, asked if this affects the maintenance of effort. Mr. Mercure will check on that. He may need an additional part time employee for the volume of work. He will inquire if these funds can be used for personnel and report back next month with other alternatives.
- Office Space – He has limited office space and privacy issues with insufficient space. The committee recommendation was to discuss this concern with Harrison Steves, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.
- Staffing Issues:
  - Possible Part-time Employee – addressed above in video conferencing item.
  - Status of Assistants as Full-time/Part-time – This request affects one employee in his office, Christian Morris, a part-time Assistant Public Defender, in reference to a loan repayment forgiveness program with respect to student loans for an attorney working as a Public Defender. He believes one requirement of the loan

forgiveness program is that they must be a full time Public Defender. He would not be looking for any change in income just a status change to qualify for this student loan forgiveness program. Part-time employees do not qualify. Mr. Mercure will come back with additional information. Mr. Banks suggest making the position full-time temporary.

- Miscellaneous:
  - Copying regarding Lawsuit Discovery – His office administrator has spent 65 hours copying documents, used 24 reams of paper and Buildings and Grounds has made seven trips to and from his office and the storage site with boxes of documents. 2008 – 2010 documents have been copied and they are working on 2006 and 2007. He anticipates the project being complete in another month.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Introductory Local Law C – A local law requiring certain records to be kept by dealers in secondhand articles and placing certain restrictions on the purchase and sale or disposal of said secondhand articles. – A motion to present a resolution for consideration at the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to adopt Introductory Local Law C of 2011 was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.

Accepting Out of State Inmates – Mr. Suprenant stated he was speaking with the District Attorney who indicated that the State of Vermont sends their inmates as far away as Colorado and that it is a state law in New York that we cannot accept inmates from other states. The Sheriff confirmed that was correct and stated that legislation is being looked at to change that law. The Sheriff's Association has been pushing for several years for that change. A resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign a letter requesting a change in this legislation to allow acceptance of out of state inmates was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mr. Banks and Mr. Pitts and adopted.

DEPARTMENT HEAD EVALUATION (Director of Weights & Measures) - A motion to enter an executive session to conduct a department head evaluation, Director of Weights & Measures, to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mr. Gordon and adopted.

The committee adjourned from executive session. No action was taken in the executive session.