

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**WILBER, MICKLE, CATAN, BROCKWAY, POWERS**  
**April 17, 2025**  
**1:00 p.m.**

This meeting was streamed via facebookLIVE.

Members: Representative Wilber – present  
Representative Mickle - present  
Representative Catan – present  
Representative Brockway – present  
Representative Powers – present

Also present: Board Chair Frazier; Deputy County Attorney Carrascoso; County Administrator Wilson and Allan Barnes, Special Assistant to the County Administrator

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY – CHRISTOPHER DIDONNA, CHIEF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Chris DiDonna requested approval of a resolution to contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for a period beginning June 1, 2025 and ending May 31, 2029 to provide access to body worn camera video and to pay for the same access rendered by Axon from January 1, 2025 through May 31, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.00, paid from the DA Discovery Grant. Representative Catan moved for approval. Seconded, Mickle. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Chris DiDonna requested approval of a resolution to contract with LexisNexis for a period beginning June 1, 2025 and ending May 31, 2029 to provide access to a legal research database for efficient motion drafting at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.00 from A1165.549000. Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Catan. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES – VICTOR JONES, EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR**

Victor Jones requested approval to purchase additional AEDs for law enforcement from SHSP FY 2024 A3542-547863, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Catan. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Victor Jones informed the committee of a credit card purchase of \$85.92 (from A3641-540100) for the required (every 3 years) County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA), and the systematic process involving state and

local subject matter experts to analyze the County's Emergency Preparedness for refreshments.

County Administrator Wilson had a brief discussion about the public information function in the county. Committee Chair Wilber mentioned that if the county does not have a written policy on it, then, it needs to be addressed.

## **PUBLIC DEFENDER – SUSAN LETTIS, PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Susan Lettis requested approval of the amended HH2 Grant with the additional \$500,000.00 from ILS. Representative Catan moved for approval. Seconded, Mickle. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Board Chair Frazier joined the meeting.

Susan Lettis requested approval of a \$141,524.00 budget modification to accommodate the new Family Defense Grant (\$750,000.00 for 3 year period) as follows:

\$141,524.00 from A1170-430250 Revenue  
\$118,200.00 to A1170-510010 F/T Salary  
\$8,000.00 to A1170-549000 Contracts  
\$2,000.00 to A1170-549250 Investigator  
\$5,000.00 to A1170-548000 Other  
\$4,324.00 to A1170-545000 Materials & Supplies  
\$1,000.00 to A1170-540500 Training  
\$3,000.00 to A1170-540050 Mileage

Representative Catan moved for approval. Seconded, Mickle. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Susan Lettis requested approval of a stipend of \$6,000.00 for law student interns per semester (ILS funding from HH2 additional funding through budget modification). Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Susan Lettis requested approval of an RFP from JBI (the committee had previously approved contracting with JBI prior to knowing an RFP was needed). Representative Catan moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway, Powers. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Susan Lettis discussed with the committee plans for the Regional (Otsego – Delaware) Assigned Counsel Program including but not limited to the following:

(1) FT Supervising Attorney, (1) FT Coordinator and at least (1) FT Paralegal/Secretary and looking for office space.

**SHERIFF - SHERIFF RICH DEVLIN and UNDERSHERIFF CAM ALLISON via Zoom**

Sheriff Devlin submitted the March 2025 Corrections Summary.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval for (2) two Corrections Supervisors to attend the Annual Jail Administrators Conference in Saratoga Springs at a cost of \$2,700.00. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Catan. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to hire a Corrections Officer at a Step 2 as they are a certified transfer from NYS DOCS. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Powers. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin spoke about inmate housing and cost issues due to having over a dozen "state readies" they should not have. The state prison system is still in crisis. The Sheriff's Department has about 70 inmates and boarding out about 30.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to pay invoice for software and maintenance of the RMS (Records Management System) on the law enforcement side in the amount of \$15,689.12. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Catan. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to replace an 8 ft. garage door with a 10 ft. door, for a piece of equipment that needs to be stored inside, at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00. Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Catan. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to purchase radio headsets in the amount of \$50,000.00 to be paid from the DCJS technology grant funds. Representative Catan moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to pay invoice to the SPCA in the amount of \$27,000.00 and will need Contingency funds in the amount of \$20,000.00 leaving a \$3,000.00 balance in the Investigation line for the remainder of 2025. Representative Catan moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. After further discussion, County Administrator Wilson stated that a budget transfer needs to be authorized as well. Representative Catan amended her motion to include a budget transfer in the amount of \$20,000.00 from Contingency. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to send animal abuse local law aka Oscar's Law to full Board for approval and adoption. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Catan. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

#### **COUNTY CLERK – JENNIFER BASILE, COUNTY CLERK**

Jennifer Basile requested approval to create, fund and fill a Senior Recording Clerk, Grade 7 \$36,305.00 - \$42,475.00 and abolish (1) one Clerk position contingent upon Personnel Office approval and signatures. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

#### **E911 – ROB O'BRIEN, DIRECTOR**

Rob O'Brien requested approval to renew and amend the term from 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2025 of the Tectonic Agreement for the Butternuts tower site construction project at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00 from the SICG Grant line A3020-547848. Representative Catan moved for approval. Seconded, Mickle. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Rob O'Brien requested approval to contract with Kraft Power Solutions for generator maintenance and emergency repairs at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.00 from Communications Maintenance A3020-548225. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Rob O'Brien requested approval to renew contract with Brian Webster for project management work related to the New Lisbon tower site construction project at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00 from the SICG Grant line A3020-547848. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Catan. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Rob O'Brien asked about progress for the Hardship Collections Policy; what to do with any requests received. Discussion included but was not limited to the following: PS&LA Committee to give guidance to establish the Hardship Committee, criteria was adopted, trust with confidential information, Board and/or Public Safety members, how many, County Attorney for advice, an alternate for conflicts, County Administrator, denials process, executive session process, Business Associated Agreement (BAA), inquire with Bassett and to inquire with Matt (?). Discussion will be continued next month.

Rob O'Brien gave an update on Insurance Paid Patient Collections mentioning that this is ongoing. Blue Cross Blue Shield are still paying patients

directly and the patients are not paying the county. Otsego County is not a preferred provider. And, there being a difference between a person who receives an insurance reimbursement and does not pay (insurance fraud) is a completely different case than someone who cannot afford it. County Attorney's Office to draft a letter.

Rob O'Brien requested approval to pay Matthew's Ford \$15,089.13 for ambulance (#3994) for a whole new motor. Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Representative Powers asked about the Town of Pittsfield being concerned with dropped calls. The dropped calls are not dropped by Otsego County E-911, they are dropped by New Berlin according to Mr. O'Brien.

### **PROBATION – DAN NAUGHTON, DIRECTOR**

Dan Naughton requested approval to send at least (5) five staff to the Annual Probation Officers Association Conference in Syracuse at a total cost of \$2,416.00 (\$215.00/person = \$1,075.00 (scholarship for 1 possibly) and Hotel \$149.00/night for 3 rooms x 3 nights = \$1,341.00; Total Cost: \$2,416.00). Representative Mickle moved for approval. Seconded, Powers. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried.

Dan Naughton informed the committee that the Probation Department will shutdown for 2 days for defense tactics training at the end of May or early June.

There being no further business to discuss, Representative Powers moved to adjourn. Seconded, Catan. Oral vote. Total: 41. Ayes: 41. Motion carried. The committee adjourned.