

# **PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING**

**March 5, 2024**

The regular meeting of Public Safety, Probation, Office of Emergency Services, Coroner, and Stop DWI was held in the Legislative Conference Room at the Ronald E. Dougherty Office Building, 56 Main St., on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 2:30 PM.

## **Present:**

Keith Flesher	Chair, Public Safety
Barb Roberts	Legislator
Marte Sauerbrey	Chair, Legislator
William Standinger	Legislator
Brian Cain	Director, Probation
Sheriff Gary Howard	Sheriff's Office
Corinne Cornelius	Director, Emergency Services

## **Guest:**

Pete DeWind	County Attorney
Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
Robert Williams	Assistant Coordinator – Emergency Services

## **Absent:**

Dale Weston	Legislator
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## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

### **Approval of March 5, 2023 minutes:**

Legislator Roberts made the motion, seconded by Legislator Standinger, to approve the February 6, 2024 Public Safety minutes, as written. Motion carried.

## **PROBATION – Brian Cain:**

### **FINANCIAL:**

- Expenditures are on track
- \$2,362.99 in restitution and surcharge collected in February 2024.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- One open Probation Officer 1 position remains unfilled. One application has been received and an interview is in the process of being scheduled.
- The most recently hired Probation Officer, Patrick VanDurme has been scheduled to attend Fundamentals of Probation Practice and Basic Course for Peace Officer training in the spring. He is scheduled to attend in Rochester from March 22 to April 19, and at Alfred University from May 14-June 28. Housing at Alfred is a Townhouse Apartment at a cost of \$50/week. The course is tailored to Probation vs. law enforcement.
- iPads, keyboards and pens have been received from the awarded DCJS grant. TCIT Dept. is providing training/tutorials.
- Quality Assurance (audit program) Admin staff at Probation have developed a rough draft of the Quality Assurance Program which will be put into place by June of 2024. Admin staff have reviewed multiple plans from various Probation Departments around the state and created a program which should work well in Tioga County. Admin staff will continue to refine the program during the coming months. Tioga County performed a trial audit which have already resulted in some policy changes within the Department. It appears the formal

audit process will be beneficial to improving efficiency and effectiveness throughout the Department.

- Two Probation Officers and one Probation Assistant have been assigned to complete the Pre-Sentence investigation regarding the arson at the Tioga Downs horse barn. More individuals have been released on Pre-Trial Release in regard to the on-going Tompkins County kidnapping/murder case, and we anticipate another extensive investigation in regard to the recent murder arrest from the alleged domestic violence murder in Apalachin. These cases, in addition to the more than dozen justice courts sending us investigation orders have all officers very busy.
- Tioga County Spring Clean-Up Day organized by Sister Mary O'Brien of Tioga County Rural Ministries will be Saturday, April 13, 2024. Last year Probation and Court personnel teamed up to participate in the cleanup day with fantastic results. Probation intends to try to organize another team effort this year.
- There were two Juvenile Delinquency Appearance Tickets received for the month of February. Both respondents were charged with Assault in the Third Degree and Menacing in the Third Degree, Misdemeanors after attacking another student at school. Due to the issue of physical violence in the school setting, the matters were referred to the County Attorney's Office for petition to Family Court.
- Electronic Monitoring – There are currently two individuals being monitored via the VCheck24 phone app and GPS electronic monitoring system, AlcoTag systems.
- 51 active Court Ordered investigations for Tioga County Courts(Criminal/Family/Surrogate)
- 175 supervision cases ordered by TC Courts & Family Court
- 9 defendants/respondents have violation petitions pending in Criminal and Family court.

**PERSONNEL:**

- One vacant Probation Officer I position exists.
- One unfunded Probation Office position exists.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution to Approve a Sole Source Contract and Maintenance Agreement Between Tioga County Probation Department and Catalis Courts & Land Records, LLC f/k/a Automon LLC to Provide Software and Maintenance of the Caseload Explore Product

(Company has not responded with new updated charges for 2024, using 2023 amounts to continue)

*(Committee agreed to move this resolution forward)*

**OFFICE of EMERGENCY SERVICES – Corinne Cornelius**

**FINANCIAL:**

- Budget is on track.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Communications Project:
  - 2/10/24, the Fire/EMS side of the radio system went down for several hours. Capital Area Communications responded and worked to get the system back online. During that time, dispatch could not hear or transmit to any Fire/EMS unit.
  - The Spencer lease has now been signed. Motorola has provided lease exhibits for the landowners to review with specific drawings.
  - Motorola on-site visit to confirm the status of the project and ensure that we are on track to move forward as the weather allows.
- CAD Project
  - State Police IT and our County IT are still working on mapping issue with the NYSP cars.
- EMS
  - No significant changes in county EMS coverage. The same issues continue to exist in regard to manpower shortages.
  - Spring EMT classes have begun.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

- The office is continuing to transition since Mike Simmons has left. An all-Staff meeting was held with deputy fire coordinators to ensure that the priorities of the office were identified.

**FIRE:**

- County Fire Investigation Team year-end report is attached. They had a very busy 2023 and are already having a busy 2024 with over 200 investigation hours to date.
- Fire departments within the county have been submitting their response plans to have them entered into the dispatch system. (A preset listing of mutual aid responses).

**PERSONNEL:**

- The Deputy Director position has been posted.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- C12 Execute Addendum to Lease Agreement (Apalachin)
- C13 Execute Addendum to Lease Agreement (Nichols)
- C14 Execute Addendum to Lease Agreement (Spencer)
- C15 Execute Addendum to Lease Agreement (Richford)

*(Committee agreed to move resolutions forward)*

**SHERIFF – Gary Howard:**

**FINANCIAL:**

- Revenues are \$26,137 which is 5% of the budget. Expenditures are at \$1,651,401 which is 12% of budget. Inmate boarders are at \$16,282 which is 11% of the budget.

**PERSONNEL:**

- Update on Vacancies:
  - Civil:
    - One vacant part-time Civil Deputy position
  - Corrections:

- 2 Corrections Officer positions
- 1 part-time Cook positions
- 2 Corrections Officers are on military deployment.
- Road Patrol:
  - 2 vacant Deputy positions
  - 2 Deputies currently attending police academy.
  - 1 Deputy on light duty
- Communications:
  - 2 vacant E911 Dispatcher positions
- Records:
  - All positions are filled.
- Administration:
  - All positions are filled.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Jail camera replacement project ongoing
- In the planning phase for the VESTA Next Gen 911 system
- E911 dispatch center upgrades
- Establish Drone program for crash investigations.

**Miscellaneous:**

- The average daily inmate population for the month of February 2024 was 40. There was an average of 6 Federal inmates (161 days) and 2 board-ins (51 days) for the month.
- Discussion to build a parking garage for patrol cars. It is not in budget, but could be completely funded by asset forfeiture monies, no county funds used. Just a plan for cost estimates at this time. Straight in parking, 100-foot length. Garage doors at later date, unheated. Building & Grounds may be able to work on it as time permits. Suggested that Gary Hammond discuss at his committee meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- Revise Resolution #47-23 Authorize Acceptance of NYS 2023 PSAP Operation Grant
- Amend Resolution No. 58-24 2023-2024 NYS STOP DWI High Visibility Engagement Grant  
STOP DWI

Adjourned at 3:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Debona J. Stubecki*  
Office Specialist III  
Office of Emergency Services