

Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Emergency Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2020

PRESENT: Chairman Pete Walrod
Vice Chairman Loren Corbin
Supervisor Joe Ostrander
Supervisor Fred Lawrence

ALSO: County Administrator Mark Scimone
Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari
County Attorney Tina Wayland-Smith
First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell
Emergency Management Director Dan Degear
EMS Coordinator John Barattini
Assistant Director of 911 Frank McFall
Treasurer Cindy Edick
Public Information Officer Samantha Field
Supervisor Eve Ann Schwartz

ABSENT: Supervisor T.J. Stokes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Walrod at 8:30 a.m. in the Supervisors Large Conference Room.

Minutes:

The minutes of the January 7, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved on the motion of Vice Chairman Loren Corbin and second of Chairman Pete Walrod.

District Attorney :

Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari reported that they were 16 days into the new Discovery Laws and were down two attorneys until they find a replacement for Scott Bielicki and the new attorney starts in February. Mascari said they were using many contacts to find someone to fill Bielicki's position. Mascari also reported that eDiscovery is giving them a chance to comply with the new Discovery Laws which are imposing a tremendous burden on the staff. As an example of how big a task this was statewide, over 100,000 discovery packages are being generated statewide every day through the Digital Evidence Management system administered by the New York Prosecutors Training Institute. Madison County uses this system.

Mascari informed the Committee that the Pilot Traffic Diversion project has crossed the \$5,000 mark in two weeks.

Mascari said that John Regan was doing a tremendous job with the centralized arraignment project. Tina Wayland-Smith will draft a resolution of support for centralized arraignment for the Board's consideration and Mascari will look it over.

Emergency Management:

Emergency Management Director Dan Degear presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2020 Adopted County Budget

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Corbin and second of Ostrander.

Authorizing Attendance at an Out-Of-State Conference - Dan Degear

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Corbin and second of Ostrander.

Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Atlas Business Solutions, Inc.

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Corbin and second of Ostrander.

Authorizing the Chairman to Sign Use and Dissemination Agreement with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Corbin and second of Walrod.

Emergency Management Director Dan Degear reported to the Committee that there was an EMS Directors meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the EOC on January 16th and that Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari would attend the meeting to discuss the new Criminal Justice reform laws and how they could affect first responders.

Degear said that Emergency Management had a recruitment retention grant that would soon expire, and that the department was looking into doing some banners and other promotional things to help get the word out about the need for EMTs and firefighters. Emergency Management currently has an Intern, Jonathan McFall, who is helping with how to get the word out to high school kids.

EMS Coordinator, John Barattini, shared a handout on the EMS workforce shortage in NYS. The number of certified EMS providers in New York has declined 9% in the last ten years. Barattini said that a substantial number of EMS agencies report an impaired ability to respond to calls for assistance due to shortages of certified EMTs and paramedics. This is true for agencies that utilize volunteer responders and those that use paid responders. Some of the reasons for the EMS workforce shortage include a decline in the number of new volunteers to replace long-time volunteers aging into retirement, low wages for career EMTs and paramedics, a very limited capacity to raise wages and a need for more EMS responders to meet the increasing demands for ambulance service due to aging communities, drug and alcohol abuse, behavioral health challenges and chronic care needs. Barattini added that we need to start going to towns and villages to explain what Madison County EMS does. Degear stated that t-shirts were being designed for EMT recruits. It was suggested that John Barattini send the EMS handout he shared with the Committee to Senator May and John Salka.

Assistant 911 Director Frank McFall explained to the Committee that there was an approved program to do overdose mapping in 911. The program keeps track of overdose responses by law enforcement.

Emergency Management Director Dan Degear informed the Committee that he proposed some office space changes in Emergency Management. There will be some walls coming down and some new walls put up to make offices for employees.

Chairman Walrod asked EMS Coordinator John Barattini to bring the new Committee members up to speed on the CEVAC issues at the next meeting.

Sheriff's Office:

Chairman Pete Walrod presented the following resolutions to the Committee:

Authorizing Attendance at an Out-Of-State Conference - Wolcott

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Walrod and second of Corbin.

Authorizing Attendance at an Out-Of-State Conference - Kirley

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Corbin and second of Ostrander.

Other Committee Business:

First Assistant County Attorney Jeff Aumell presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Authorizing the Modification of the 2020 Adopted County Budget

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Corbin and second of Ostrander.

Chairman Pete Walrod presented the following resolution to the Committee:

Re-Appointing a Supervisor to the Jury Board

The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on the motion of Corbin and second of Ostrander.

Chairman Pete Walrod suggested that the Criminal Justice Public Safety Committee hold their monthly meetings at 9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday, and it was unanimously agreed upon.

Preferred Agenda:

The Committee unanimously approved including all resolutions in the Committee's Preferred Agenda on a motion of Corbin and second of Ostrander.

Adjournment:

The Committee adjourned at 10:00 a.m. on the motion of Chairman Walrod and second of Vice Chairman Corbin.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tricia Wiley on behalf of Chairman Paul H. Walrod.