

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 15, 2016**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Cushing, Mitch Ives, Billy Fried, Chairman Mike Timmons

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Metropulos (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Franzen (Register in Probate), Ken Korten Hof (Emergency Management), Brenda Behrle (Clerk of Circuit Court), Jennifer Allen (Branch II), Larry Mathein (Medical Examiner), Denise Briggs (District Attorney's Office), Brian Desmond (Corporation Counsel), Jill Butzlaff (Sheriff's Office), Chief Deputy Dan Hess, Sheriff Grady Hartman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Timmons called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room #2, stated the meeting notice had been posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and noted accommodations would be made for handicap accessibility.

APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the Agenda (Cushing/Fried, PASSED).

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the August 18, 2016, Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Fried/Cushing, PASSED).

SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2016.

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers, and line item transfers for Public Safety Departments (Cushing/Fried, PASSED).

GREG WALKER'S CONCERNS

Walker stated he was sure that the committee had a closed session with the Sheriff, who probably explained that everything was good, but questions still remained unanswered. Walker stated that after stories had run, there were citizens who were asking for him to continue his pursuit of unanswered questions regarding Lee Lech. Walker presented a document with 12 questions that he would like answered (Exhibit #1). Walker stated that bottom line, there are many unanswered questions and stated this committee had jurisdiction to get these questions answered. Walker asked to be on the agenda for the October 20 meeting to see what answers the committee came up with.

Walker stated he had been told by a member of the grievance committee that they had never held a meeting, but there have been several disciplinary actions at the Sheriff's Office. Walker asked if the question should be posed to the Board as to why the grievance committee never meets. Walker suggested the County Code be changed, that investigations of sheriff's office employees be done by an outside agency, and a reasonable time frame be set for investigations to be concluded, among other things. Walker suggested that there were some oversight by the Public Safety Committee and the Civil Service Commission.

Walker stated the open records/transparency has become an absolute joke. Walker stated that when he asks for records, it means something. Walker stated he never had these issues with former Chief Deputy John Sweeney, never once had to pay for a record, go to court to get records, or had trouble getting records. Walker stated Corporation Counsel Brian Desmond had an absolutely deplorable knowledge of open records. Walker suggested that Corporation Counsel be an elected position. Walker stated that if Desmond was involved, they should find a new one, that it was ridiculous that he had to go through this. Walker stated that if Corporation Counsel was giving this committee advice, he was wrong.

Walker stated he was asked to make a \$150.00 pre-payment for records, which could be waived according to statute. Walker stated the open records laws are clear and he should not have to fight for records. Walker reported to the committee that the county already has a \$50,000 bill for the court proceedings that they had regarding Lee Lech. Walker reported that he was not asking for anything that the public was not entitled to know.

Walker discussed out of town training and what sometimes occurred at those events. Walker advised the committee that they needed to take a serious look at out of town training if that was how the tax dollars were being spent. Walker told the committee that they control the budget, they should check to see that people are actually attending training, and are held accountable. Walker discussed other Sheriff's Office violations that possibly occurred and how the committee needed to hold the Sheriff accountable to the people who elected him.

Walker stated he wasn't in the closed session, but that whatever was said, it will come out. Walker stated it has been a maze of misleading statement and lies, and it would all come out eventually. Walker stated he would not stop, the open records requests would keep coming, and the committee should be working for the best interest of the public.

Walker stated he asked for four weeks for the committee to look at this and respond to the public. Walker stated the committee owes it to the county, to the taxpayers, to come forth with some information related to the 12 questions on these sheets.

Fried asked to comment. Fried told Walker to give Fried's phone number to those citizens who have called looking for continued information. Fried stated he had not received any calls regarding this matter. Fried stated that doesn't mean that there was

not a concern. Fried stated to Walker that he had the perception that the committee was not communicating or that they were really stupid on how they conduct business. Fried told Walker that he gave a conspiracy feeling to this. Walker stated there was no conspiracy theory, that it was fact. Fried stated the committee had to be careful when talking about a specific person and felt the last time Walker attended the meeting, he did not leave the meeting thinking the committee were to give a "press release" stating what was going on. Walker stated that he asked questions and asked for answers. Walker stated he specifically called Fried and Timmons.

Fried told Walker to put his phone number in the paper, that he had received no calls regarding this. Timmons stated he had not, Ives stated he had not. Walker stated sometimes they won't, but they will come April.

Fried told Walker that there wasn't a quick fix or quick answers, that there was a process, and it is slow and drawn out. Fried stated those who know this committee knew that they weren't sitting on their hands. Fried stated to Walker that the committee chair allowed you to bring this to public meeting and you have stamped these people and that was upsetting to him. Timmons stated the committee would have to collectively process the 12 questions and perform their due diligence. Cushing stated that Walker outlined what he wanted the committee to get back to him on and that's what they would do. Ives commented that there were some things that the committee just could not answer.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURTS

2017 Department Budget

Brenda Behrle reported she was back with the one requested change to her budget. The law library was taken out and will be added into the Corporation Counsel budget for 2017. Otherwise, there were no changes from her presentation last month. Behrle mentioned previously that the jury budget continues to go over budget, but that is out of her control.

MOTION: To approve the Clerk of Circuit Courts 2017 Department Budget as presented and forward to the administrative committee for consideration (Cushing/Fried, PASSED).

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

2017 Department Budget

Fried asked what DA Restitution was. Briggs reported that if there was a property crime or any other crime requiring payment of restitution, the District Attorney's Office collects 10% on anyone who has restitution owing.

MOTION: To approve the District Attorney's 2017 Department Budget as presented and forward to the administrative committee for consideration (Fried/Ives, PASSED).

CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH I, REGISTER IN PROBATE & FAMILY COURT COMMISSIONER

2017 Department Budgets

Fried asked Belliveau and Franzen if they had any concerns. Belliveau reported no, that different amounts go up, go down, trends change, it just goes back and forth. Franzen reported there was no way to predict the probate revenues and stated they only get to keep 1/3 of filing fees, the state gets 2/3.

MOTION: To approve the Circuit Court Branch I, Register in Probate & Family Court Commissioner 2017 Department Budgets and forward to the administrative committee for consideration (Cushing/Fried, PASSED).

CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH II

2017 Department Budget

Allen stated that all increases were in personnel. Allen reported that she changed one thing. Allen stated she looked at previous years and moved money from guardian ad litem to medical fees now instead of having to do it later. She was anxious to see how that will work.

MOTION: To approve the Circuit Court Branch II 2017 Department Budget and forward to the administrative committee for consideration (Cushing/Ives, PASSED).

CORPORATION COUNSEL

Westlaw Contract

Desmond reported the Westlaw Contract was a little more expensive per month (\$1,285.00) than LexisNexis (\$1,145.00). Desmond reported this was a better program and it needed to be in place. The contract is for five years with a 2% per year escalator clause.

2017 Department Budget

Desmond reported the only change was the addition of monies to have the Westlaw contract in his budget and out of Clerk of Courts budget. All monies were now in one law library account and no longer maintained by the Clerk of Courts Office.

MOTION: To approve the Westlaw Contract and the Corporation Counsel 2017 Department Budget and forward to the administrative committee for consideration (Cushing/Ives, PASSED).

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2017 Department Budgets

Emergency Management: Ken Kortenhof introduced Dana Sampson, working for Ministry who took over the positions of Doug Duchac and Mark Dascalos, which were merged into one position. Sampson will be the go to person for anything ambulance related.

MOTION: To approve the Emergency Management 2017 Department Budget and forward to the administrative committee for consideration (Cushing/Fried, PASSED).

Fried asked if there were any different management style or anything the committee could do to help the budget. There was discussion on the merged positions, ambulance for four hospitals, subsidies, quality control, and a small increase due to the restructure.

Cushing asked when the cost for ambulance ride was last raised. Korten Hof reported that was approximately two years ago and it was a significant raise. Discussion on what factors go into the cost of the ride – distance, what was wrong, services, etc. Korten Hof reported the ambulance revenue was very hard to estimate.

Korten Hof reported the cost of ambulances themselves was on the rise. Korten Hof provided a five-year projection, reported they were changing from diesel to gas, maintenance on the fleet, and where ambulances go when they are replaced. Sampson reported he was working to standardize all the agencies with the most cost effective for all. Korten Hof reported they were looking to possibly outsource the billing and collection process.

Sheriff's Office: Hess reported an increase in medical, catered food, and the money was taken from the revenue source from the state inmates (Exhibit 2). Building & Grounds was told to take out expenses for water, etc. and move to their budget. Hess reported \$1.6 to \$1.7 million in gross revenue from state inmates if the numbers stay where they are at (90 today).

There was discussion on the GED program for the jail. Sheriff Hartman stated this was a policy decision and the committee needed to decide if they wanted it. Hartman stated it was good for the purpose of keeping the inmates occupied, but chances were that maybe one inmate may become a contributing member to society after release. Statistics will tell you that they will not. Costs would be approximately \$10,000. Hartman stated Nicolet College was looking to get a grant to cover the costs. If Nicolet received the grant, it would be a "no brainer" that the jail would begin the GED program. Hess stated a GED program is not mandated by the State. There was discussion on other programs that would keep the jail marketable for other inmates, possible loss of inmates to the new jail in Oconto, where the revenue from state inmates went, how the budget would be affected if the state inmates were to leave, how the state inmate are transported.

Fried asked about the Minocqua Dispatch. Hartman reported it was put back to where it was, with a grant for \$33,915.

Hartman reported that administration asked for a zero budget and he prepared a budget \$1,000 less than that.

Cushing asked about the dive team. Hartman reported that the dive team is funded the same as before, \$33,000. Hartman stated the dive team is expected to raise an

aggressive amount on their own and the program is run pretty well on the amount of money that they receive.

Fried asked about the gas line item cut. It was reported that the Sheriff's Office was performing more internal repairs and had a significant savings buying gas at Kwik Trip rather than the county shop (\$7,000 in savings last year, \$8,000 for this year). Hartman offered the Kwik Trip program to Freeman Bennett, and will also offer it to Bruce Stefonek.

MOTION: To approve the Sheriff's Office 2017 Department Budget and forward to the administrative committee for consideration (Cushing/Fried, PASSED).

Fried questioned on page 1, the telephone and fax was up, and he thought it was to go down because of the Voice Over IP. Hartman stated IT shifted the cost from their budget to ours, so in effect, they increased their budget and decreased ours. Hess stated they were updating all squads to have smart phones. Hartman reported a committee had been formed to make sure the smart phones would be used to their highest potential ie: dictation, Google maps, photographs, etc.

Fried questioned on page 2 at the top, special emergency assignment. Fried stated Margie in finance had stated to put that in as a one-time thing two or three years ago. Hess stated that was not true. That fund is there for a lost child, lost senior citizen, homicide case, etc. that takes a lot of time and resources to complete. This money goes back to the fund if not used.

Fried asked if there were any areas where a different managerial style could help the sheriff's office. There was discussion regarding Rhinelander calls, Rhinelander storing the practice van at ONSO, the outdated dispatch contract with Rhinelander, and how it would be interesting to know how other counties/cities work together. Cushing asked if anyone ever put a pencil to the dispatch contract. It was reported that the efficiency study had it broken out. Cushing asked if anyone had ever asked for an increase. Hartman stated no, it was a one-time payment and a handshake deal between Chief Sebestyn and Sheriff Miller that RPD supply one drug officer to ONSO. There was further discussion.

There was discussion regarding Hodag Country Fest and the Tomahawk Harley Fall Ride as to what it costs the county. This information was reported to be in the efficiency report.

Hartman asked that with the budget deficits, the committee look closely at the positions in IT, Forestry, and Zoning and asked how those could be approved coming into a budget deficit, where does the money come from? Hartman stated employees are taking steps backwards due to health insurance increases. Hartman suggested we take care of the employees that are here and for the committee to make the hard decisions. Hartman stated that he hoped he did not have to fund those positions (IT, Forestry, Zoning) from his budget, as there were many divisions at the Sheriff's Office that needed more staffing.

Corrections Officer Vacancy Review

Corrections Officer Todd Hook retired last Monday after 24 years with the Oneida County Jail. Hartman wanted to fill this vacancy.

MOTION: To approve filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Todd Hook (Cushing/Timmons, PASSED).

State Inmate Update

There are 91 state inmates at the Oneida County Jail as of today. One is out on a writ, so while in a different county we do not get paid for them.

MOTION: Informational only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public in attendance.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S)

Greg Walker questions 1-12. Discussion on if a closed session or special meeting was needed. Timmons stated that he would plan on speaking with the Sheriff, Corp Counsel, and Dave Hintz to start. It was suggested to include Lisa Charbarneau. Fried repeated that his concern was regarding the perception of this issue and wanted to address this properly. Fried stated that sometimes, when we are quiet, it gives the wrong perception. Ives commented on the remark that Walker made regarding everything in closed session would come out anyway and wondered why Walker thought that. Ives stated closed session will never come out, that knowledge received in closed session meeting cannot go out. Fried suggested they go into closed session right away so the committee has an understanding and are not blindsided at the October 20 meeting.

ADJOURN

Time 11:10 a.m. MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Cushing/Timmons, PASSED).

Mike Timmons, Chairman

Andi Seidel, Committee Secretary

Bob Metropulos, Vice-Chairman