

Schoharie County Law Enforcement Review Committee (LERC)

March 16, 2021

Attendees: please see attached roster

Meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m.

Motion to open the Public Hearing for the Law Enforcement Review Committee (LERC) made by Mr. Weinhofer, seconded by Mr. Lape. Carried.

Chairman Federice – Thank you all for the hard work put into this process. We will hear from anyone here that wants to speak and then those of you on the phone will have an opportunity to speak if you want. There may be some that agree with the recommendations and others that do not agree. Not everyone will be satisfied but I feel these recommendations are good and I support them.

Mr. Lape – I would like to thank the committee members, the community members, Sheriff Stevens, and his group – Investigator Baker, Sgt. McCoy, Sgt. Reinhart, Deputy Minton, and Undersheriff Tillapaugh. You all did great work and put in a lot of time and effort. Thank you to Rural Awakenings – Pat Hults and Debbie Paden as well as Peter Harrison and Pastor Ray Richards, Patsy Nicosia from the Times Journal and Carl Walthers from SCHOPEG, Candice Ellis from Catholic Charities regarding the LEAD Program, Village of Cobleskill Mayor Becky Stanton-Turk, and C.J. Smith from the Board of Supervisors for taking minutes and compiling the 471-page report.

This process started on September 1, 2020 with the first presentation on September 15, 2020 on the LEAD Program. On October 6, 2020 we heard presentations from Department heads Suzanne Graulich - Indigent Defense Administrator, Susan Mallery - District Attorney and Denise Minton – Probation Director. On October 20, 2020 we met at the new Public Safety Facility and heard presentations from Donna Becker – Commissioner of Social Services and Bonnie Post – Director of Community Services. November 2020 through February 2021 was the “nuts and bolts” of the open discussion with the committee, Sheriff’s Department, and the community. I believe we all learned a lot. Great information was shared, and open dialog was established.

Chairman Federice – We received several comments today. They are available on the table if anyone is interested. We will open it up for public comment now.

Helen Thomas – I came to support all of Rural Awakening’s recommendations.

Pat Hults – This is more procedural, but what are you asking the Board of Supervisors to approve?

Chairman Federice – The recommendations made and the policy and procedure changes that have already been done.

Pat Hults – We are disappointed that there weren't more recommendations adopted, however we would like to thank you all for the opportunity to allow for citizen input.

Debbie Paden – This is also procedural. While I do feel that the substance is good and accurate, I think you should add a summery page that articulates a clear plan. The Governor is looking for a plan. I do appreciate the time and effort by the Sheriff's Department, Bill and the committee.

Chairman Federice – If there are no more comments, we will recess the Public Hearing and resume it Friday morning at 9:00 am.

Motion to recess the Public Hearing at 5:18 pm made by Mr. Weinhofer, seconded by Mr. Lape. Carried.

Law/Radio/Law Review Meeting March 16, 2021 (Board Chambers)

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGENCY/DEPT/VISITOR</u>
1	Bill Federice	Chairman of the Board
2	Dick Lape	Chair of Law Committee
3	Duane Tilpaugh, Undersheriff	Sheriff's Dept.
4	Suzanne Graulich	LDI
5	C.J. Smith	BOS
6	Steve Weinhofer	BOS
7	Sheriff Ron Stevens	Sheriff's Dept.
8	Inv. Bruce Baker	Sheriff's Dept.
9	Sgt. Reinhart	Sheriff's Dept.
10	Patsy Nicosia	Times Journal
11	Carl Walthers	SchoPeg
12	Pastor Ray Richards	Committee member
13	Debbie Paden	Rural Awakenings
14	Pat Hults	Rural Awakenings
15	Alicia Terry	BOS
16	Becky Turk	Village of Cobleskill Mayor
17	Helen Thomas	Community member
18	Michael Whaling	Community member
19	Michael Whaling	Community member
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