

**Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: May 3, 2016 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: COB, 6th Floor, Karen Binder Library
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman TJ Briggs
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Legislative Staff
PRESENT: Legislators Lapp, Maio, Rodriguez and Ronk
ABSENT: Fabiano
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Under Sheriff Freer, UC Jail Superintendent Hanstein, Legislator James Maloney, Mr. Mike Kavanagh – UC District Attorney’s Office

Chairman Briggs called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Motion No. 1: RESOLVED To Approve the Minutes of the April 5, 2016 meeting

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Lapp, Maio, Rodriguez and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 2: Resolution No. 272 – May 17, 2016

Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 272 – Authorizing the Ulster County Sheriff’s Office to Accept The Donation of a Motor Vehicle

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lapp

Resolution No. 272 Summary: This resolution authorizes the Ulster County Sheriff’s Office to accept a donation of a vehicle from Steven Sheehan and to auction said vehicle.

Discussion:

Legislator Rodriguez questioned why the resolution authorized the Sheriff's Office to accept the vehicle and proceeds of the auction as opposed to the county. Chairman Briggs explained that the individual donated the car specifically to the Sheriff's Office. Under Sheriff Freer added that the individual opted to donate the car rather than going through the seizure process. Chairman Ronk added that there are a number of fees associated with the seizure process.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Lapp, Maio and Ronk
Voting Against: Rodriguez
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 3: Resolution No. 274 – May 17, 2016

Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 274 – Amending The 2016 Ulster County Budget To Adjust The Annual Salary Of The District Attorney As Required By The New York State Judiciary Law– District Attorney

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lapp

Resolution No. 274 Summary: This resolution amends the 2015-2016 Ulster County Budget in the amount of \$16,102 to comply with a state mandated increase in salary for the Ulster County District Attorney from \$167,298 to \$183,400 annually.

Discussion:

Chairman Ronk explained that the county chairs have been emailing with the state about requiring this increase without providing state funds to compensate. He added that there were state bills being considered to cover the cost to localities of the increases.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Lapp, Maio, Rodriguez, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 4: Resolution No. 259 – May 17, 2016

Text of Motion: Moved to approve Resolution No. 259 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Vanacore DeBenedictus DiGiovanni & Weddell LLP– District Attorney

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Resolution No. 259 Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$50,000 with Vanacore DeBenedictus DiGiovanni & Weddell LLP for the period 1/1/16 – 12/31/16 for fraud examination assistance.

Discussion:

Chairman Ronk explained that he would be abstaining at the advice of counsel due to employment of family at the firm. Chairman Briggs thanked Chief Assistant District Attorney Kavanagh for taking the time to appear before the committee.

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Lapp, Maio, and Rodriguez

Voting Against: None

Abstention: Ronk

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

Sheriff's Report

Superintendent Hanstein informed the members that there was a potential for an upswing in Board Ins when Dutchess County begins tearing down their old jail to begin constructing the new jail. Legislator Rodriguez questioned whether a request should be made to the NYS Department of Corrections to adjust mandatory staffing levels in Ulster County. Superintendent Hanstein responded that the population numbers would not fluctuate enough to justify closing an entire Pod which would be the only thing that would allow for a staffing decrease. He offered for the members to visit the facility to see firsthand that there is not a substantial amount of vacant space.

Chairman Briggs added that the employees and union members should also be considered before deciding to make any staffing changes. Chairman Ronk encouraged the members to tour the facility.

Chairman Briggs advised the members that he recently participated in the Ellenville First Aid Squad Installation Dinner and presented the Under Sheriff with a plaque recognizing the Sheriff's Office for their continued assistance when responding to emergencies. He added that not every squad can say that about their partners in law enforcement.

Old Business

Chairman Briggs informed the members that a copy of the Pet Sellers Local Law introduced last year was included in the handouts and asked everyone to review it and pass along any comments to Chairman Ronk. He added that the committee should expect to see the law before them again in the next couple of months. Chairman Ronk added that he had met with one of the breeders who participated in previous discussions and has added a new classification of residential breeder to the law. He added that he spoke with the Human Society and the ASPCA and asked them to run the law by their legal teams for feedback.

New Business

Chairman Briggs asked if there was any new business. None was offered.

Chairman Briggs asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Maio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lapp

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: June 7, 2016