



Onondaga County Legislature

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Clerk

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – JULY 18, 2023 MARK A. OLSON, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. McCarron, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Bush, Mr. Kinne

ALSO ATTENDING: See attached list

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

1. SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Chief Melissa Berlinski

a. Amending the 2023 County Budget to Provide for the Appropriation of General Fund Balance for Providing Correctional Health and Offsite Mental Health Services at the Justice Center and Jamesville Correctional Facility (\$3,187,555)

D79 Sheriff's Office Contracts 2023	2023 Budget	2023 Estimated	2023 Est. Deficit
Neighborhood Watch	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Trinity Food Service	\$ 1,787,328	\$ 1,347,499	\$ (439,829)
NY CCS Correctional Health	\$ 11,530,973	\$ 12,306,864	\$ 775,891
NY CCS (Hillbrook MH Amendment)	\$ -	\$ 26,551	\$ 26,551
NYS OMH Prior Year & 2023	\$ -	\$ 2,597,508	\$ 2,597,508
NYS OPWDD Prior Year & 2023	\$ -	\$ 227,433	\$ 227,433
	\$ 13,328,301	\$ 16,515,856	\$ 3,187,555

- Last year did new RFP for correctional health; (previous administration) changed vendors – not happy with services
- State mandates largest portion for mental health, and in the past discounted county 50%; no longer doing this
- Mandated – no option but to provide services
- New contractor offered to manage it, but would charge management fees, so county chose not to; went with least costly
- Hillbrook over by \$26,000 (projections from last year's budget, previous administration)
- Total of \$3,187,555
- Unfunded state mandates – correctional health is a constitutional right

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Believe that NYS cutting back on this started during COVID, and they have not changed it back
- Another unfunded mandate
 - State used to discount at least 50%, but no longer; county under burden of entire amount

A motion was made by Mr. Kinne, seconded by Mr. McCarron, to approve this item.

- This is above what was budgeted for last year?
 - Correct
- Budget was done based on old contractor for health services; RFP was done after the budget was approved
- New contractor done after budget
- State said they would go back to the 50%, but did not; county budget was approved before the state budget in April

- Any comments about the current health services?
 - Working out well; had some minor bumps, but no egregious errors
- What happened to the previous staffing?
 - Some they kept and some were brought in new; that was on the new firm
- Are these the projected costs through the end of the year?
 - Yes
- Term of previous contractor expired, the current provider responded to RFP and was awarded
- Budget passed last October encompassed correctional health, but now NYS changed how they provided the mandates
 - Finance:
 - NYS changed 50/50 split in 2021 state budget and have not changed it back
 - Old correctional health contract with prior vendor included offsite costs: Office of Mental Health and Office of Persons with Disabilities
 - Old contract included it, but negotiated when state had 50% discount
 - With old contractor, had to amend contract based on new state law with 50/50 split
 - When the new contractor bid on RFP, they included option to include and manage offsite costs, but they would be passing on to Onondaga County with administrative fee
 - County chose to take on those costs within the budget
- When did the 50/50 split end?
 - Finance:
 - During COVID; first budget cycle after
- Why would the county pass budget without including unfunded mandate?
 - Finance:
 - Part is the new contractor is more expensive (\$775,000)
- One is the contract is more money and budget was done prior; did not know the Sheriff would be doing an RFP
 - Finance:
 - Prior administration chose to RFP in November
 - Prior contractor had skin in game for outside costs
 - Last year it was split; prior contractor bore the first \$1.4M; after that, it was 50/50 split
 - New contractor is not putting skin in the game
- Could not anticipate going to RFP, did not know who would respond, or if current provider responds at current price
- Would have liked to have conversation last year in budget about mandate
 - Finance:
 - Last year during budget had 2 year optional renewals with old vendor
 - It was decided by prior administration not to take those options and not to renew
- Did previous provider respond to RFP?
 - Counsel:
 - Do not think so

Request: All vendors who responded to the RFP last year

Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (911): Julie Corn, Commissioner

a. Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State Air National Guard 174th Attack Wing for Emergency Services

- Approve MOU between county and Air National Guard 174th Attack Wing

- 174th getting new landline phone system
- 911 calls were internal to them, but will now go to Emergency Communications including Police, Fire and EMS

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

b. Authorizing the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications to Accept the Gift of a 911 Center Recruitment Video (~\$8,000)

- 911 centers across the country are struggling with hiring, same as county
- Fortunate to have vendor offering a recruitment video, which has been offered to several customers with success
- Pleased with footage that was shot and requesting acceptance of video

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: JULY 18, 2023

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Julie Corn	E911
Kwinn Spraker	E911
Jason Dean	Dept of Finance
MELISSA BERLINSKI	OCSO
Darcie Lesniak	LES