

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Criminal Justice & Safety Committee  
**DATE:** July 21, 2009  
**TIME:** 4:45 PM  
**PLACE:** Library Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Office Building

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman Frank Dart, Deputy Chairman Paul Hansut, Legislator Thomas Briggs, Legislator Kenneth Ronk Jr., Legislator Susan Zimet

**LEGISLATORS ABSENT:** Legislator James Maloney, Legislator Richard Parete

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Sheriff Paul VanBlarcum, Undersheriff Frank Faluotico, Thomas Kadgen (LWV, CJC), Tana Agostini (Re-Entry Advocate), Daniel Bassanese (Chief, Highland Fire District), Peter Miller (Chief, Highland Fire District)

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 4:53 PM**

**APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 23, 2009 MINUTES:**

Motion offered by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Hansut, All in Favor, Carried.

**PROBATION DEPARTMENT - Melanie Mullins**

- 1) **Resolution - Draft** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The With New York State Division Of Probation And Correctional Alternatives For The Enhanced Supervision of Sex Offenders State Aid

Motion offered by Legislator Hansut, Seconded by Legislator Ronks, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: None

- 2) **Resolution - Draft** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The With New York State Division Of Probation And Correctional Alternatives For The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP)

Motion offered by Legislator Ronk, Seconded by Legislator Briggs, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Dart introduced Chief Daniel Bassanese and Chief Peter Miller of the Highland Fire Department. Chairman Dart explained that there was correspondence between Mr. Bassanese and the Director of Emergency Communications Art Snyder about an incident that took place earlier that month concerning communication between his Fire Department and ECCC. (See Attached Letters Dated July 6, 2009 and July 9, 2009).

Chief Bassanese and Chief Miller made the following points and statements:

- Ulster County Fire Service is suffering due to the lack of communication that is available to the Fire Service. They can not communicate with the 911 center with a portable radio when they are standing in the middle of 9W on an incident. You have to run back to your truck to use the truck radio to call the County. They both feel that in the last 20 years there has not been enough done to improve the Fire Service Communication in Ulster County.
- Operating with 5 radio channels for every Fire Department in Ulster County
- Very hard to run multiple incidents with a 5 channel/low ban radio system
- It was explained in more detail how the low ban radio system works
- Looking to upgrade to either a UHF, or a 700/800 Megahertz (MHz) system
- Dutchess County has 6 talk-around channels, 4 fire ground channels, 2 field operation channels, 3 fire police channels, 1 response channel, and 1 command channel. This system is all coordinated through their Emergency Communication Department. They can talk to their 911 Operators from any position.
- He explained that a few years ago a PL (Private Line) was created and that helped a lot with the interference problems they were having, until Putnam County went on the same channel for dispatch and now they could hear Putnam County loud and clear but you could not hear anything else. They went to the County with the problem and a new PL channel was created. A date was set as to when it was going to happen, how it was going to happen, and what was needed for equipment and it was done.
- The same type of approach needs to be done in regards to improving the radio system now. Have everyone have a window that is sufficient to be able to find some methodology of obtaining the funds for the equipment that will be needed to make the system work county wide.

A motion was offered by Legislator Zimet, Seconded by Legislator Ronk to set up a Subcommittee with Legislator Briggs as the Chairman and Legislators Ronk and Hansut as members, All in favor, Carried.

This Subcommittee will continue to work with Chief Bassanese and Chief Miller; they will contact Art Snyder and report back to the Committee as to their progress. They will work on creating a policy, studying and assessing the Emergency Communication needs in Ulster County. The goal is to upgrade the radio communication system that is currently being used by the Fire Service.

Sheriff VanBlarcum brought to everyone's attention that a meeting set up by Art Snyder is taking place on Thursday, July 30, 2009 at 10 AM in Chambers on exploring the possibilities of a regional collaboration on interoperability / radio systems. He felt that considering tonight's topic that the Committee might find the meeting to be informative.

Sheriff VanBlarcum discussed the following:

- Briefly updated the Committee on a Resolution that should be coming forward next month transferring \$500,000 from Contingency to cover medical bills for one inmate. This inmate has gone over the cap that Medical Insurance covers. He has been convicted, but due to his medial condition, has not been sentenced to a state facility. Medicaid can be back billed for partial reimbursement.
- Also in the future, due to Brad Ebel's retirement, will be working on filling that Superintendent position.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Legislator Paul Hansut, member of the Subcommittee (A Special Subcommittee Of The Criminal Justice And Safety Committee To Review The Dissemination Of Information Within The Various Branches Of County Government And Issue A Report And Recommendation Regarding The Future Dissemination Of Information Within The Various Branches Of Ulster County Government) to review Resolution 204 briefly updated the committee that due to scheduling conflicts they are in the process of scheduling a meeting with Legislative Counsel, Daniel Heppner.

**Reminder: Next months meeting will be taking place on August 25, 2009 @ 4:45 at the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Rotunda. Tour of the Jail will follow meeting.**

**Motion to adjourn meeting @ 5:45 PM**

Motion offered by Legislator Hansut, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, All in Favor, Carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Tammy Wilson,  
Senior Legislative Employee**

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