



Onondaga County Legislature

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 19, 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING CHRISTOPHER J. RYAN, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Rowley, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. McBride

ALSO ATTENDING: Mr. Knapp, Dr. Chase, Mrs. Ervin; Mr. Paro, Ms. Vilardi, Mr. DeSantis, Mr. Bleyle, Ms. Velasco, Ms. Releford, Ms. Corn, Mr. Sparks, Ms. Lesniak

Chairman Ryan called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. *A motion was made by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Ms. Kuhn to waive the reading of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Mr. Holmquist to waive the reading of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

1. JUSTICE CENTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

a. **Confirming Appointment to the Onondaga County Justice Center Oversight Committee (Tricia A. Wittkowski, L-CSW)**

Mr. Ryan:

- City appointment made by the Mayor – JCOC members are looking forward to the new addition

Ms. Kuhn:

- Very good appointment

Dr. Chase:

- Known Ms. Wittkowski since she was a little kid; she's also on Human Rights and will be a wonderful addition
- Presently a social worker at Auburn prison; knowledgeable on social and justice system

A motion was made by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Ms. Kuhn to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

2. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: William Bleyle, Chief Deputy Commissioner

a. **A Resolution Authorizing the Reconstruction/Construction of Improvements at the Corrections Facility in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$368,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$368,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$368,000)**

Mr. Bleyle:

- Part 4 of a 5 part capital improvement project – 3 components to part 4 – largest is \$270K for air conditioning in housing unit 2 – these are the units with cells so hot weather makes it very uncomfortable – waiting for CE to give go ahead for housing unit 3 – leaves only housing unit 1 without air conditioning
- \$48K for more powerful lighting on the grounds; move towards LED; increase energy efficiency
- \$50K to replace housing unit exterior doors; rust over time; potentially impact safety and security of facility

Ms. Kuhn:

- Regarding air conditioning – what is the population – thought population was down so not all housing units were being used

Mr. Bleyle:

- Air conditioning is for medium security- all units are currently occupied and will be this summer
- Courts are not in session; most residents have received their sentence
- Hard to predict summer population
- Some house mothers with children, pregnant women – all units will be occupied to some extent

Mr. Ryan:

- Asks if there is any point in time that a housing unit would be completely unoccupied

Mr. Bleyle:

- Unit 8 is vacant – dormitory setting – 4 bunks in a room so not COVID friendly to limit spread
- Currently seeing decrease in COVID exposure – currently all inmates are negative
- Taking inmates from Justice Center to maintain distancing

Mr. Rowley:

- Questions timing of putting money into a facility where legislation may change which would decrease the need for this facility

Mr. Ryan:

- Timing of the installation of air conditioning – a lot of moving parts

Mr. Bleyle:

- Doors and lighting are vital at this time to maintain security and reduce costs of operating facility

Ms. Kuhn:

- Asks if items could be separated and timing

Mr. Bleyle:

- Each building is unique so delay is with the engineer in designing systems – depends if County has an engineer that is able to design a system – most likely a Fall or beyond project, design, then RFPs and then bids on contract

Mr. Ryan:

- Potential projections of inmate population
- Timing of design, RFPs

Mr. Rowley:

- Requested a schematic on each building – HVAC in each, projected population

Mr. Bleyle:

- Only outstanding project is unit 3 air conditioning which was approved and bonded for last year – CE office has asked that project be delayed

Amend resolution to only include lighting of \$48K and doors of \$50K totaling \$98K

***A motion was made by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Mr. Holmquist to amend this item. Passed unanimously;
MOTION CARRIED***

***A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Mr. Rowley to pass this item as amended. Passed unanimously;
MOTION CARRIED***

- 3. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS:** Julie Corn, Commissioner of Emergency Communications
- a. A Resolution Authorizing Refresh/Replacement of the Next Generation E911 System, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$2,350,000, in and for the County of Onondaga Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,350,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$2,350,000)**

Ms. Corn:

- No fail mission space; requires up to date technology; last year requested \$212K for consultant – this will be for the capital expense
- Happy with VESTA’s performance
- 911 phone system; provides essential services to our community
- Mandatory upgrade; current system installed in 2016
- Replaces the recording system installed in 2014; retention time is expanded, all activities are recorded to be used in court proceeding; NY discovery law has vastly increased this need
- NEXT GEN 911 – future of 911 – allows for text, photo and video
- State is planning a build out which would connect all 911 centers – need to be ready when this occurs
- Last year’s projection was \$3.7M – reduced to \$2.35M
- Emergency Services IP network
- Answered Mr. Ryan’s questions regarding cause of reduction – part is because stayed with VESTA and a portion is absorbed in operation budget; 4-5 year useful life is normal life span; largest benefit will be the sharing of services with other municipalities – today it isn’t easy to pick up other centers call volume

A motion was made by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Ms. Kuhn to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- b. A Resolution Authorizing the Repaving of the E911 Center Parking Lot in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$344,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$344,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$344,000)**

Ms. Corn:

- Parking lot was pushed back last year – is now a necessity as it is a safety hazard

A motion was made by Mr. Rowley seconded by Ms. Kuhn to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Mr. Holmquist, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MELANIE VILARDI, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature