

Law Enforcement Committee
9/1/2020

Present: D. Lape (Chair), J. Leavitt, S. Weinhofer, P. Hait, H. Vroman

Also Present: M. Hartzel, I. Jaycox, R. Stevens, S. Wilson, S. Haverly, E. Hartzel, S. Graulich, W. Federice, S. Mallery, D. Minton, B. Baker, Theresa Heary, W. Cook, P. Nicosia

Called to Order: 5:01 pm

DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

District Attorney: Susan Mallery

Requesting to backfill the Assistant District Attorney position. This has already been approved in this committee but was denied at Finance. Before COVID, our part time person transferred to Rensselaer County where she was offered full time pay. Since then, I've been working her shift plus my own shift. Kevin Mallery did the appeals for the last two months. We are just shy of 600 cases and on average it takes 10 hours to do a case. We aren't making deadlines because we just don't have enough man hours. We can't keep up with it so we need to backfill this position.

MOTION by Leavitt to approve and send to Personnel to backfill the Assistant DA position. 2nd by Weinhofer. All in Favor, none Opposed; **CARRIED.**

PROBATION:

Director: Denise Minton

Requesting to amend the third quarter spending plan. Line A.3140.4214, the drug testing line. We already spent all the money in this line, and we have a \$1,080 bill that's coming in.

Lape: Is this a budget transfer?

Wilson: It's not a budget transfer. It's the quarter three spending plan and she didn't plan for this money.

MOTION by Leavitt to approve and send to Personnel to amend the third quarter spending plan. 2nd by Hait. All in Favor, none Opposed; **CARRIED.**

The Probation Department is seeking authorization for the Chairman to sign a revised contract with West Publishing Corporation. This previously expired on 2003, but I was able to renegotiate the contract to reduce the monthly cost beginning October 2020, which will save money for the remainder of 2020 and will reduce anticipated costs in 2021. We use this search tool for locating probationers who have been absconded and have active warrants, to locate defendants with outstanding financial obligations to the department and to locate victims with restitution owed.

Wilson: The full board must authorize it, but it doesn't need to go to Personnel and Finance.

MOTION by Hait to have the Chairman of the Board sign the revised contract with West Publishing Corporation. 2nd by Weinhofer. All in Favor, none Opposed; **Carried.**

The STOP DWI Program is seeking authorization to apply again for the 2020-2021 Crackdown Funding (Grant) through NYS STOP DWI Foundation Board for \$4,350. This funding will be used to reimburse annual Crackdown events throughout the year. The reimbursement is 100% for their hours and overtime costs while working during the crackdown event. The application is online and cannot be signed by the Chairman. No county funds are involved.

MOTION by Hait to send to Personnel to apply for the 2020-2021 Crackdown Funding (Grant) and spend per grant budget. 2nd by Weinhofer. All in Favor, none Opposed; **CARRIED.**

The Probation Department is requesting to declare a Dell OptiPlex 7010 desktop computer unusable.

MOTION by Leavitt to send to Personnel to declare a Dell OptiPlex 7010 desktop computer unusable. 2nd by Weinhofer. All in Favor, none Opposed; **CARRIED.**

OFFICE FOR THE LEGAL DEFENSE OF INDIGENTS:

Administrator: Suzanne Graulich

Update: We are in week 8 of making all the criminal assignments and doing the eligibility screening for the criminal courts. Our biggest challenge is trying to keep track.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE (see attached report):

Sheriff: Ronald Stevens

Boarding costs are dictating our ability to get into the facility. Looks like we will have to wait another week or two. The engineers performed a flow test today and found a 4x4 piece of concrete that came out of one of the hydrants. They verbally told me that the test went very well. The next move will be to provide Department of State the test results to approve. We anticipate this will happen again soon. With that, I'm looking to increase my revenues.

Requesting the following Budget Amendments to cover boarding cost:

- Increase Jail Boarding Line A. 3170.4224 by \$35,000
- Increase Revenue Line A.4784 by \$26,250
- Increase Revenue Line A.3784 by \$8,750

With increasing inmate numbers and the delay of housing our own inmates, additional funds may need to be transferred.

Requesting the following Budget Transfer to cover boarding cost:

- \$15,000 from Jail Medical Line A.3150.4269 to the Jail Boarding Line A.3170.4224

MOTION by Hait to approve and send to Finance the following Budget Amendments and Budget Transfer:

- Increase the Jail Boarding Line A.3170.4224 by \$35,000
- Increase Revenue Line A.4784 by \$26,250
- Increase Revenue Line by A.3784 by \$8,750
- Budget Transfer: \$15,000 from Jail Medical Line A.3150.4269 to Jail Boarding Line A.3170.4224

2nd by Weinhofer. All in Favor, none Opposed; **CARRIED.**

Discussion ensued about Executive Order 203:

Federice: There is a lot of work involved in this to do it correctly and we are going to do it correctly. We will have an organizational meeting first and will have documents laid out and for us to look at. The public will be invited to all the meetings, which will be separate from Law Committee, so we have the public's input and all the meetings will be streamed. This is going to take a lot of work and April 1st is our deadline.

Stevens: Long before the Governor came out with Executive Order 203, (3 years ago) we started The LEAD Program which is a Harm Reduction Program. The LEAD Program is a module for what the Governor is talking about in Executive Order 203. We partner with Catholic Charities and are the only Sheriff's Organization in NYS that participates in this program. We applied for and were awarded a grant through our insurance provider, which we used to hire Lexipol last year, to write new policies and procedures for the Sheriff's Office, which will meet requirements for the Executive Order 203. We will have Town meetings again to hear public concerns.

Baker: The LEAD Program is a prearrest program and looks at low level nonviolent crimes. That's what the Bail Reform is all about. We are looking into setting up an informational meeting to show the public how the program works. We have annual training with refresher courses, hands on training, how to handle people, and deescalating things.

Cook: I have a concern that Lexipol is designed to protect the department, town, and the county, not necessarily the public's interest. I'm hopeful that the county will look very closely at Lexipol's policies and make sure there is a balance between the department needs and the public's needs for that department.

Nicosia: Looking at this group, we are a very nondiverse group. With that, moving forward please make the effort to go out and talk to a variety of people. Let's make this very inclusive.

COUNTY CLERK AND DMV:

Schoharie County Clerk: Indica Jaycox

The DMV revenue is close to last year and the mortgage tax revenue has increased.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Emily Hartzel & Colleen Flynn, 9/3/2020