

**Herkimer County Legislature
Public Safety/Emergency Management and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Friday, December 4, 2020
Via Zoom
Follows Human Resources and Ways & Means**

Persons Attending:

John P. Stephens (Chairman, Public Safety/W&M committee member)
Raymond Johnson (committee member, both)
Kurt J. Ackerman (committee member, both)
William Weakley (Public safety committee member)
Peter 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
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Brandy Serow, Sec. to County Administrator
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer
Scott Scherer, Sheriff
John Raymond, Director of Emergency Management

(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:

Gregory Malta, Sr. (Public Safety committee member)

Mr. Stephens called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

Items Discussed:

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

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

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:

3. Accept additional funding for the New York State Highway Safety Program and amend budget in STOP-DWI
4. Requesting payment of invoice for additional coroner's transport cost
5. Approve purchase of smart boards using grant funding in Emergency Services
6. Approve purchase and installation of security cameras in Emergency Services
7. Authorize Chairman to sign year 2 and subsequent years contracts for ILS grant funding
8. Approve extension and authorize Chairman to e-sign State Interoperability Communications 2018 Grant in Emergency Services

9. Other

Committee Vote Record:

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Mr. Stephens: "First thing, approve the monthly report of the Sheriff for September."

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

Item #2 – N/A.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Stephens: "Number three, accept additional funding for the New York State Highway Safety Program and amend budget in STOP-DWI. Mike Edwards are you on? Sheri, is this the money we didn't get at first and now we are getting it?"

Sheri Ferdula: "No. This is left over money from the program. When there is left over money they distribute it out to the counties to be used. That's what this is."

Mr. Stephens: "Ok."

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

Mr. Stephens: "Next is request payment of invoice for additional coroner's transport cost. I have a quick question on this and I'm sure, Jim Wallace can maybe help me on this. They are asking for \$250 but if we are only paying the county mileage and it's only thirty some miles, that doesn't come out right. Can somebody explain to me why that is different?"

Jim Wallace: "John, what they asked and what we usually do, I think that's what Shari is sharing with us, normally we would pay, we've done this a few times where we've paid our regular rate plus the mileage. Britt and I were looking yesterday, five or six times over the years. They are asking for an extra amount which is not recommended by us but again, we don't have that decision making. It has to come to the committee. I'm not sure if that helps."

Mr. Russell: "We have done it in the past."

Jim Wallace: "The mileage plus the regular rate but not the \$250."

Mr. Bono: "We've done it when we had to go to Albany."

Mr. Stephens: "That I remember but the mileage fee and the miles transported doesn't add up to me for the \$250. That's why I was questioning this."

Jim Wallace: "I'm saying what we would pay is the mileage plus the \$75 but they are looking for \$250 which we have not paid before."

Mr. Stephens: "Right."

Jim Wallace: "Again, I should have been clearer on that. Sorry about that."

Mr. Stephens: “No. That’s fine. It’s only going to be a little over a \$100 total, isn’t it, if we pay the mileage plus the \$75 charge?”

Jim Wallace: “Yes. I think it’s like sixty eight miles both ways.”

Mr. Johnson: “Can I get a motion from both committees to pay the normal rate and mileage.”

Mr. Russell: “Oh, this is the ambulance service that’s asking for money?”

Mr. Stephens: “Yes.”

Mr. Russell: “Yeah, I don’t think we have ever done that.”

Mr. Stephens: “No. All in favor to pay the fee and mileage only?”

Item # 4 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: “Number five approve purchase of SMART boards using grant funding in Emergency Services. Mr. Raymond, a quick spiel please.”

John Raymond: “These are SMART boards we would use in the Emergency Operations Center. We decided to go with portable boards. We would keep them in the OC but if they had to be moved somewhere else for some reason we couldn’t use the OC or we needed to move them somewhere else we could. The lowest price, we went through Information Services IT to get the quotes, the lowest quote was from CDW-G and this is coming out of SHSP grant 2019, project EM0-13. It’s 100% funded by the grant.”

Item #5 – On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Campione for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Stephens for Ways & Means, Item #5 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: “Number six approve purchase and installation of security cameras in Emergency Services. John.”

John Raymond: “So this would be security cameras mounted on four of our major 911 communication towers and that stuff would be fed back via our new microwave system to the center where we would have alarms and video surveillance in the dispatch room. Kind of a timely topic. I don’t know if everybody saw the news. There was a guy, who believed, I guess 5G signals were affecting him and affecting his children. He damaged several cell towers in the City of Utica and he also damaged one of Oneida County’s 911 communications tower that is located up on Higby Road near the county line. He did tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of damage to that tower by cutting the lines to the antennas. So, not a good thing. So this is kind of a timely thing that we are doing this. They do not have cameras up there working now.”

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

Mr. Stephens: “Number seven authorize Chairman to sign year two and subsequent years contracts for ILS grant funding. That’s the Indigent Legal Services, right?”

Jim Wallace: “Correct.”

Mr. Stephens: “Ok. Can I get a motion on Public Safety?”

Item #7 – On motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Weakley for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Stephens for Ways & Means, Item #7 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: “Number eight approve extension and authorize Chairman to e-sign the State Interoperability Communications 2018 Grant in Emergency Services. This is just an extension, correct John?”

John Raymond: “Yes. A big thank you to Jennifer and Brittney in the Legislative Office for catching this. In years past we would apply for an extension and they required no e-signature. This year, I think a couple days ago, Jennifer calls me and says there is an e-signature for a grant, do you know anything about it? We looking into it and it turned out to be this. So, apparently now the State requires us to e-sign if we extend a grant. They did not make me aware of that at all. I put in for this extension way back in October. So going forward I will just have to be aware that when we extend something they are going to request an e-signature. There is a little over fifty thousand dollars left in the grant. We are going to use this to purchase those cameras that we talked about previously and then we are going to use it just for some other stuff at the communication sites. Buying DC power plants to back stuff up especially at places like McCauley Mountain where if the generator didn’t start we would have other means of power at the site. So we are basically just looking for an e-signature.”

Item #8 – On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Campione for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Shaw for Ways & Means, Item #8 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Item #9 – N/A

At 10:11 a.m., on motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Weakley, the Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee adjourned.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.