

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

DATE & TIME: October 6, 2014 - - 6:00 PM
LOCATION: UC Law Enforcement Center, the Rotunda
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman TJ Briggs
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk/Confidential Secretary
PRESENT: Legislators Gregorius, Loughran, Maio and Ronk
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Sheriff Paul VanBlarcum, Detective Sergeant Markiewicz – UC Sheriff’s Office, Melanie Mullins – Probation Department

Chairman Briggs called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Chairman Briggs introduced Detective Sergeant Markiewicz to offer some information on the number of false alarm calls the Sheriff’s Office responds to. He thanked the Detective Sergeant for coming and acknowledged that he has appeared before the committee in the past to discuss this issue.

Detective Sergeant Markiewicz advised the committee that this was an idea he had starting a few years back. He advised the committee that the number of false alarms responded to from 2010 – 2014 have been consistent. In 2010 it was 1,252 and thus far in 2014 they’re at 924, putting them on projection for 1,200-1,250 for 2014. He said that the State Police are responding to a similar number of false alarm calls per year as well.

Legislator Ronk asked if the number included calls dispatched to a local PD.

Sheriff Van Blarcum responded that it included any PD they dispatch for. Detective Sergeant Markiewicz clarified that the Sheriff’s Office covers certain times for local PDs like Ellenville and Rosendale.

Legislator Loughran asked if there was ever a false alarm call that forced officers to leave an accident or other call to report to the false alarm.

Detective Sergeant Markiewicz replied that it was not uncommon for that to happen.

Legislator Gregorius asked if the towns that do not have police departments were primarily the ones that the Sheriff’s Office responded to.

Detective Sergeant Markiewicz responded that if there was a local police department in the town that the call occurred, they would usually be the ones who responded unless already dispatched to an incident, then the Sheriff's Office would respond.

Legislator Loughran asked if there were locations that were repeat offenders. Detective Sergeant Markiewicz advised him that there were definitely a few and that they tended to be commercial places (Stewarts Shop was one example.)

There was a brief discussion about the effectiveness of fines in encouraging offenders to have their faulty alarms addressed.

Chairman Briggs asked the Committee if they would like to have an additional meeting in October to discuss this.

Legislator Gregorius advised the committee that he had a number of concerns with the proposed local law.

The committee had a lengthy discussion about various provisions of the proposed local law including enforceability, "Acts of God," the appeals process and the method for payment of fines.

Chairman Briggs asked the committee to review the proposed local law and make notes on any issues or concerns with it as currently drafted, including possible solutions, to be discussed at the November meeting.

Legislator Maio suggested that the committee members send their questions to Deputy Clerk Mahler by Thursday, October 9th so she can compile them and send them to the Sheriff for answers and/or suggestions.

Chairman Briggs recommended the deadline be the week of October 13th.

Legislator Loughran suggested that someone reach out to the Chamber of Commerce to get a sense of the business community's opinion on the proposed local law. Sheriff VanBlarcum offered to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Briggs asked the committee members again to send Deputy Clerk Mahler their concerns and moved on to Resolutions.

Motion No. 1: Resolution No. 352 – October 21, 2014
Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 352 - Confirming Re-Appointment Of A Member To The Traffic Safety Board

Motion Made By: Legislator Loughran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gregorius

Resolution No. 352 Summary: This Resolution is confirming the County Executive's re-appointment of George Goodwin to the Traffic Safety Board.

Discussion:

None

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

Motion No. 2: **RESOLVED To Approve the Minutes of September 8, 2014 meeting.**

Motion Made By: Legislator Loughran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Gregorius, Loughran, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 3: Resolution No. 356 – October 21, 2014
Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 356** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Inter-Municipal Agreements For The STOP DWI Crackdowns High Visibility Enforcement Program - Amending The 2014 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Probation, Division Of STOP-DWI

Motion Made By: Legislator Gregorius
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Resolution No. 356 Summary: Amends the 2014 Ulster County Budget by \$10,384.00, a portion of a grant award from the New York State STOP DWI Foundation in the amount of \$41,536.00 for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, to be used in 2014 for STOP DWI enforcement in high intensity areas.

Discussion:

None

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

Motion No. 4: Resolution No. 353 – October 21, 2014
Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 353** - Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Traffic Safety Board
Motion Made By: Legislator Loughran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Resolution No. 353 Summary: This Resolution is confirming the County Executive’s appointment of Lt. James P. Gramoglia to the Traffic Safety Board.

Discussion:

None

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

Motion No. 5: Resolution No. 354 – October 21, 2014
Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 354** - Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Traffic Safety Board

Motion Made By: Legislator Gregorius
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Resolution No. 354 Summary: This Resolution is confirming the County Executive’s appointment of Pamela Wanning to the Traffic Safety Board.

Discussion:

None

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

Resolution No. 355 – October 21, 2014

NO ACTION TAKEN: **Resolution No. 355** - Appropriating Funds From The District Attorney Forfeiture Account - Amending The 2014 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County District Attorney’s Office

Discussion:

Chairman Briggs advised the committee that the District Attorney’s Office was contacted for additional information on what the money would be used to purchase.

Legislator Ronk stated that the Law Enforcement Committee has been criticized in the past by the Ways and Means Committee for acting on Resolutions without supporting information and recommended the committee take no action on the Resolution until additional information is received.

Because there was no supporting information provided and no one from the District Attorney’s Office present to answer questions, the committee agreed to consider the Resolution at a future meeting to be set by the Chair after he receives supporting

information. The meeting will be scheduled prior to the October 21st Session of the Legislature.

Motion No. 6: Resolution No. 357 – October 21, 2014

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 357** - Authorizing The Appropriation Of Funds From The Saugerties Summer Festival Revenue Account For Reimbursement Of Expenses - Amending The 2014 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County Sheriff’s Office

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gregorius

Resolution No. 357 Summary: This Resolution is requesting reimbursement to the Sheriff’s Office of \$82,176.00 from the Saugerties Summer Festival Revenue Account to cover the costs associated with overtime expenses incurred by the Sheriff’s Office; Criminal Overtime budget line for \$70,728.12 and the Corrections Overtime expenses for \$ 11,447.84.

Discussion:

The Sheriff advised the committee that his office gave the County Attorney his figures for overtime pay necessary and they worked it into the contract. The check was obtained prior to the concert and held until services were rendered.

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Gregorius, Loughran, Maio and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 7: Resolution No. 358 – October 21, 2014

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 358** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Services For Overtime Reimbursement – Ulster County Sheriff

Motion Made By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Resolution No. 358 Summary: This Resolution requests the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature be authorized to execute an agreement with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, for the period June 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014, in the amount of \$2,698.38, to reimburse the cost of the overtime associated with “Operation Drywater.”

Discussion:

None

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

Resolution No. 368 – October 21, 2014

NO ACTION TAKEN: **Resolution No. 368** - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 10 of 2014 (A Local Law Respecting the Outdoor Restraint of Companion Animals)

Discussion:

Because the Public Hearing was not being held until next week the committee agreed to consider the Resolution at a future meeting to be set by the Chair.

Legislator Ronk advised the committee that he was recently on a conference call with Legislator Wishnick, Brian Shapiro, Suzi Plonski and Legislative Counsel Weiner and Guerin and that they have made changes to the proposed local law that the committee voted to set the public hearing on. It was his opinion that the changes made would require a new public hearing.

The meeting will be scheduled prior to the October 21st Session of the Legislature.

Motion No. 8: Resolution No. 371 – October 21, 2014
Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 371 - Establishing the Ulster County Coalition Against Narcotics

Motion Made By: Legislator Gregorius
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Resolution No. 371 Summary: This Resolution creates the Ulster County Coalition Against Narcotics to study ways in which to identify how individuals suffering from opiate drug abuse can be helped, identify other ways to prevent abuse, and identify ways in which to protect the public from opiate drug abuse in Ulster County.

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk asked if Chairman Parete was in favor of the Resolution. He was informed by Deputy Clerk Mahler that the Chairman will be signing on as a sponsor.

Legislator Loughran asked if the Legislature confirms the appointments. The Resolution does not require legislative confirmation.

Legislator Ronk said that he assumed the Chairman would entertain recommendations from Legislators.

Chairman Briggs offered to find out for the committee if there are other committees that are appointed without legislative conformation.

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

Sheriff's Report

Chairman Briggs complimented the Sheriff on the continued good work of his office.

Old Business

None

New Business

Legislator Ronk asked Sheriff Van Blarcum if he had any concerns with the County Executive's recommendation for the 2015 Sheriff's Office Budget.

Sheriff Van Blarcum commented that he was 95% content but feels there should be more meetings and communication between the County Departments and the Executive's Office during the budget process.

Chairman Briggs asked if there was any other business.

Adjournment

Motion Made By:	Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Gregorius
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	0

TIME: 6:54 PM

Respectfully submitted this 3rd day of November, 2014

Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: November 3, 2014