



Onondaga County Legislature

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 18, 2025 MARK A. OLSON, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. McCarron, Ms. Fiato, Mr. Bush, Mr. Garland
ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Mr. Brown; also see attached

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., and the previous meeting’s minutes were approved.

1. **SHERIFF**: Sheriff Tobias Shelley; Lisa Dell, Chief of Civil Division
 - a. **2024 Transfer Resolution (\$2,251,037)**

PURPOSE: To move money from the Regular Employee Salaries to the Overtime Wages and Contractual Expenses in the Sheriff’s Office Operating Budget for purpose of meeting year end obligations.

OBJECTIVE/ WORK PLAN: The two accounts projected to have shortfalls at 2024-year end in the Sheriff’s Budget are Overtime Wages and Contractual Expenses. This transfer requires no additional funding, it merely requires moving funds from our regular (101) payroll line to the overtime (102) line, (103) line and contractual expenses (570) line.

Overtime Wages deficit - Although the Sheriff continues to approve back-to-back hiring academies, and we have been able to hire more staff than had been hired in the recent past, we still find ourselves unable to fill all our vacancies. We are now able to remain even with retirements and resignations, however we have not been able to increase our staff numbers as significantly as we would need to reduce overtime. We also were struck with a serious tragedy early in 2024 which required an unusual increase in overtime used to cover posts. We continue to hire as promised with our next academy being held in May of 2025. Additionally, the Sheriff implemented a work time analysis across the agency. Personnel were then redeployed to maximize efficiency within each division.

Contractual Expenses deficit - A NYS mandate dictates that the County pays 100% toward the cost of mental health care for incarcerated individuals. Severely impaired mentally ill residents who are in the custody of the Sheriff’s Office are evaluated by qualified physicians as ordered by a court of law to determine if inpatient hospitalization is necessary. If hospitalization is determined to be necessary, the individual is then sent to a designated facility operated by either the Office of Mental Health or Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. These offsite costs are highly variable as we do not know how many individuals would be sent to these facilities in any given year or for how long they will stay. The cost of OMH hospitalizations alone nearly doubled from April 2023 to June 2023 from \$178,375 to \$343,699 per month and remained at that elevated level for the remainder of 2023. These bills trended downward through the first 8 months of 2024, then rapidly spiked in the last 4 months. December saw a peak of \$814,874.

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

FUNDING SOURCE: The funding will come from the Regular Employee Salaries account

BUDGET:

| <u>Transfer From Account</u> | | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 641010 | Regular Employee Salaries | \$ 2,251,037 |
| <u>Transfer To Account</u> | | <u>Amount</u> |
| 641020 | Overtime Wages | \$ 1,444,200 |
| 695700 | Contractual Expenses Non-Govt | \$ 806,837 |

- Sheriff implemented a work time analysis across all agencies and divisions
- Police Division had 18 people in the academy
- Brought hiring in line when Civil Service test came out and ran 2 academies simultaneously
- Scheduling patrol – all shifts overlap, which reduced overtime; always have Police Division person on the street
- Brought the same patrol schedule to Jamesville
 - 83 people working – able to double the work; went from 70 inmates to 138 inmates
 - Overtime flat, and sick leave went down with better schedule
- Cannot bring same schedule to Justice Center due to J-med (Justice Center Medical – a work limitation restriction)
 - Cannot order them to work
 - Not an issue at Jamesville, as the officers get 3-4 days off every other week
- Still running overtime with the jails; down over 100 positions
- i.e. Start with 70 people in interview night, lucky to get 5-10 in the academy, and will lose ~3 in first week of academy

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Is the Mental Health for incarcerated individuals a program that the state paid for prior to the pandemic?
 - Not sure if the state paid for before pandemic
- State used to paid for it, but now it is on county taxpayers; another unfunded mandate of ~\$400K
- This change was budgeted for
 - Yes; did increase for 2025, but do not know how many people need the services
 - One inmate in a mental health housing facility is \$42K/month
 - December bill for \$814,874
- How many vacancies are in each division?
 - Police Division – almost none
 - Attrition – Hoosock event will cost the Sheriff around 10 people
 - Someone with 8 years on resigned; not like previous generation of wanting the job
 - Hoping the wellness program makes a difference; challenge to get it off the ground; need the right person
 - Losing people to mental health reasons

REQUEST: Number of vacancies in each division (funded vacant)

- Has the Sheriff seen anyone transfer out based on pay scale (way down) and unsettled contracts?
 - No, have not seen anyone transfer out
 - County is second lowest paid police division in the county
 - Lose people to state police
 - Lost one to Norwich (did get check for \$42K)
 - Lost one to Connecticut – owes the county \$12K, but say they do not have to follow NYS law
 - Gain from Cortland, who will lose money coming to Onondaga County
 - Not losing to local police
 - People are willing to come here to make less
- Is there only ~70 people that can be canvased?
 - On police side, about 74
- Towns and villages are looking to hire around 40-50 from that 70; reality of 10-20% success rate for hiring
 - City of Syracuse is struggling to hire
- Please clarify what second lowest is referring to?
 - Of all police agencies in Onondaga County, the county is the second lowest
 - Take out State Police where troopers make ~\$145K, county still second lowest
 - i.e. Camillus for example is contracted at \$105K
- Most of the contracts are \$20K ahead of the county's patrol

- Was the work time analysis written or in-house?
 - Both
- If the county is the second lowest, who is the lowest?
 - Possibly Cicero
- How many retirements?
 - Police Division today has 29 people that can retire and walk out; some people in their 60’s working
- How much did the tragic event cost?
 - i.e. A basic SWAT call 2 weeks ago cost around \$10K
 - Have not put a number to that event
 - Police work more dangerous
 - Talk about numbers of crimes going down, but DCJS said that only ~35% report index crimes; not accurate
 - Crime numbers do not talk about juvenile crime; more dangerous with young people having guns
- Minus extenuating circumstances, what is the Sheriff looking at next year?
 - Came in under budget 2 years in a row due to better management
 - Exception is jails that run on OT, because they are short 100 positions
 - Looking for efficiencies and having work study done in booking by Chief; will see if they can find efficiencies
 - Commission of Corrections coming in to do analysis (has not been done since 2002)
 - i.e. How many people do they need in booking, how many sergeants do they need
 - Have it re-evaluated; when done in 2002, it was a max population; inmate population rising, but not as high as 2002

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

b. BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Renovations to the Sheriffs Evidence Storage Area in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$5,475,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$5,475,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$5,475,000)

Mr. Wixson presented this resolution:

Sheriff Evidence Storage Renovation (NEW)

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| DEPARTMENT: | Sheriff’s Office |
| PROJECT TYPE: | Renovations & Upgrades |
| PROJECT STATUS: | Proposed |
| BUDGET STATUS: | Not Authorized |
| PHASE STATUS: | Planning |



SUMMARY

Work on a new evidence storage facility at the North Area Maintenance Building on Molloy Rd. The existing facility has been determined insufficient in the standards of evidence storage and code compliance. We will utilize vacant space in another area of the facility and implement the components of a modern evidence storage location to comply with mandates and standards.

FUNDING BY SOURCE (000's)

| SOURCE | Prior | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 6-Year | Total |
|------------------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|-------|
| Borrowing to Authorize | - | 5,475 | - | - | - | - | - | 5,475 | 5,475 |
| TOTALS | - | 5,475 | - | - | - | - | - | 5,475 | 5,475 |

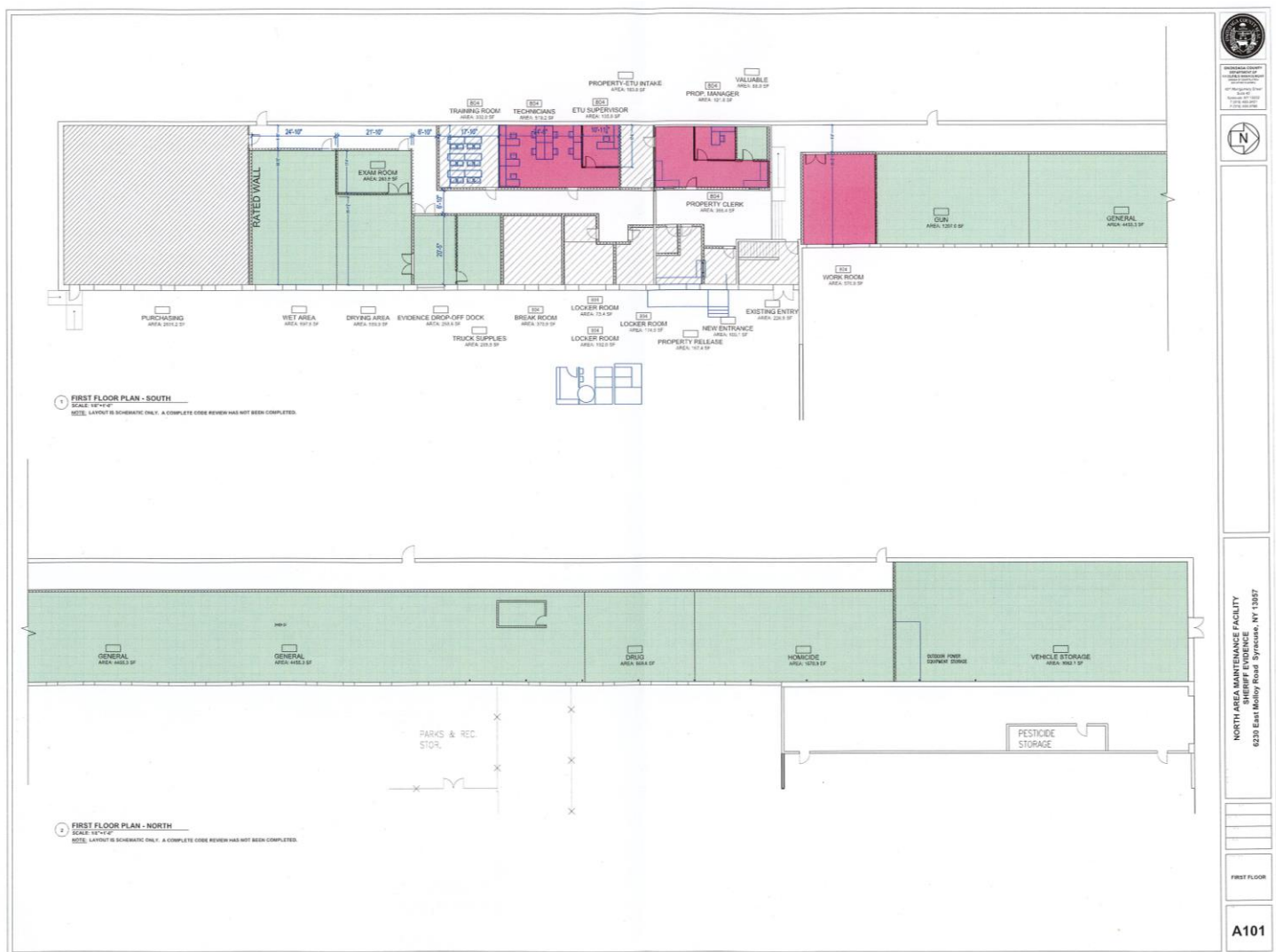
SCOPE & DETAILS

For some time now, it has been determined by several entities involved with case evidence storage requirements, Sheriff department, Onondaga County District attorney, Courts, Codes and PESH that the existing facility located in the former basement level UPS sorting facility, now identified as the North Area Maintenance Facility is insufficient and not compliant with standards and codes required of this type of facility.

Facility Management has worked with the Sheriff to develop plans for a renovation of another portion of the NAMF that would deliver a compliant evidence storage facility. Two independent consultant firms have provided program studies, needs assessments, feasibility studies and recommendations. We have incorporated them in our plans for development of this project.

The renovations will include secure storage areas, general storage areas, administrative offices, restrooms, staff break and locker areas, IT infrastructure, access control, surveillance systems, alarm systems, vehicle storage, new roof, new HVAC, plumbing and electric and public access.

In spring 2025 we intend to seek legislative authorization for \$5,475,000 in bonds to finance this project.



- Facilities working with Sheriff to look for an alternative to the existing evidence storage where DOT is
- Deteriorated condition; law enforcement, Law Department, Sheriff, DA are all concerned with the level of compliance the conditions leave evidence in for court cases
- Plan is to renovate the current Purchasing Auction House; same facility, but at ground level; primarily vacant warehouse
- Twice square footage than where the evidence is currently in the basement level
- Started process with in-house Architects (Han Pham) – past development and schematic phase; waiting on funding authorization to begin mechanical, electrical and plumbing
- Have probable construction cost estimates, which came in at \$5.475M; believe it is reasonable to renovate the space
- Taken all information for design from working with the Sheriff in determining what they need
- Things that are statutory and efficient for the Sheriff's to operate
- Completed detailed construction cost, but will fine tune once electrical engineers are done

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Originally, this was discussed with the city, but they are moving out; is this why the county is in the position it is in?
 - Facilities:
 - Generally correct, yes
 - Sheriff:
 - Concerned with city project, because it might get $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way done, then the city would run out of money
 - Which is why the Sheriff did not agree to it
- Is this enough space to expand for 20 years?
 - Sheriff:
 - More than that
- What is the timeline on this project?
 - Facilities:
 - First week of March for the release of funds
 - In meantime, will advertise mechanical design services
 - Hoping to have that award by end of March
 - 3 month duration for mechanical engineering scope of work
 - Bidding by early summer, with a month of bidding and a month for contract execution
 - Expect to begin work on this late summer
 - Would be success to have contractors on site in August
 - Would like the building dried in and insulated with roof on, to be able to spend 6-7 months on buildout
 - Facility to hand over for operations in early spring; this time next year
- There have been discussions about the need for the facility upgrade for years
 - Facilities:
 - Yes, been through 3 Sheriff's administrations working through this
 - Sheriff:
 - As far as space, cannot predict what Albany will do
 - i.e. If someone gets a DWI due to Safe Act, Judge will take all the guns, and the Sheriff has to take them
 - Have 4,000 guns piled up
 - When NYS legalized marijuana – fine print says Sheriff will take all the evidence when raids are done
 - Can pile up evidence
- If Facilities cannot break ground in the summer, has there been talk about how much more it may cost?
 - Facilities:
 - Prior to putting project in bid package, will fine tune estimates again with another set of eyes, mechanical engineers and Facilities team to re-evaluate the current market conditions
 - May have to choose alternates for some scopes of work
 - Potential changes if additional funding needs to be acquired; may have to come back to the Legislature
 - Market has leveled off, but have not overcome the peak; no huge fluctuations experienced 3-4 years ago
 - Cannot predict upcoming economy

- Any opportunities for grants for this project?
 - Sheriff:
 - Not aware of any; always looking and have fulltime grants person
 - Lot of grants come from federal government
 - No idea how ICE plays out with President; in past, they have tried holding up grant money

A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (E911):** Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive, Human Services
 - a. **BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Computer Aided Dispatch System Updates in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$750,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$750,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$750,000)**

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Refresh (NEW)

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Communications (E-911)
PROJECT TYPE: Communications & Technology
PROJECT STATUS: Proposed
BUDGET STATUS: Not Authorized
PHASE STATUS: Planning



SUMMARY

Necessary periodic refresh of Intergraph computer aid dispatch (CAD) system software to keep pace with advances in functionality, technology/operating systems, and Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) implementation. Cost includes software and Intergraph services.

FUNDING BY SOURCE (000's)

| SOURCE | Prior | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 6-Year | Total |
|------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|-------|
| Borrowing to Authorize | - | 750 | 750 | - | - | - | - | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| TOTALS | - | 750 | 750 | - | - | - | - | 1,500 | 1,500 |

SCOPE & DETAILS

The Intergraph Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system undergoes continuous updates to incorporate enhancements and fixes based on customer requests and Next Generation 911 requirements. This project aims to upgrade the current software to the latest release, facilitating gradual and timely improvements to the system.

The project will encompass implementation services for the Intergraph CAD system and all related interfaces, including:

- A mobile component for police, fire, and EMS vehicles.
- Fire and police records management systems (RMS).
- An automatic vehicle locator (AVL) system.
- A paging/notification system.
- Fire station printing capabilities.
- Integration with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice System.
- The Rural Metro Computer Aided Dispatch interface.

Additionally, comprehensive training will be provided to ensure all personnel are familiar with the new system and its changes. This project will also include upgrades to the furniture and equipment used in the operations center to improve efficiency.

In spring 2025, we plan to seek authorization for \$750,000 in debt to fund this project, ensuring the necessary resources are available for its successful implementation.

- ICAD refresh for 911; support police, fire, EMS; precursor to NexGen (Next Generation) a few years down the road
- This is to keep current system up to date and running efficiently; backbone of system

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Was the refresh before this 10 years old?
 - Fin Ops:
 - Standard refresh done every 5 or 6 years
 - Work with company, Integraph – this is planned obsolescence
 - Software is only supported for a certain period of time; also hardware needs updating
 - Believe last two were 2019 and 2013
 - Finalizing agreement on hardware and software specs by mid-May; spending by end of year into 2026
 - Need to update hardware and train staff
- In the document, it says the useful life is 10 years, so why is it being done sooner (understanding it needs to be done)?
 - Fin Ops:
 - Initial estimate
 - Based on discussion last week, was assuming 5-6 year refresh
 - With its connection with NexGen, estimated a PPU of 10 years
 - Amount that will be put on the resolution to be reviewed by Bond Counsel

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

3. PROBATION: Kristen Jackson, Director; Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive Human Services **a. INFORMATIONAL: Update**

- Probation is driven solely by the courts – Judges place individuals on probation, then order investigation
- Line is fully staffed
 - Starting to see difficulties with lists and filling positions
 - Moving towards increasing community engagement and recruiting
- Trying to incorporate concept of Procedural Justice into all actions
 - Been pushed by DCJS (Division of Criminal Justice) for years
 - Evidence backed that individuals involved in the criminal justice system tend to modify their behavior, and are more compliant and likely to be successful, if they understand what is going on
 - Ensure procedures in place make sense to the individuals
 - About fairness, transparency, being respectful, and giving probationer a voice as to what is going on with their case
 - Increasing training for this and modifying policies and procedures
 - Also bringing the procedures to the administration of the department as well
- Purchased PowerDMS
 - Policy management system used by several jurisdictions in this county
 - Law enforcement policy management system
 - Help to increase use of trainings
 - Able to watch trainings and track evaluations to ensure people are reading, understanding and following policies
- Developing Training Unit
 - For 20 years, have had individualized units for specific case types – still have this
 - Training unit to have specific set of procedures to go through for each new Probation Officer (PO)
 - The new PO is not going into a specialized unit right off the bat
 - Doing professional development to know where people belong

- Looking at enhanced technology
 - Started with use of GPS monitoring
 - Different behavior modification programs
 - Aid to supervision and aid to individual to be successful
- Increased collaboration with other agencies
 - Helped with funding coming through
 - GIVE (Gun Involved Violence Elimination) funding – been receiving for ~12 years
 - Encourages collaboration with Sheriff, Syracuse Police, DA, Crime Analysis Center
 - State now sending additional funding for domestic violence specific cases modeled after the GIVE framework
 - Encourages collaboration for how the money is best spent
- Work with DCFS (Dept. of Children and Family Services) on the STSJP (Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles) and RTA (Raise the Age) plans and funding
- Large partner with CNY Threat Assessment and Management Strategy – work closely with Emergency Management, Sheriff and multiple law enforcement agencies, mental health agencies, FBI
- Juvenile Justice with RTA
 - State granted \$1M to increase restorative justice practices and determine best course of action for juveniles
 - Once the plan is approved by NYS, it will be brought over to the Legislature to accept funds (same as domestic violence funds)
- Trying to focus on data and getting correct data
 - Enlisted DCJS Knowledge Bank to provide more feedback as far as Juvenile Justice situation
 - Can manipulate the data and see where the county can get the most bang for their buck
 - Looking at increasing efforts
- DestiNY USA approached Probation (prior to last Director leaving)
 - DestiNY has seen a difference with PO's patrolling the mall and engaging with the community
 - Noticed that some PO's were engaging well with juveniles and asked Probation to send additional detail for Juvenile Justice PO's to engage with the youth (get them home, or out of the mall if causing an issue)
 - To engage them and keep them out of trouble
 - DestiNY pays the department directly to patrol the area
- Continue to do Armory Square details, Parks in the summer, hot spot details, etc.
- Probation vs. law enforcement – (i.e.) if a PO is at the mall wearing jacket with Probation on it, and a probationer sees it knowing they should be not be there, that probationer will leave
 - A violator of probation can be taken directly to court or the Justice Center
 - Great deterrent for these instances
 - This is being done currently, and they are expanding on it

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- What has been the hardest thing since becoming Director?
 - State has qualifications to move people through ranks in Probation Department
 - There is not necessarily any training to become a Director or Administrator
 - Worked under Phil Galuppi for a while, but it is mostly trial and error
 - Huge benefit to have administration that has been in the field
 - Ms. Jackson was in the field for 20 years; know what PO's are going through and can relate back
- Does the Threat Assessment partnership include some of the things that the County Executive put out with the relationship with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?
 - No; Threat Assessment Management and Strategy is a combination of (i.e.) school based threats (youth making threat of mass harm at school), or a guy at Wegmans making a mass threat
 - As a county, created team to get notified of these cases
 - Involves Probation, Child and Family Services, Department of Mental Health, Sheriff, DA, County Attorney
 - Look at case, and see who should be at the table to assess it
 - Done a ton of training about pathway to violence, and what interventions may work
 - What evaluations might be necessary to evaluate the case, move them forward and monitor them to prevent the mass attacks
 - Hard to judge how many have been thwarted, but feel they have thwarted many
 - NYS initiative run by Sheriff

- As far as ICE (knowing Syracuse is not a sanctuary city), are they meeting and discussing things in case something happens, so the county is not caught off guard?
 - Probation does not play a huge roll in the arrest or follow through with ICE and deportation
 - Probation will communicate with ICE when they are court ordered to investigate
 - Probation will investigate if the individual is a citizen of the US or not; if not, then notify ICE to get verification of status to report back to court; up to Judge whether the person is put on probation, or stays in custody
 - Will communicate with ICE on those individual cases
 - Have some cases on probation that are not legal citizens; ICE is aware of those individuals

- Has ICE made any requests to date?
 - Not officially

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

| NAME (Please Print) | DEPARTMENT/AGENCY |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Sherry Shelly | OCFO |
| Vincent Passaro | OCFO |
| Cheryl Seel | OCFO |
| Kristen Jackson | Probation |
| Darcie Lesniak | Leg |
| John DeSantis | Leg |
| Maurice Skato | Leg |
| Jason Dean | Finance |
| | |