

**Herkimer County Legislature  
Public Safety/Emergency Management and Ways & Means  
Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 3, 2020  
Via Zoom**

**Follows Public Safety/Emergency Management, County Properties and Ways & Means**

**Persons Attending:**

John P. Stephens (Chairman, Public Safety/W&M committee member)  
Gregory Malta, Sr. (Public Safety committee member)  
Raymond Johnson (committee member, both)  
Kurt J. Ackerman (committee member, both)  
William Weakley (Public safety committee member)  
Peter Campione (Public Safety committee member)  
Patrick E. Russell (Ways & Means Committee Chairman)  
Raymond Smith (Ways & Means committee member)  
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (committee member, both)  
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature  
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator  
Brandy Serow, Sec. to County Administrator  
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney  
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer  
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer  
Scott Scherer, Sheriff  
Michael Edwards, STOP-DWI Coordinator  
John Raymond, Director of Emergency Management

**(Non Committee Members Signed In)**

Legislator Mark Gaworecki  
Legislator Robert J. Schrader  
Legislator Bob D. Hollum  
Legislator William E. Keeler, Sr.  
Legislator John L. Brezinski  
Legislator Peter F. Manno  
Legislator Ray Donley

**Absent:**

N/A

Mr. Stephens called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

**Items Discussed:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

1. Approve monthly reports of the Sheriff – June and July 2020
2. Other

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:**

3. Approve STOP-DWI Plan for 2021
4. Approve change in pay for jail Physician to original amount and approve to pay for license renewals
5. Approve contract with Business Electronics, Inc. in Sheriff's department
6. Accept grant, authorize chairman to e-sign, and create project in Emergency Services
7. Other

**Committee Vote Record:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

Mr. Stephens: "Number one, approve monthly reports of the Sheriff for June and July of 2020."

Item #1 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Campione for Public Safety, Item #1 was voted on and approved. Unanimous.

Item #2 – N/A.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:**

Mr. Stephens: "Number three, approve STOP-DWI Plan for 2021. Mr. Edwards are you on the phone?"

Michael Edwards: "Yes I am."

Mr. Stephens: "Is there anything you would like to add to this?"

Michael Edwards: "Yes, I would like to make an amendment to the plan. I am going to reduce the pan budget by \$3,485. I am going to reprint plans and get them over to you and Mr. Bono."

Mr. Wallace: "Can I get a copy too Mike?"

Michael Edwards: "Yes Jim, I will get you a copy as well."

Mr. Wallace: "Thank you."

Mr. Stephens: "Ok so that drops it down to what?"

Michael Edwards: "The total will be \$83,747. Instead of the \$87,232."

Mr. Stephens: "Ok."

Michael Edwards: "Thank you."

Item #3 – On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Malta for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #3 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: "Number four, approve change in pay for jail Physician to original amount and approve to pay for license renewals. Jim, can you give us some backup?"

Mr. Wallace: "I can do it, I'm not sure if the Sheriff is on. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Zelman with us, he's been wonderful. There were some issues at a Federal level as far as how much money he could make. We used to pay him \$2,000, we reduced it. That has since gone away so we would like to go back to the \$2,000 per month we paid him and also, like we do for Mental Health, pay some ancillary fees that he has. Sheriff please expand. I think he has been wonderful for us."

Scott Scherer: "Yes, Dr. Zelman has been excellent to the jail. Since they contracted, he has been at the same salary. He is just asking to go back up to that salary that he agreed to in 2013. Jim was right, he had some federal restrictions so he had to lower his salary a little bit but he hasn't put in for a raise from the 2013. I believe he is well below anybody else that we could get and he is there any time we need him."

We have covered a couple of his fees before. This is the only place he is working right now so he is asking for us to cover those fees that we did in 2016.”

Item # 4 – On motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Campione for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Johnson for Ways & Means, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: “Number five, approve contract with Business Electronics, Inc. in Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff?”

Scott Scherer: “BEI, Business Electronics Inc., that is all of our recorded phone lines in our jail. The contract was originally for a year. It would go October 1, 2020 right through the year. I asked them if they could break that down into quarterly just because I wouldn’t want to pay the contract for the entire year if we are only going to be there four months. They agreed to break it down into quarters for us, they added a \$15 surcharge per quarter which brought us up over the 6% so I need a resolution. I am hoping to get us through December and then we won’t need this contract anymore.”

Mr. Stephens: “The back page of this contract says annually instead of quarterly, is that an issue?”

Mr. Wallace: “Yes, we would need to make that change. John that was a good catch.”

Mr. Stephens: “So are we making that change?”

Mr. Wallace: “Yes.”

Mr. Stephens: “Ok, so it will say quarterly instead of annually?”

Mr. Wallace: “Right.”

Item #5 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #5 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens: “Number six, accept grant, authorize chairman to e-sign, and create project in Emergency Services. John Raymond?”

John Raymond: “Good morning. This is the annual Emergency Management Program Grant otherwise known as EMPG for fiscal year 2020. It is effective October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30, 2022. We received \$28,751 which is down approximately \$200 from last year. It is a 50/50 matching grant, with a portion of my salary being the matching portion. I plan to use it to buy equipment for 911 and emergency management so we are just going to open another equipment budget line for it. Buying mostly stuff for the EOC and some of the stuff that we have identified that we needed after last year’s horrific flood in October/November.”

Item #6 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weakley for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Smith for Ways & Means, Item #6 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Item #7 – N/A

At 11:19 a.m., on motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Campione, the Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee adjourned.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.