



# Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA  
Clerk

JAMES J. ROWLEY  
Chairman

MELANIE VILARDI  
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202  
Phone: 315.435.2070 • Fax: 315.435.8434 • [www.ongov.net/legislature](http://www.ongov.net/legislature)

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 15, 2022 MARK A. OLSON, CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Ryan, Mr. Knapp, Mr. McBride, Mr. Garland**

**ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Rowley, Ms. Kuhn; (see also attached)**

Chairman Olson called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. *A motion was made by Mr. McBride, seconded by Mr. Ryan to waive the reading of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. McBride to waive the reading of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

### 1. JUSTICE CENTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

- a. **Confirming Reappointment to the Onondaga County Justice Center Oversight Committee (John J. Falge) (Sponsored by Mr. Rowley)**

Chairman Rowley:

- Reappointing John Falge to JCOC; do not know him personally, resume is stellar; would highly recommend

Dr. Chase:

- Attended most JCOC meetings, and he has been there since the beginning; retired police officer, very open and has an incredible ability to see the big picture; great committee person

**Mr. Ryan requested to be added as a cosponsor.** Mr. Ryan said he has known Officer Falge for a couple decades, and it goes back to the previous appointment by Legislator Knapp. He would ask for support on this.

*A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED*

### 2. SHERIFF: Paula Pellizzari, Ds Captain

- a. **2021 Transfer Resolution (\$3,958,821)**



## ONONDAGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION SHEET

### PURPOSE:

To move money from the various accounts into Contractual Expenses, Overtime Wages and Other Employee Wages in the Sheriff's Office Operating Budget for purposed of meeting yearend obligations.

**OBJECTIVE/WORK PLAN:**

The three accounts projected to have shortfalls at 2021 yearend in the Sheriff’s Budget are Contractual Expenses, Overtime Wages and Other Employee Wages. The Contractual Expenses deficit was caused by a change in the billing for the Proactive Health Care contract mental health costs. The Overtime Wages deficit was caused by DSBA and OCSPA contract settlements that resulted in retro and ongoing rate increases. In addition, a significant amount of overtime was necessary due to the high number of vacancies in all Departments. The Other Employee Wages deficit was caused by the hourly wage increase for the Special Patrol Officers.

The accounts that have a surplus that will be used to cover the deficits are Regular Salaries, All Other Expenses and Maintenance Utilities & Rents. The Regular Salaries surplus was caused by the significant number of vacancies in all Departments. The All Other Expense surplus was caused by an assortment of savings in various categories. The Maintenance, Utilities & Rents surplus was caused by a decrease in energy costs.

Below is a summary of where estimated funds will be coming from.

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

The funding will come from various accounts in the Sheriff’s Budget, and DSS-ES Medicaid.

**BUDGET:**

<u>Transfer From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641010 Regular Salaries	\$ 729,111
694100 All Other Expenses	\$ 13,273
694130 Maint, Utilities, Rents	\$ 201,270
661180 Medical Payment to State MMIS	\$ 2,118,681
<u>Transfer To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
695700 Contractual Expense	\$ 3,062,335

<u>Transfer From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641010 Regular Salaries	\$ 791,598
<u>Transfer To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641020 Overtime Wages	\$ 791,598

<u>Transfer From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641010 Regular Salaries	\$ 104,888
<u>Transfer To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641030 Other Employee Wages	\$ 104,888

Captain Pellizzari:

- Contractual Expense line - overage due to unexpected cost from Mental Health discount; NYS paid 50% of the bill, which stopped in April 2020; NYS 2020-2021 budget, not anticipated; resulted in an overage
- Looking to transfer funds from regular salaries line, all other expenses line, and Maintenance, Utilities, and Rents
- Identified a surplus from DSS; looking to transfer into Contractual Expense line
- Overtimes Wages line - overage due to increased vacancies in 2021 that lead to significant overtime
- In addition, the DSBA and OCSPA contracts settled in 2021 - resulted in retro pay for overtime and increased overtime wage paid for ongoing overtime expenses
- All Other Wages line are transferred into 103
- Overage is due to an unbudgeted increase in pay for the special patrol officers – part-time employees that work in the Civic Center, their wage was increased hourly from \$25 to \$32
- Without contractual expenses unexpected overage, the salaries line would have covered the overtime and 103 shortages
- Would have been significantly under budget

Captain Pellizzari replied to Mr. Ryan's question in regard to the Contractual Expenses line:

- If NYS had inmate, it would have been Sheriff's responsibility in one of the corrections facilities, but should have been in a mental health facility; NYS billed and stopped the 50% discount in April 2020; resulted in an increase
- County is in negotiations now going forward
- Believe payment was through the Office of Mental Health
- Inmates would go to a NYS Mental Health Facility if not jail; when inmates were sent to a Mental Health Institution, the county would have to pay that; always had to pay, but the state paid a portion of that up until April 2020

Ms. Rooney:

- This is in relation to what was in years past, psychiatric hospitalization and court order
- Somebody is unfit or judge determined they go for hospitalization
- Captain Pellizzari is correct, used to get 50% discount from the state when court orders happened; state was concerned on how they were going to pay for their bills; stopped 50% discount for every county
- Unbudgeted cost that has carried into 2021; with combination of eliminating 50% of psychiatric hospitalization and courts being closed, there was no movement for these folks that were deemed unfit
- Reason for transfer for last year's expenses; courts now open, have an article 730 court order that sends someone to psychiatric hospitalization

Chairman Olson asked who the county is working with at the state level to see if they can turn back the 50% discount. Ms. Rooney responded:

- Right now NYSAC is working to reverse this; no county budgeted for these additional costs
- Not in 2022 budget; hopeful county would not be back here doing this again
- Courts are open, would be helpful if state reversed the 50%

Dr. Chase asked if the inmates go to a secure facility, and Ms. Rooney replied it is a psychiatric hospitalization, which is a secure state run facility.

Chairman Olson asked how many open vacancies there are right now. Captain Pellizzari answered there are 73 open right now. There are 22 in the police academy that will graduate in May, and then they will have their field training program before being in the field on their own. There is not another academy scheduled yet. There are two custody positions at Cayuga Academy, who will graduate later this month.

Captain Pellizzari responded to Mr. Ryan that DSBA and OCSPA both settled their contracts. There was money left over in the 101 (because of vacancies), but where it was an issue was the retro paid out of the overtime. Retro payments were just over \$213,000, and the increase moving forward was around \$35,000. The extra money in 101 (regular salaries) covered the overages in 102 (overtime) and 103, and there was still some to apply toward contractual expenses.

*A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. McBride, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED*

**3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Daniel Wears, Commissioner**  
**a. 2021 Transfer Resolution (\$520,000)**

Mr. Wears:

- \$100,000 – propose purchase for a mobile training prop for volunteer fire departments; difficult for them to get access to training towers; bring it to the fire departments, and they will utilize trailer for a period of time
- \$70,000 – vehicle replacements for 2013 Tahoe and 2003 pickup truck; supplemented by grant funding, Tahoe fully funded locally, pickup would be augmented by another \$26,000 in grant funding received
- Keep fleet updated, normal rotation; pickup will be given to Facilities to utilize
- \$250,000 – hire a consultant to do continuity of operations and continuity of government planning
- Make sure there is a plan for all departments to react quickly if something impacts technology, human capital, or facility infrastructure; consultant will work with each department on developing a plan to be able to better respond

- \$100,000 – garage facility at 420 Electronics Parkway; right now mobile command vehicle is stored at volunteer fire department, and they are looking to get vehicle out of there shortly
- Make renovations to garage facility - 1 part is not tall enough, 1 part is not long enough for the vehicle; working with facilities to come up with an estimate to extend one wall of garage bay to accommodate the vehicle

Chairman Olson asked if there will be a cost to transfer the mobile unit it back and forth to fire departments, and Mr. Wears replied:

- No, would move it with deputy coordinators, only cost would be consumables; i.e. if doing roof ventilation training, they would be responsible for the plywood potentially to cut through
- If it gets damaged, the county would work on an agreement with them; the vehicle is pretty hefty steel.

Mr. Ryan asked for more information on the \$250,000 for the consultant. Mr. Wears:

- It is for the continuity of operations planning for county departments
- Early on with COVID, did remote and transitioned employees to different work style
- Also will look at, i.e. what if they lose a floor in a building, or a whole building?
- Work on what type of processes they do daily, how long can they shut down, how to make that happen, what are the recovery times; make a plan to start things back up and how to prioritize actions
- If go to essential services only model – who are those essential services, who has to report to work; go to each department to help them identify it and come up with a plan
- Have not hired a consultant, pending funding

Chairman Olson stated he spoke to the commissioner too, and he asked if there is a way to tailor this to help some villages and towns that do not have a continuity plan, or they have it, but it needs to be refined. That is something in progress that they will have to look at, but it is more geared towards the county.

***A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED***

**b. Authorizing FEMA Funds Appropriation for Onondaga County’s COVID-19 Mandated Relief Efforts (\$2,957,412)**

Mr. Wears stated since COVID started, they tracked all the COVID costs with PeopleSoft, regardless of the funding source. They are moving a number of items into an account where the county will get 100% FEMA reimbursement. It is budget neutral. Already worked with FEMA as part of the application process, so they know the funding will come. This is consolidating it into one place.

***A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED***

**c. BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Improvements to the Army Reserve Center for use as an Emergency Operations Center in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$1,100,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,100,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Therof (\$1,100,000)**

- Army Reserve Center on Electronics Parkway; matched for \$1.1m matched by \$1m federal grant funding; still waiting on final determination, but looking good
- Looking at long term enhancements to Emergency Management program; building to support local jurisdictions; main focus is to support other agencies
- Renovate building into state of art emergency operations center (EOC) – main purpose to collocate different disciplines to better manage, coordinate during large scale incident; most recently did during COVID for 88 days
- New center would be primary; would maintain a presence in the sub-basement as a backup site
- Locating with equipment will improve ability to maintain equipment; send people to Jamesville and other areas for basic maintenance items (would keep someone there for ½ day); this would allow doing in minutes instead

- Reducing response times for calls; assets moved throughout the county, so moving to centralized point; can get there quicker and respond faster
- Improve ability to support municipalities; move EOC out of downtown; difficult access key reason to shift this out

Chairman Olson said Mr. Wears discussed using this for training purposes and asked if he could expand on that. Mr. Wears replied there are some large rooms in the basement, and they would envision using as meeting rooms and training. When working with (i.e.) fire chiefs, they are borrowing space from other places to bring people together. The plan would be to use this space to meet that need with plenty of parking and a central location.

***A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED***

**4. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (E911): Julie Kolakowski Corn, Commissioner**  
**a. Informational: OCICS Radio Fleet Template Refresh**

Ms. Corn:

- Refreshing and updating the radio templates; able to secure grant funding - \$400,000; SICG (Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant) specifically for radios
- Key enhancements for a technical project in system over 10 years old, time for upgrades
- Onondaga County Interoperable Communications System (OCICS) - it spans multiple counties from Jefferson County to Broome County, Onondaga is the hub of that system;
- Upgrades will create better efficiency, better interoperability, and better officer safety; interoperability will impact neighboring counties and all public safety agencies
- Officer safety – encrypt tactical channels, very few, very critical for operational planning and staging purposes; would not impact dispatch channels; tactical channels only
- Endorsement enhanced by CALEA (Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies); part of this, and they recommended this upgrade be made

Mr. Sparks:

- Main focus behind project is to take lessons learned over last 10 years; did best to see what best product would be to put out there
- Lot changed in 10 years, biggest is COVID, but also huge technology advances, as well as officer safety and responder safety (Fire and EMS); some aspects of system that do not meet what county needs when it comes to planned event
- I.e. at Amphitheater, have 2 interoperable channels used; if there is something going on at Highland Forest or Jamesville Beach, do not have enough channels to have all county agencies work together at individual locations

Chairman Olson asked if this affects the bond for the Sheriff to get new mobiles, portable, and/or radios. Mr. Sparks replied no, it does not affect the radios. The radio they purchase is the guts (the push to talk, walkie-talkie). This template upgrade is to change the programming that goes into that radio.

Mr. Ryan said there was a capital improvement involving a multimillion-dollar refresh, and he asked if there would be additional support for that as well. Ms. Corn replied that it was the mobile data radio project, which was more for the systems that go into the vehicles. It is not involved with this project at all.

***A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI Assistant Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

## ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2022

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Paula Pellizzari	Sheriff's
TAVIA HUGHES	FIN OPS
Sean Sparks	E911
Jason Dean	DMB / Fin ops
Dan McVihill	DMB
TENESHA MURPHY	CE office
Julie Corn	E 911
Dan Wears	EM
JEFF VANBEVEREN	EM
Ann Roen	
Kevin Spraker	E911