

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee  
**DATE & TIME:** November 1, 2011 @ 6:30 PM  
**PLACE:** Library Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Office Building

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman Jack Hayes, Deputy Chairman Thomas Briggs (Left @ 7:30 PM), Legislators Carl Belfiglio, Roy Hochberg, Kenneth Ronk, Michael Sweeney

**LEGISLATORS EXCUSED:** Legislator Hector Rodriguez

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Deputy County Executive Robert Sudlow, Sheriff Paul VanBlarcum, Undersheriff Frank Faluotico, Perry Soule (Sheriff's Office), Michael Freer (Sheriff's Office), Bill Weishaupt (District Attorney's Office), District Attorney Holley Carnright

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:38 PM**

**APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2011 COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

Motion offered by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Belfiglio, All in Favor, Carried.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Resolution Draft No. 1106, November 15, 2011** - Appropriating Funds From The Jail Telephone Commissions Reserve For Purchase, Installation, Configuration and Maintenance Of Computer Software - Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget - Ulster County Sheriff

Motion offered by Legislator Ronk, Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: The Committee discussed the monthly Commissions. The Sheriff stated that by end of year the revenue will be about \$250,000. Perry Soule explained the software that is being purchased. \$75,000 will be appropriated from the Jail Commissions Reserve for the purchase, installation, configuration and maintenance of the Police Officer Scheduling System and Correction Officer Scheduling System. The scheduling software will automate scheduling thereby allowing Sheriff personnel to more efficiently utilize time. The entire program is Web Based. The entire payroll process will be done electronically.

Hochberg: Q/Is this software used in other Departments and/or Counties? A/Yes, this software is used nation wide by many Agencies.

Sweeney: Q/Is this program written specifically for Law Enforcement? A/Yes, there are two different systems (Police Officer & Correction Officer Scheduling Systems). They are purchasing both. It will have customizable features that they will fine tune to best meet their needs.

Ronk: Q/Is there a Maintenance Agreement? A/Yes

Belfiglio: Q/Does the County use MUNIS for payroll? A/Yes Q/Will the new system integrate with MUNIS? A/Yes

**UPDATE:** The Sheriff distributed to the Committee the Ulster County Corrections monthly average population, phone commissions, and the daily inmate counts for September.

#### **BUDGET REVIEW:**

**Sheriff's Office:** The Sheriff distributed to the Committee his Budget Appeals. (See Below)

<u>DEPARTMENT NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>	<u>ITEM DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BUDGET AMOUNT RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>CHANGE AMOUNT TO</u>	<u>NET CHANGE</u>
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	96	A418102045	Enforcement Equip.	14,675	19,150	4,475
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	96	A418102113	Vehicles	0	161,500	161,500
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	96	A418104006	Police Supplies	47,712	56,730	9,018
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	96	A418104008	Auto Parts & Supplies	5,000	6,000	1,000
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	97	A418104507	Repair & Maint. Equip	10,000	15,500	5,500
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	97	A418104603	Auto Repair	1,200	6,200	5,000
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	97	A418104604	Auto Fuel	200,000	225,250	25,250
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	115	A418551901	Overtime Pay	665,704	785,704	120,000
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	116	A418554494	Uniforms	49,299	62,300	13,001
<u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>	116	A418554604	Auto Fuel	30,000	48,127	18,127
						362,871

#### **Justification:**

Vehicles: We requested four marked cars and one unmarked cars to maintain our fleet. We have in place a vehicle replacement plan. If we do not get replacement vehicles for 2012 vehicles which would have been replaced will have to be maintained, which will result in higher yearly maintenance costs per vehicle. During 2012 we will start to lose vehicles due to high mileage and age, this will make it harder for us to perform our law enforcement function and make it less safe for our deputies riding in the older cars. Also, we need to start purchasing unmarked cars;

we used to get "hand-me-downs" from DSS but this may not be possible after this year because they may go to leasing. Enforcement Equipment & Police Supplies: If we are going to continue to maintain the criminal division and our specialty units like In-Water Rescue and Emergency Response Teams we have to purchase new equipment to replace damaged, worn, or outdated equipment. Our budget proposal had the minimum amount of equipment necessary to maintain these units in an effective and safe manner. Repair Maintenance of Equipment and Autos: We need to have money in our budget to repair equipment during the year, such as boat motors, dive gear, and electronics in our cars. If we do not have the money to make these repairs it will negatively affect our ability to do our law enforcement function effectively and safely. Auto Fuel: As of this date we are right on target with our auto fuel consumption. However, the reduction in the Execs recommended budget will cause us to be running in the red at this time next year. Correction Uniform: The uniform budget has already been increased this year to more than what is budgeted for next year. Correction Overtime: The Overtime has already surpassed the \$550,000 that was budgeted for 2011. The same will happen in 2012 if the full amount is not approved.

The motion was offered to accept the Sheriff's Appeals by Legislator Briggs and seconded by Legislator Ronk, all were in favor.

Further Discussion:

- Projected Board-Ins with regard to the Sheriff's projections vs. the County Executive's Projections. The CE's are higher and that raises the revenue numbers significantly.
- Mileage with regard to the road patrol cars / Vehicle Replacements
- Two separate Auto Fuel Lines, one is for the Jail, and one is for the road patrol.
- The Sheriff explained the way the Budget Process used to take place vs. how it occurs now.
- Contracts/Arbitrations
- Overtime Money in the 2012 Contingency Budget.
- The Undersheriff explained how forfeiture money works with regard to purchasing vehicles. He explained that URGENT money has to be dispersed evenly.
- The Sheriff explained how not receiving cars from DSS will affect them. All their unmarked cars come from DSS.
- The Sheriff explained the Vehicle Take Home Plan and how it has created a cost savings for the County. Great Program. Accident rate has decreased.
- Awarded a Homeland Security Grant worth \$112,000.

**District Attorney Office:** Bill Weishaupt explained that most of the DA's Budget entails Personnel and that the operational part is very small and is offset by revenue. No Amendments are being submitted. An Assistant District Attorney line was added to the Budget and it is his understanding that person will strictly be handling gang prosecutions. He believes that the added prosecutor will be beneficial to their Office. He explained to the Committee how the No Plea Bargaining Policy enforced by the State Police affects Ulster County with regard to revenue. He stated that they will not change their policy, that it will be up to the State Police to change their policy.

Hayes: Q/Are other Counties affected by this? A/Not to the same degree, because other Counties do not have the ticket revenue that Ulster County produces on the Thruway. Ulster County has four exits on the NYS Thruway.

Carnright: Arrived late from a prior engagement. He basically reiterated what Mr. Weishaupt stated with regard to the Budget and is very much in favor of the new ADA position. He explained his plan on how he will utilize the new ADA person. He talked about the importance of training, and how this person will become a liaison in the community and will work side by side with a lead Prosecutor to learn all avenues of an investigation.

Carnright: Gave year to date statistics. The DA's Office has prosecuted 360 cases this year, 19 Jury Trials. All were convictions, except 1 was dismissed, because the gentleman died, and three were returned not guilty. He takes a very aggressive stance on crime. He said that his hope is to be able to say that at this time next year that the crime rate is down. He is starting to see results from the programs that he put in place his first term and that the new ADA position will only further aid those results. He stated that he is very proud of his team.

Hochberg: Asked the DA questions with regard to gang activity in Ulster County. The DA stated that he is not at liberty to discuss that information at this time and will update the Committee in the near future.

Ronk: Stated that for years there have been discussions with regard to the high costs of Assigned Counsel for conflicts. He asked the DA if there was anything that the State issued preventing a Conflict Defenders Office from being created. He is not aware of anything from the State that would prevent a Conflict Defenders Office and does not have that answer in regard to the State. There was discussion about conflicts and the DA explained how and why the conflicts occur and believes that it is a simple problem to fix. He basically explained that you would have to split the Office. The Public Defenders Office would represent Criminal Defendants; a separate office (to be created) would represent the Family Court conflicts. You would use the same people, the same salaries, everything would stay the same. Create a wall between the two offices and there is no longer a conflict. He thinks this would eliminate around 30% of the conflicts.

#### **OLD BUSINESS: (2 items)**

Renaissance Project Alternative to Incarceration Rehab Facility Update - Chairman Hayes attended a meeting with local officials, Senator Bonacic, and NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Commissioner Arlene Sanchez Gonzalez. He stated that there are obvious inaccuracies with regard to the oversight of how these facilities are run. Events that may be occurring at these facilities are not being documented completely. He stated that the Commissioner addressed that there were short comings at Renaissance and that they are under close scrutiny. He believes that now a monthly report has to be submitted. He stated that he is not completely satisfied but is glad to have a dialog started and that at a later date, a walk through of the Renaissance Project will take place. When a date is reached he will update the Committee.

Earthquake/Hurricane Response-Mitigation Policy Fact Finding Meetings Update - Chairman Hayes asked the Committee to let him know if anyone would like to conduct a Fact Finding Meeting in their Towns. The Chairman held a meeting in Gardiner. He feels that it was a very beneficial meeting and that a variety of subjects were covered. He said the Emergency Responders had a lot to say.

**Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:10 PM**

Motion offered by Legislator Ronk, Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, All in Favor, Carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Tammy Wilson, Senior Legislative Employee**

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