

Audit Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: June 12, 2017 – 3:30 PM
LOCATION: Vanderlyn Hall Room 208, SUNY Ulster, 491 Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, New York 12484
PRESIDING OFFICER: Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Amber K. Feaster
PRESENT: Legislators Richard Gerentine, Tracey Bartels, and Hector S. Rodriguez
ABSENT: Legislator Mary Beth Maio
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Undersheriff Michael Freer; Evan Gallo, Deputy Comptroller (3:41); Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive (3:43)

- **Chairman Ronk called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM**

Motion No. 1: To Approve the Minutes of May 30, 2017
Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Chairman Ronk, Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, and Rodriguez
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Chairman Ronk welcomed Undersheriff Michael Freer.

Legislator Rodriguez apologized for the late submission of questions to the Sheriff's Department and expressed interest in discussing the Office of the Comptroller's prior audit of the Sheriff's Department, specifying interest in the analysis of Internal Controls.

Legislator Bartels circulated questions to the committee and the Undersheriff.

Legislator Bartels discussed the Center for Governmental Research's (CGR) analysis on Strengthening Criminal Justice System Practices in Chemung County, NY, articulating value in the information. Undersheriff Freer stated that the Ulster County jail population has risen to 310 inmates. Legislator Rodriguez stated concerns over the number of subordinates as they relate to the jail's staffing and pod fulfillment. Committee members discussed the market for board-ins. Chairman Ronk agreed with Legislator Bartels, expressing interest in an assessment on the jail population. Legislator Bartels reiterated the power of such information as it relates to compelling judges to change current practices and the allocation of funds.

Legislator Gerentine agreed that Legislator Bartels' points are useful and questioned whether such an analysis is within the scope of the Committee's authority. The Committee discussed the scope and limitations of its authority.

Undersheriff Freer explained that the Sheriff Department is accredited by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, which requires compliance with 132 standards in the criminal division alone. This accreditation requires proof that standards are met each year, with an audit performed every five years to ensure compliance. Additionally, Undersheriff Freer stated that an external audit of the Civil division's financial records is performed every other year. A report is produced for each of these audits.

Legislative Fiscal Analyst to circulate CGR's analysis on Strengthening Criminal Justice System Practices in Chemung County, NY; Undersheriff to provide prior external audit reports; Sheriff's Department to answer questions provided by Legislators Rodriguez and Bartels.

Chairman Ronk opened the discussion on the County's contracts with Family of Woodstock.

Legislator Rodriguez proposed a question to Mr. Crannell, asking which Family of Woodstock program he believes should be studied for improvement. Mr. Crannell complimented Family of Woodstock, stating that the Organization has never closed a program. Mr. Crannell stated the he would take a different approach and questioned whether the Organization is overextended. Legislator Bartels expressed concerns of overextension as it affects all programs offered.

Mr. Gallo stated the some of these concerns may be addressed in the Comptroller's audit which is currently underway.

Chairman Ronk voiced interest in investigating the outcomes of the One80 Program along with the financing, wait list, and alternative options for applicable youth to determine if more funding is justified.

Mr. Crannell expressed concerns over making changes to this program too early as doing so may affect the County's eligibility for grant funding in the future.

Undersheriff Freer discussed the effects of Family Court on the jail and diversion services populations.

Chairman Ronk opened the discussion on the creation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) on an audit of the Family Court Capital Project. Committee members discussed the scope of the audit.

Committee members discussed concerns over the initial budget for the Family Court Project.

Motion No. 2: To authorize the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to work directly with the Department of Purchasing in order to create a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an audit of the Family Court Capital Project.

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gerentine

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Chairman Ronk, Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, and Rodriguez

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

New Business: None

Old Business:

Chairman Ronk inquired whether an RFP is needed for the performance of an external audit of Soil & Water.

Legislator Bartels to discuss an agreement with Soil & Water management in which the County performs the bidding process on behalf of Soil & Water with Soil & Water then reimbursing the County for the expenditure.

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Legislator Gerentine, seconded by Legislator Rodriguez and carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:36 PM.

Dated the 15th Day of June, 2017

Amber Feaster, Fiscal Analyst

Minutes Approved On: August 1, 2017