

LAW ENFORCEMENT & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

November 2, 2011

9:00 A.M.

Chairman O'Melia called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. in Committee Room #2 of the Oneida County Courthouse.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman David O'Melia, Member Jack Young, Member Paul Dean, and Member Billy Fried. Vice Chairman Bob Metropulos was excused.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheriff Jeff Hoffman, Chief Deputy John Sweeney, Corporation Counsel Brian Desmond, Clerk of Circuit Court Brenda Behrle, Gary Baier, and Recording Secretary Jill Butzlaff.

Motion by Dean to approve the November 2, 2011, agenda as posted, second was offered by Fried, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Dean to approve the September 14, 2011, minutes, second by Young, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Dean to approve the October 5, 2011, minutes, second by Young, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / ACTION:

Sheriff's Office - Finance Committee adjustments to 2012 Sheriff's Office budget

Sheriff Jeff Hoffman and Chief Deputy John Sweeney were present. Hoffman stated the office had reduced the budget by an additional \$204,000 after Committee approval, but the Finance Committee made some additional cuts. Hoffman noted the Minocqua dispatch money was decreased by \$10,000. In addition, due to overtime cuts, the fringe benefits were reduced by approximately \$10,000. Brief discussion followed regarding the Forestry Department sharing stumpage revenues with the Sheriff's Office to help offset recreational safety expenses. Sweeney stated the number of hours would be reduced for recreational safety with this budget. Sweeney noted that tourism in the Oneida County depends on quality services. Brief discussion followed regarding money established for Phase III radio, which is not being delayed until 2013. Gary Baier noted there is a difference between designated and undesignated funds in the budget. Hoffman stated funding for the Community Policing Officer was reduced by approximately \$11,000. Sweeney noted that cuts were made to make up for this shortage. The Community Policing Officer will be working less hours in the Minocqua office, and re-assigned to Court Services to reduce overtime costs. More discussion followed regarding utilizing the LTE funding from Forestry to help support the cost of the recreational safety deputies. Baier indicated he would discuss this at the Forestry Committee. Discussion was for information only, no action taken.

Sheriff's Office - Minocqua Police Department dispatch services and Finance Committee 2012 budget adjustments.

Brief discussion followed regarding the loss of \$10,000 for these services. Fried noted that he believes in public safety, and would like to restore this amount to the budget. Fried noted that the Minocqua dispatch center receives approximately 10,000 calls a year, and E911 was the number one priority in the County's efficiency study. Fried noted the loss of the dispatch center in Minocqua would place additional stress on the County, and could end up costing more in addition to losing the priority service. Brief discussion followed regarding the history of Oneida County dispatching for

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the City of Rhinelander. Young questioned if the Vilas backup connection was in place. Sweeney noted that the backup is done. Sweeney stated a staffing study would need to be done to establish the impact of answering the Minocqua calls. Fried noted that money represents more than dispatch services, as Woodruff provides office space to County as well for no additional cost. Sweeney stated the money paid to Minocqua is a good service for a small amount of money. Fried noted he would continue to look at ways to restore the money without affecting the tax base. Brief discussion followed regarding budget cuts and the impact on public safety. Young noted the Transition Committee will also be reviewing some of these matters.

Corporation Counsel - Review resolution for regulation of weapons in County buildings

Corporation Counsel, Brian Desmond, was present. Desmond noted the signs for the buildings are on order. Desmond distributed the ordinance amendment to the Committee. Brief discussion followed regarding the ordinance amendment and special events.

Motion by O'Melia to approve the ordinance amendment and present it to the County Board for review, second by Fried, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

Clerk of Circuit Court -Elimination of Clerk of Court's Office as Passport Acceptance Facility

Clerk of Circuit Court, Brenda Behrle, was present. Behrle would like to eliminate passport acceptance. Behrle stated that staff would need to be re-certified in order to keep providing the service, which is not mandated. Brief discussion followed regarding any revenue that would be lost due to the change.

Motion by O'Melia to eliminate the issuance of passports by the Clerk of Circuit Courts effective January 1, 2012, second by Young.

Further discussion followed regarding the amount of time required to issue passports and other locations citizens can obtain the service.

10:15 a.m. Dean briefly left the meeting.

The above motion passed 3-0, with one member absent (Dean) during the vote.

10:20 a.m. Dean returned to the meeting.

AUDIT OF ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENTS

Following examination of financial information submitted by the law enforcement departments, O'Melia made a motion to approve vouchers, BPO Reports, and other financial information as submitted, second by Dean, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSS TOPICS FOR NEXT AGENDA / SET DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting was scheduled for: December 7, 2011 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/DISCUSSIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were no other public comments or discussions.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before this committee, O'Melia made a motion to adjourn with a second by Fried, all ayes on voice vote; the motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE SECRETARY jab