

Minutes

Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 4:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Wendel, Tarbrake, Whitford, Bankoski, Niebel

Others: Tampio, Swanson, Horrigan, Dennison, Leone, Hemmer, Himelein, Lt. Quattrone, Sheriff Gerace, Under Sheriff Holder, Deputy Howlett, Sgt. Studley, J. Zuroski, A. Toda

Chairman Wendel called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (5/18/17)

MOVED by Legislator Niebel, SECONDED by Legislator Bankoski.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Toda: I would like to a – Mr. Wendel, I would like to –

Legislator Bankoski: Come up here and state your name and address please.

Yes, my name is Anthony Toda and I would like to continue the tape that I had produced a couple of meetings back and I live at 144 Clifton Ave in Jamestown. I just want to remind everybody I was invited here by Mr. Wendel who invited me to produce the tape for listening. Also Mr. Wendel said Mr. Whitford would be interested in hearing it and also Sheriff Gerace told me that he had not heard the tape and he would like to listen to them at the Public Safety meeting. The issue with some of these, as I stated before, (*inaudible*) any problems with the Sheriff has refused to correct concerning identification of, when I call the Chautauqua County dispatcher and harassment. The tape that I – the part of the segment that I'd like to present today, includes the music that was played when I called and also failure of the call – call failed as was stated on the audio tape. According to Carol who is the secretary to the Sheriff, she has never heard of this before so I'd like to have an explanation by the Sheriff why I'm hearing it on these tapes when his own secretary is contradicting that.

Legislator Niebel: Mr. Chairman before we begin, is this the same tape that we heard last time?

Mr. Toda: This is a different segment of the same tape, correct.

Legislator Niebel: Same tape but different part of it.

Mr. Toda: There are excerpts on many tapes, so they are completely different from what - I started after a problem I had with Mr. Larson. I also had another problem with him this past month when it was inferred that I was making discriminatory comment against people from Puerto Rico when I called so that is two things, off the top of my head, that Mr. Larson has done. As far as harassment, when I try and make a complaint through the dispatchers of Chautauqua County –

Legislator Bankoski: Let's get going here.

Mr. Toda: So this is the - *(He then played the tape which states that it's transferring the call and is speaking over it – sounding like drums playing and he's stating this what Carol, Sheriff's secretary never heard of according to her response about this. Then music playing. Comes back on, call transferring –*

Mr. Toda: That's another part of it, that happened when the *(still speaking over tape – inaudible)*. The *(inaudible)* never heard of and I would like to have an explanation from the Sheriff of why I'm hearing these on these tapes and why they are being produced. The reason I came to this committee is, I know that you have jurisdiction over the Sheriff, they hold the purse strings, and there was a lot of appropriation for the Sheriff including County communications. If the Sheriff is using this illegally to harass constituents of the County, I want to make this Committee aware of it and now that I have made you aware of some of it, I'm going to continue and the responsibility will not only fall on the Sheriff but also this Committee and the County Legislature when I make them aware of it. So, I'm placing everybody on notice that –

Chairman Himelein: Excuse me sir. You aren't placing me on notice or anybody. Or any of these Legislators. They act on their own.

Mr. Toda: Well, I'm informing the Legislators that if this persists, I will sue the County and now that this Committee is aware of it, they have a responsibility to *(inaudible)* the money in the right place. In other words, when you appropriate money, you don't appropriate money for to a facility harassment of your constituents over a phone system that the Sheriff is trying to use and trying to improve on. The State has appropriated, I will be in touch with them, the Legislature has appropriated, I will be in touch with them at the meeting, and I want to inform this committee of it because you all are going to be liable, plain and simple if you do nothing about this.

Chairman Wendel: Excuse me, excuse me. This has now gone from informative to accusations and in my opinion and the Committee can confer or not, of more threatening actions. At this point, you have exceeded your three minutes. At no time do I feel that this is a harassing phone call. If you call them multiple times, I think the harassment would be more on your part than the County's part.

Mr. Toda: When I complain –

Chairman Wendel: Excuse me. I have the floor. The County does not call you and give you a hard time. You call them. This has gone from the County, the City level, I'm not sure

where else we can go. You have avenues with the State, the State Attorney General's office, we've listened, if you feel that you want to come to the County again, please do so but at this time, duly noted, your time is up and we need to move on with the meeting.

Mr. Toda: Thank you.

Chairman Wendel: You're welcome. Anyone else to speak to the privilege of the floor? If not, moving on.

Proposed Resolution – Create and Reallocate Revenue and Appropriation Accounts for EMS Fly Car Program

Mr. Leone: This is simply moving the money. When we created the budget that was approved by the Legislature at the beginning of the year, all the money fell under the RDMS category. We decided to move it to a separate category so we could really keep track, very carefully, of the monies we are spending, the monies coming in with the Fly Car, so we really created its own entity within the budget. That is all that this is. Taking the money that has already been approved and moving it under a separate budget space.

Legislator Whitford: None of the amounts have changed?

Mr. Leone: Nothing has changed. Everything is exactly the same. It was co-mingling with a bunch of other accounts and it just was going to be very difficult to keep good track of it.

Chairman Wendel: And Kathleen was in on this?

Mr. Leone: Yes.

Chairman Wendel: We just want to be sure to dot our "i's" and cross our "t's".

Mrs. Dennison: Just to clarify what Julius has mentioned. The (*inaudible*) moved to a new sub-department. The sub-department was created within the existing 3989 department. That is where the budget was originally and now it's in a sub-department of that.

Chairman Wendel: Any questions for Mr. Leone? Eagerly awaiting its inception.

Mr. Leone: I can give you a pretty solid update if you want to hear it. It appears as if the first week of August is when we're going to be on the road. We're hiring three paramedics today (*inaudible*) 6 more of the part timers next week. The cars are actually in Fredonia waiting to be lettered so it's probably the most promising sign that we've had since we started so we're excited. The goal is the first week in August at this point.

Chairman Wendel: Any other questions? I have one. Do you have any idea just how many, I don't want to say missed opportunities, but do you have any idea how many opportunities they would have had?

Mr. Leone: We've actually responded to calls already. We've been using the Haz Mat truck and we've responded to a number of ALS calls already. Obviously we can't bill for them but Mike is available and he puts himself in service in the morning and (*inaudible*) part of the County we go.

Legislator Whitford: Thank you very much. We're excited to see it.

Mr. Leone: We are too. This is going to be a great program.

Chairman Wendel: All those in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Agreement with Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Erie II BOCES for School Resource Officer

Sheriff Gerace: This is a continuation of fairly long standing relationship that we have had with BOCES. We have gone from two SRO's, then to one then back to two but it's between three facilities. They added an all Ed facility in Cassadaga, the old Cassadaga Elementary so we have a full time SRO there. Then one other that fluctuates between LoGuidice and Hewes so this is formalizing that contract going forward. They pay the full expenses of both individuals.

Chairman Wendel: Any questions for Joe on this resolution?

Legislator Bankoski: Joe, what does it cost for one deputy, one officer (*inaudible*)?

Sheriff Gerace: This one has a \$58.16 hourly rate that but includes all expenses. It does fluctuate depending on the Step and Grade that the Deputy would be at. I can give you an exact number of each guy.

Legislator Whitford: (*Cross talk*) benefits?

Sheriff Gerace: Yes, their health care, where they are, Grade and Step.

Mrs. Dennison: The contract amount is based on the total cost, fringe and benefits of the officers who will actually be doing it. Officer Brandon Jones, his cost is here and Office Hanner(?), is this cost here. That is estimated cost for the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. This contract actually has a little bit of an increase from the 16-17' contract.

Chairman Wendel: Any other questions for the Sheriff? It's used quite a bit in most districts. They are very valuable. All those in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Authorize Agreement with Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Erie II BOCES for Culinary Arts Instruction

Sheriff Gerace: This is another fairly long standing relationship we've had with BOCES. We have our food service Supervisor is a certified culinary artist and instructs. So what is part of our daily routine in preparing inmate meals, a group of inmates are actually given a certificate in culinary arts at the end of their period serving there and our hopes is obviously to give them something to take with them when they get released from jail that might help them gain opportunities later in life. For this, BOCES reimburses us approximately 50% of the cost of our food service Supervisor.

Legislator Niebel: A program where inmates get experienced in handling knives, sounds like a good program to have. I'm sure (*cross talk*)...

Sheriff Gerace: They do get screened.

Chairman Wendel: Don't have a chain or cable –

Sheriff Gerace: Security is obviously in (*cross talk*) in what we do.

Chairman Wendel: Any other questions for the Sheriff?

Unanimously Carried

Sheriff Gerace: Mr. Chair, could I impose and ask that I make a presentation before the District Attorney for just a couple of minutes and that will give us a chance to get our guy back on the road.

Chairman Wendel: Sure.

(The Sheriff then presented Deputy Howlett with the Sheriff's office award for excellence for the second time for his life saving measure from an accident on June 2, 2017 when a motorcyclist hit a deer)

Discussion – Update on Activity Goals and Proposals to 2018 Budget – DA Patrick Swanson

Other

Chairman Wendel: Is there anything else?

Legislator Whitford: Move to adjourn.

Legislator Bankoski: Second.

Unanimously Carried (5:23 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Kathy K. Tampio, Clerk/Lori J. Foster, Deputy Clerk/Secretary to the Legislature