

Safety & Rules Committee Meeting
Chenango County Office Building – Committee Room
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – 10:00 am

Those present were: Chairman Charles Mastro, Supervisor Robert T. Starr, Supervisor Wayne C. Outwater, County Clerk Mary Weidman, Sheriff Ernie Cutting, Fire Coordinator/Director of Emergency Management Matt Beckwith, Clerk of the Board RC Woodford, Chairman George Seneck

Present via teleconference were: Supervisor Dolores Nabinger, Supervisor Grace Nucero-Alger, Supervisor Jeremiah J. Micklas

Chairman Mastro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Mastro welcomed Supervisor Outwater to the committee.

Mary Weidman, County Clerk

Refill – Recording Clerk:

Ms. Weidman stated that the last day worked for this position was on Friday January 15th, he has left for other employment in Philadelphia. She has spoken to Personnel and the date to be able to refill is January 28th. This is a grade 12 position with a rate of \$15.16 per hour. There is no list at this time, will be waiting on applications to be accepted.

Supervisor Starr made a motion to refer to the Personnel Committee to refill the Recording Clerk position, seconded by Supervisor Nucero-Alger.
Roll call approved, motion carried.

Ernie Cutting, Sheriff

FY2020 BVP Grant:

Sheriff Cutting stated that this year they were awarded \$18,720 for bullet proof vests. This is a yearly grant.

Supervisor Outwater made a motion to refer to Finance to accept the BVP grant in the amount of \$18,720, seconded by Supervisor Nucero-Alger
Roll call approved, motion carried.

Appropriate Boarding Revenue to Building Maintenance Capitol Project Account:

Sheriff Cutting stated that he has about \$170,000 plus in billable expenses for boarding inmates. He is predicting that there will be between \$80,000 - \$120,000 in excess revenue. The budgeted amount for 2020 was \$50,000. He stated that in the past they have taken the excess funds and put

it in the building maintenance Capital Project account. This is to help with any major repairs that the facility needed.

Supervisor Nucero-Alger made a motion to refer to Finance to appropriate the boarding revenue to the building maintenance Capitol Project account, seconded by Supervisor Micklas. Roll call approved, motion carried.

Discussion: Supervisor Outwater asked how much was in that fund currently. Sheriff Cutting was not sure at the time what the current balance was in that account. Mr. Woodford explained that the project account was setup about 10 years ago, he believes that there is currently around \$96,000 in that account. He also stated that in the past few years that there have been a few repairs that have cost over 6 figures.

Updates:

Injured Officer - Sheriff Cutting stated that the officer is tentatively scheduled to return to work on light duty on January 26th, he believes that it will be a little while before he is back on full duty.

Police Reform – surveys have been handed out to all the supervisors. Sheriff Cutting explained that there are roughly 200 surveys currently out. The survey is on the Sheriff's app and can be emailed as well. Sheriff Cutting has entered into an agreement with Survey Monkey to be able to have the public be able to participate and the results will be automatically generated. Sheriff Cutting is planning on having the executive summary completed for the February committee meeting. He would like to have the surveys tallied by late February early March and the complete project ready for resolution by the March Board meeting. Looking to have everything completed by the April 1st deadline.

Chairman Mastro was looking for clarification on is it supposed to be a law or resolution.

Sheriff Cutting stated that it could be done either way and the process of resolution is the easier way to go. Mr. Woodford stated that there are some cases where a local law is warranted but, in our case, it is just an adoption of a plan done by resolution.

New Phone App – the app is free and is up and running to be used on smartphones.

Training Position – Sheriff Cutting explained that he will probably be back in February asking for a training position as one of the detectives is looking to retire in June. He stated that he will be able to find the funds within his budget to be able to fund the position.

County Office Building Officers – Sheriff Cutting stated that he did not budget for the expense of having the officers positioned in the building either in the 2020 or 2021 budgets. He did say that DSS does pay to have the officer on their side, but he pays for the officer here in this building. He does not know how much longer we will be under these constraints. Sheriff Cutting stated that they have been on duty since last March and once a year has completed, he will have a better understanding of the financial aspects. He believes that down the road the committee

might want to look at other options for cost effectiveness. Chairman Mastro stated that he thinks that having the officers in the building are well worth it. Sheriff Cutting agreed that it is a good idea to have the officers in the building, he thinks that going forward maybe the committee should investigate creating a separate security division within the Sheriff's Office. The positions could be filled by peace officers which would be more cost effective. Supervisor Outwater questioned if the officer's posted here in the building with be refundable. Sheriff Cutting stated that yes it will be under the CARES act.

COVID in the Jail – Chairman Mastro asked about the COVID situation within the jail. Sheriff Cutting stated that there were 13 inmates that tested positive. All the inmates have been tested and the ones that came back positive were moved into the vacant housing POD to keep them away from everyone else. There were about 8 total staff that tested positive. Currently there are only 3-4 that are still in quarantine. Sheriff Cutting explained that the officers that tested positive are the ones supervising the inmates that are in quarantine, this is to help contain the spread. As of recently there have been no new cases over the last 5-6 days. Looking forward to having the inmates vaccinated. Chairman Seneck questioned how many active cases are still ongoing. Sheriff Cutting stated that there are 5-6 active inmates and 3-4 staff members on quarantine. There have been no hospitalizations, basically all minor symptoms.

RC Woodford, Clerk of the Board
Traffic Diversion Program Distribution:

Mr. Woodford handed out the report for the year end Traffic Diversion Program distributions. Mr. Woodford stated that this will be a motion to Finance to approve the disbursements to the towns. He stated that the total revenue for the program was \$194,800, total expense \$42,267 with a net of \$152,500. Mr. Woodford explained that this would give the county an amount of \$76,250 and the local justices \$76,250. There were 830 violations for the year, which is significantly less then prior years.

Supervisor Nucero-Alger made a motion to refer to Finance for their review of the distribution of funds, seconded by Supervisor Starr.
Roll call approved, motion carried.

George Seneck, Chairman
Updates:

Chairman Seneck spoke briefly on a policy for public comments during Board and committee meetings. He stated that he has been talking with Mr. Woodford about how the process would be handled. Chairman Seneck stated that the public would have to contact the Clerk of the Board's office to be put on the agenda and the topic listed. He believes that the policy will need to be handled through the Safety and Rules Committee. Chairman Seneck will have the County Attorney draft a policy and submit to committee in April.

Chairman Seneck stated that he has spoken with the IT director Mr. Ericksen regarding the website and how it needs updating. It will be a costly project, but he believes that it needs to be done. The current website was built and is updated in-house which typically does not take place. Normally there is an outside firm that handles the building and maintenance.

Chairman Seneck stated that he has been forwarding emails with COVID updates. He will be asking for feedback to see what type of information the supervisors are looking to receive. He will keep everyone updated on the number of vaccines that the county will be receiving as he gets that information.

Matthew Beckwith, Fire Coordinator/Director of Emergency Management Compressor:

Mr. Beckwith explained to committee about the compressor that they use to refill air tanks (SCBA) and how it has been used in the past. He stated that at the end of December 2020 they found that there was a mechanical failure with the block of the unit. They have tried to repair the unit but were unable to. Mr. Beckwith has been in contact with Eagle Air the manufacturer and they have stated that there has been known issues with the block. Mr. Beckwith stated that the compressor is 7 years old and had 250 hours on it before the malfunction. Mr. Beckwith told the committee that there are a few options that could take place: (1) they could get the pistons re-sleeved however, Eagle Air said that would not work (2) order parts to fix it – they stopped making parts about 5 years ago (3) purchase a replacement block for \$26,029 (4) purchase a new compressor – Mr. Beckwith stated that he did not feel this was necessary as a new compressor cost approximately \$58,000. Mr. Beckwith has spoken with the Treasurer’s Department and they believe that he has funds from the 2020 budget that he can use to purchase a new block with.

Chairman Mastro asked if it is just the block that would be purchased. Mr. Beckwith stated that yes it was and there would be a 1-year warranty on it.

Supervisor Outwater asked if the compressor is necessary. Mr. Beckwith stated that yes it was as they use it to refill air tanks for the fire departments when they are at fire scenes.

Supervisor Outwater stated that possibly they need to unplug the compressor when it is not in use so that this problem does not happen again. Mr. Beckwith stated that it was hard wired and could not be unplugged, but they could investigate other avenues such as a pressure switch.

Chairman Mastro wanted to know what the plans were for getting the funds to pay for the purchase. Mr. Beckwith stated that they were 90% of the way with using funds from the 2020 budget that have not been used.

Supervisor Outwater made a motion to refer to Finance for the purchase of a new block at the cost of \$26,029, seconded by Supervisor Starr.
Roll call approved, motion carried.

Surplus Air Bottles:

Mr. Beckwith spoke about the excess cascade bottles that the fire bureau has. He stated that in the past SCBA tanks were given out to the surrounding fire departments; he went on to say that over the years some of the fire departments have purchased their own air compressors and are able to fill their own bottles and have returned the lent-out tanks back to the county. Mr. Beckwith stated that he has about 16 bottles that are able to be surplus. Mr. Beckwith has spoken with Chenango Welding and they are possibly interested at a few dollars a piece. He stated that the price of scrape metal is much higher and that would probably be the way to go.

Supervisor Starr made a motion to declare the air bottles as surplus, seconded by Supervisor Nucero-Alger.

Roll call approved, motion carried.

Updates:

EMS – Mr. Beckwith stated that Norwich was down two ambulances; one has been fixed while the other one has a blown turbo. Greene has contracted one of their ambulances with the State of New York for the vaccine site in Johnson City. Mr. Beckwith stated that he was not happy with this. Mr. Beckwith explained that they are still holding an EMT class in Bainbridge and that two more are scheduled to happen throughout the year. There have been some dropouts from the Bainbridge class, he stated that there are about 8 people left in attendance. Mr. Beckwith spoke about how the State does not allow any classes higher than EMT-B to be taught. He stated that to become a paramedic it requires two years of college. He is concerned that volunteers will not be able to afford to take the courses and still do volunteering.

Mr. Beckwith stated that he has spoken with the Chairman and the Treasurer and is planning on having a meeting the first part of February. Mr. Beckwith has collected plans from other counties to help with building ours. He is planning on moving forward with the EMS plan even if the State cannot be involved to help. Mr. Beckwith stated that Supervisor Jack had said in the past that this might be a two-step approach. Mr. Beckwith stated that he was in agreement.

Mr. Beckwith has spoken with AMR and have asked how much it would cost to have one ambulance stationed in Chenango County. AMR said that it would cost 1 million dollars to provide an ambulance. Mr. Beckwith stated that there are other options.

Chairman Mastro asked about the CON. Mr. Beckwith stated that it will take two years to finalize and thinks that we should wait the extra few months to get the plan in place and do everything at the same time.

Cell Service – Supervisor Outwater spoke about the cell coverage in the county, he would really like for Mr. Beckwith to contact the cell providers to get them to go on all the 911 towers to help with service. Mr. Outwater stated that he is not worried if it generates revenue. Mr. Beckwith stated that he could try again to contact Verizon to get them into a contract for the South Otselic tower. He has noticed that if the cell carrier does not think that they will generate new customers then they most likely will not put the money into putting their service out there. Mr. Beckwith knows that the county is lacking cell service and he is pushing as hard as he can.

Adjournment:

Mr. Mastro adjourned the meeting at 11:12 am.

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Safety & Rules Committee Meeting
Chenango County Office Building – Committee Room
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 – 10:00 am

Those present were: Chairman Charles Mastro, Supervisor Robert T. Starr, Supervisor Wayne C. Outwater, Supervisor John Lawrence, Director of Probation Kristin Snow, Fire Coordinator/Director of Emergency Management Matt Beckwith, Sheriff Ernie Cutting, Clerk of the Board RC Woodford, Chairman George Seneck

Present via teleconference were: Supervisor Grace Nucero-Alger, Supervisor Jeremiah J. Micklas

Absent: Supervisor Dolores Nabinger

Chairman Mastro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

John Lawrence, Supervisor, Town of Afton

Referral – Diversion Program:

Mr. Lawrence stated he is not opposed to the Traffic Safety Diversion Program, which has benefited the county. Mr. Lawrence stated in 2016 District Attorney Mr. McBride modeled the program after an existing program in Otsego County. Mr. Lawrence stated the program is intended for good drivers who make a mistake. Mr. Lawrence stated Resolution 39-17 authorized the creation of a full-time position. Mr. Lawrence stated at the January 18, 2017 Safety and Rules Committee meeting, Mr. McBride stated this Diversion Program will be initiated by and housed within the DA's Office. Mr. Lawrence stated the county program has been well run by the DA's Office. Mr. Lawrence stated it has provided a new revenue stream for the county. Mr. Lawrence stated it has provided revenue to the towns to offset revenue lost to the town courts by cases that were not heard by the judges.

Mr. Lawrence stated he suggests that this is strictly a county program and not a town program. Mr. Lawrence stated to emphasize this he would like to read a portion of the minutes from the January 18, 2017 Safety and Rules Committee:

“Mr. Lawrence asked who would be initiating this diversion. Mr. McBride stated District Attorney's from each county are initiating this program. Mr. McBride stated there are many safeguards to ensure that participants are not repeat offenders. Mr. Mastro asked if the judges must sign off on this after the program has been completed by an individual. Mr. McBride stated the judges are not required to sign off on anything. The District Attorney is the only one who can decide to prosecute a case. Mr. McBride stated many judges want to do things their way and are trying to keep control in their courts. Mr. McBride stated that isn't really their job. Mr. McBride stated their job is to be fair and impartial. Mr. McBride stated his job as District Attorney is to decide if this program should be put in place or not and if people don't like that they can vote him out of office. Mr. Lawrence asked what happens if someone has gone through the program in the last year. Mr. McBride stated that District Attorneys determine the rules for the program. Mr. McBride stated it is his decision as to which individuals and which offenses are

eligible for the program and which are not. Mr. Lawrence asked if this program can be implemented without the approval and or cooperation of the judges. Mr. McBride stated that it could be initiated without consent or approval of towns and judges.”

Mr. Lawrence stated there are two reasons why he and others feel that the administrative costs should be fully supported out of the county’s share of any revenues and not co-partnering with the town’s revenue portion. Mr. Lawrence stated to remember that the town’s revenue is to replace lost revenue from not being able to try those cases within their town court. Mr. Lawrence stated the county’s share is all found revenue. Mr. Lawrence stated the second reason is that by distancing the towns from the administration of this program, the towns can be held harmless both financially and criminally from any lawsuits against the Diversion Program. Mr. Lawrence stated this is a very important issue. Mr. Lawrence stated insurance companies may not be able to properly assess the risk of costumers when they are applying for coverage. Mr. Lawrence stated that the state relies on their points system to remove problem drivers from their legal ability to drive. Mr. Lawrence stated you can imagine what a lawyer might do when defending a driver being charged with a death by automobile accident. Mr. Lawrence stated he is asking for a resolution to the full board stating that administrative costs be supported out of the county’s share of the Diversion revenue and that all towns be held harmless both financially and criminally for any cases brought against the Traffic Safety Diversion Program.

Mr. Mastro stated his opinion that the way it is currently run is correct. Mr. Mastro stated it is similar to the Bed tax where administrative costs come off the top. Mr. Mastro stated in 2018 and 2019 the money the county raised went into assigned counsel at the end of the year, which was going to be paid for by taxpayers one way or another. Mr. Mastro stated to be fair, to divide the administrative costs amongst the towns. Mr. Mastro stated the town of Afton has I-88 and therefore retains more money. Mr. Mastro stated when it comes time to disperse the assigned counsel costs amongst all the taxpayers then the town of Sherburne would be picking up a larger portion than the town of Afton if they were to get back the money from the administrative costs. Mr. Mastro referred to a chart for the Diversion Program. Mr. Mastro stated expenses would be \$412 for Sherburne and \$4,400 for the town of Afton. Mr. Mastro stated it is not fair either way because the money must come from taxpayers somewhere. Mr. Mastro stated it has been a great help at the end of the year to see that money go into surplus. Mr. Mastro stated he thinks it offsets what would have been a charge to the taxpayers anyway. Mr. Mastro stated he is unsure whether the insurance aspect is an issue or not.

Mr. Lawrence stated it is difficult to know whether the insurance aspect of the Traffic Safety Diversion Program could be an issue until a case is filed against the program. Mr. Lawrence stated if someone has gone through the Diversion Program and is then involved in a motor vehicle accident resulting in a death, the family of the deceased will be looking to file a claim against those with the deepest pockets. Mr. Lawrence stated there is no way that the county won’t be held responsible. Mr. Lawrence stated his point is that he is not sure he wants the towns to accept that responsibility. Mr. Lawrence stated that if the towns had initiated this program then they should be held liable, but this program was initiated by the DA’s Office through the county. Mr. Lawrence stated the program was modeled after an existing program in Otsego County. Mr. Lawrence stated in Otsego County, the county covers the administrative costs. Mr. Lawrence stated he is only talking about the administrative costs which are not all

that great. Mr. Lawrence stated Resolution 39-17 provided a total of \$40,000 for this. Mr. Lawrence stated \$40,000 divided out amongst the taxpayers is not that much. Mr. Lawrence stated only \$20,000 of this is assessed to the towns. Mr. Lawrence stated his point is not to save the towns \$20,000. Mr. Lawrence stated he is concerned that the towns can be held responsible for any cases against the Diversion Program because they help fund it. Mr. Lawrence stated they all hope this never happens and that the Diversion Program has been an asset. Mr. Lawrence stated that towns are ill-equipped to handle such a lawsuit. Mr. Lawrence stated that because they are co-partnered in with the county in the expense and operation of the Traffic Safety Diversion Program that a lawyer would probably hold the towns liable along with the county.

Mr. Mastro stated the 2021 budget includes \$45,287 for the Traffic Safety Diversion Program. Mr. Mastro suggested that the County Attorney, Alan Gordon, should probably be involved in this discussion. Mr. Mastro stated he does not know if it is any different than the town court. Mr. Mastro asked if they did not go through this Diversion Program and went through the town court, could the town be liable for a decision that the judge made. Mr. Lawrence stated if a case is adjudicated by the town court, they would not have the same powers as the DA's Office. Mr. Lawrence stated his concern with the program is that the DA's Office decides who is eligible for the Diversion Program. Mr. Lawrence stated if a ticket is cleared that could have resulted in enough points to revoke a license and then that same person gets in an accident resulting in someone's death, he doubts the driver would be held liable.

Mr. Outwater stated he appreciates the work Mr. Lawrence put into this and feels that many valid points were made. Mr. Outwater stated that the timing of this resolution is not the best though. Mr. Outwater stated this should be discussed before the budget meetings. Mr. Outwater stated the Finance Committee works very hard on the budget to get the figures where they should be. Mr. Outwater stated it may be best to create a presentation to approach the Finance Committee in the fall. Mr. Lawrence stated he agrees that it is bad timing. Mr. Lawrence stated the topic came up because the distribution of funds for the Diversion Program was discussed at the last Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Lawrence stated he would like to discuss this further in the fall. Mr. Mastro stated in the meantime they could research the liability issue.

Mr. Outwater made a motion, seconded by Mr. Starr, to refer to the County Attorney to review the administrative costs and liability of townships under the Traffic Safety Diversion Program prior to the budget meetings. Carried.

Refer to County Attorney.

Kristin Snow, Director of Probation

Updates/IT:

Ms. Snow stated as far as she can tell the revenue lines from the state have not been decreased this past year. Ms. Snow stated she has not received all the plans for renewal. Ms. Snow stated they seem to be pushing them through before the new budget comes out for the state. Ms. Snow stated there is no information about the next fiscal year yet.

Ms. Snow stated she had an unbudgeted expense because of the ransomware attack that will be due before the end of 2021. Ms. Snow stated they lost software used by the Probation

Department which connects with the state during the ransomware attack. Ms. Snow stated this software included their accounting system which they use to keep track of payments for the restitution of a crime. Ms. Snow stated they kept good paper records so that everything could be reentered once the computers were working again. Ms. Snow stated the software company helped the county create a new server for which they were originally quoted about \$1,600. Ms. Snow stated after the software company spoke with the IT Department, they discovered that it was more involved than they originally thought, and they provided a new quote of \$6,200. Ms. Snow stated the other option was to pay Audubon to host the server for the software so that if anything ever happened again, they would only need a secure computer with internet access. Ms. Snow stated that many counties are already using this service for their Probation Departments. Ms. Snow stated for the first year this cost \$3,100 which was far cheaper than it was to set up the server through the county again. Ms. Snow stated while the turnaround on this was quick, the downside is that it will result in a yearly expense for this service. Ms. Snow stated the first year was paid for out of the Malware Insurance Account. Ms. Snow stated she needs to know when to approach the Committee about budgeting for this in the second year. Mr. Mastro stated probably sometime near November.

Ms. Snow stated that the budget has been running differently this year. Ms. Snow stated mileage has been lower, the phone bill has increased due to zoom calls, and postage was lower due to fewer court proceedings. Ms. Snow stated she expects this will even out though. Ms. Snow stated she is not sure if her IT Department budget line could be lowered since a large portion of her department is now being hosted by Audubon. Ms. Snow stated Audubon provides on-demand service support and updates. Ms. Snow stated that the IT Department does a good job, but they were stretched thin. Ms. Snow stated she was informed previously in September that the Probation Department may need to purchase their own server because it was shared with DA's and Public Defender's Office and it was running slow. Ms. Snow stated in the long run she feels it will be better for the Probation Office to have their server hosted by Audubon.

Mr. Seneck stated he went to the IT Department and brought the Probation Department's list of needs. Mr. Seneck stated he has yet to receive feedback on what has been completed. Mr. Seneck asked if there were other things that needed to be completed. Ms. Snow stated there is still some equipment that they have not gotten back yet but is not needed right away. Ms. Snow stated the scanners are not working. Mr. Seneck stated that the IT Department is overwhelmed but a response regarding what can be done would be nice. Mr. Seneck stated that these responses were not going out. Mr. Seneck asked if Ms. Snow had all her computers back. Ms. Snow stated that she has computers available for all the positions that are currently filled. Ms. Snow stated she is missing two towers and a laptop. Mr. Mastro asked if she needed those right away. Ms. Snow stated no she did not. Mr. Seneck asked once she is fully staffed if she will need those items. Ms. Snow stated that is correct. Mr. Seneck asked how many positions the Probation Department is currently down. Ms. Snow stated they are down two officers and one part time position. Ms. Snow stated she has been able to get by because the courts have been slow, but as things improve with the pandemic, she expects it will get busy quickly. Mr. Mastro asked when she would like to have these positions filled. Ms. Snow stated she would like to have them filled by this spring. Mr. Mastro asked if the Probation Department was caught up on work from the ransomware attack. Ms. Snow stated the Officers are caught up for the most part. Mr. Mastro suggested starting to look for those refills as vaccination is under way. Ms. Snow

stated that those who chose to get vaccinated received the first shot last week and once they receive the second one hopefully everyone will feel better. Mr. Mastro asked if all her department staff have been vaccinated. Ms. Snow stated about 60% of her staff are vaccinated.

Mr. Outwater stated that he suggests looking to see if the Probation Department has the funds to make a line transfer to cover the additional expenses for hosting the server. Ms. Snow stated she thinks she may have the ability to do this.

Zachary Wentworth, Public Defender
Application to ILS for Distribution #11:

Mr. Wentworth stated he is seeking authorization to apply for ILS Distribution #11. Mr. Wentworth stated this replaces ILS Distribution #8 which ran out in 2020. Mr. Wentworth stated they are asking for the same amount which is \$59,436 per year for three years. Mr. Wentworth stated this would run from January 1, 2021- December 31, 2023. Mr. Wentworth stated this would total \$178,308. Mr. Wentworth stated this is to cover the salary and fringe benefits for their part time Public Defender and a portion of the salary and fringe benefits for two Clerk positions. Mr. Wentworth stated \$27,000 per year is for the Part Time Public Defender's Salary, \$10,000 for a portion of the salary for a full time Clerk, \$12,000 for another Clerk, and \$10,436 for fringe benefits.

Mr. Mastro asked if there was any difference in Distribution #11 from the past one. Mr. Wentworth stated the only difference is in the past a portion of Distribution #8 was used for cell phones in the Public Defender's Office. Mr. Wentworth stated this has been removed from Distribution #11 to cover the increases in salary.

Ms. Nucero-Alger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Starr, to approve submitting an application to ILS for Distribution #11.

Discussion: Mr. Mastro asked if this would need to go to the Finance Committee. Mr. Woodford asked if this was in the 2021 budget. Mr. Wentworth stated he does not believe it is. Mr. Wentworth stated the requests for proposals hadn't come out yet by the time the budget came around, so he does not think this was included in the 2021 budget. Mr. Woodford asked if he was expecting 2021 revenue from Distribution #11. Mr. Wentworth stated yes. Mr. Woodford stated this would therefore need to be moved to Finance.

Mr. Outwater asked if a motion was needed to refer this to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Nucero-Alger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Outwater, to refer to the Finance Committee to approve an application to ILS for Distribution #11. Carried.

Refer to Finance

Matt Beckwith, Fire Coordinator/Director of Emergency Management
Targeted Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG):

Mr. Beckwith stated in 2018 they applied for a Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG). Mr. Beckwith stated this is part of the 911 surcharge the state has been collecting for local cell phones. Mr. Beckwith stated they have two grant programs, a Targeted Grant, and a Formula Based Grant. Mr. Beckwith stated we receive the Formula Based Grant annually and the Targeted Grant is one that is applied for. Mr. Beckwith stated they hired NYSTEC to go through the application process with them for upgrades and improvements on the existing radio communications system. Mr. Beckwith stated everything was delayed due to COVID-19. Mr. Beckwith stated last week the New York State Governor made an announcement awarding Chenango County a \$6 million grant to increase and build on the current radio system.

Mr. Beckwith stated this would include the replacement of base radios and console equipment. Mr. Beckwith stated it also includes additional capacities such as connecting all of the local highway departments onto one system. Mr. Beckwith stated he spoke with the Sheriff about possibly bringing their system onto the UHF system as well. Mr. Beckwith stated this is the first phase of a two-part grant. Mr. Beckwith stated they applied for a total of \$12 million. Mr. Beckwith stated the maximum award amount is \$6 million per year. Mr. Beckwith stated this is a 4-year grant and there are some extensions that are allowable under the current guidelines. Mr. Beckwith stated that he expects next year they will be awarded another \$6 million to reach the total \$12 million they applied for. Mr. Beckwith stated the grant includes 4 sites for towers, 2 of which will be shared sites with other counties. Mr. Beckwith stated one shared site would be with Otsego County to cover the Otselic and Smyrna area and the second shared site would be with Broome County to cover a dead zone in the Afton, Coventry, and Bainbridge area. Mr. Beckwith stated new towers would be created in Guilford and McDonough. Mr. Beckwith stated they have not received the grant contract yet or any paperwork. Mr. Beckwith stated because of this no further action is needed today. Mr. Beckwith stated this is a reimbursement grant so a program will need to be established with the Finance Committee to provide funds up front.

Mr. Mastro asked if the schools would be included with the radio system. Mr. Beckwith stated they talked about this, but they will have to see what their capacity is. Mr. Beckwith stated the local highway departments are the first priority. Mr. Beckwith stated BOCES does have a radio system that all the school districts utilize right now. Mr. Beckwith stated it would come down to dollars and cents at that point to include them. Mr. Beckwith stated BOCES already operates on UHF so they may not need many upgrades, but they could certainly benefit from improved reception.

Mr. Mastro asked what the probability is of receiving the second grant for an additional \$6 million. Mr. Beckwith stated he spoke with the program director asking what would happen in the situation that they did not receive the additional \$6 million next year. Mr. Beckwith stated he was informed that while it was not guaranteed that they will receive the second grant for \$6 million, in the past other counties have never not been awarded the additional funds to complete the project. Mr. Beckwith stated they had to submit a plan with the grant application and the plan included the total \$12 million.

Mr. Outwater wished Mr. Beckwith luck with this grant. Mr. Outwater stated three years ago the town of Lincklaen received a grant for \$1.3 million for internet services and he has yet to see anything. Mr. Outwater stated he hopes this program does not stretch out that far.

Mr. Micklas asked if this project could tie into the lack of cell phone coverage. Mr. Beckwith stated the grant includes the establishment of two new tower sites. Mr. Beckwith stated they are in discussions currently with AT&T because they are looking at creating a tower in the same approximate area. Mr. Beckwith stated that the new towers would be built oversized to accommodate space for cell phone service providers. Mr. Beckwith stated that the dead zones for cell phone coverage are very similar to their dead zones so it may help with cell phone service as well. Mr. Outwater stated that Mr. Beckwith should encourage the cell phone service providers to take advantage of the new towers if possible. Mr. Beckwith agreed.

Ernie Cutting, Sheriff

Refill – Chief Public Safety Dispatcher & Backfill(s):

Mr. Cutting stated a long-time employee of the Sheriff's Office is moving to North Carolina for another position. Mr. Cutting stated he is looking to refill the Chief Public Safety Dispatcher position and any subsequent backfills. Mr. Mastro asked if he had someone in mind to refill this position. Mr. Cutting stated he hasn't spoken with this person yet, but he does have someone in mind.

Mr. Outwater made a motion, seconded by Mr. Starr, to refer to the Personnel Committee to refill the Chief Public Safety Dispatcher position and any subsequent backfills.

Refer to Personnel

Refill/Title Change – Food Service Helper to Cook:

Mr. Cutting stated that a Food Service Helper was in a motorcycle accident and has been out since. Mr. Cutting stated this worker filed his resignation. Mr. Cutting stated he would like to change this position to a Cook before refilling it but he is not sure what the best way to go about this is. Mr. Woodford stated they will create a new Cook position. Mr. Woodford stated they will transfer the funds from the Food Service Helper position and supplement it as needed to get through the rest of the year. Mr. Woodford stated that way you can see the history. Mr. Woodford stated if they were to reclassify the existing position and the account the history can get confusing.

Ms. Nucero-Alger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Micklas to refer to the Personnel Committee to change the title of the Food Service Helper position to a Correctional Facility Cook position and refill the position.

Refer to Personnel

Training Position for Academy:

Mr. Cutting stated one of the Detectives is going to retire around the first week of April. Mr. Cutting stated a Police Academy is starting in Broome County at the end of March. Mr. Cutting stated he is looking to get a Training Position for 6-8 weeks to send someone to the Academy. Mr. Mastro asked if this had been done before. Mr. Cutting stated yes this has been done before and it is a big help. Mr. Cutting stated otherwise it would be another year before he could get someone in the Academy. Mr. Mastro asked if the position being refilled would be an Investigator. Mr. Cutting stated they would be refilling a Deputy Sheriff position as the Investigator position requires more experience.

Mr. Starr made a motion, seconded by Ms. Nucero-Alger, to refer to the Personnel Committee to establish a Training Position with the Police Academy. Carried.

Refer to Personnel

Discussion: Mr. Outwater asked if this Training Position is already in the budget. Mr. Cutting stated yes, it is in the budget.

Front Door Officers

Mr. Cutting stated he wants to make sure they all stay on the same page with having Officers at the front door. Mr. Cutting stated it has been coming out of his budget and he wasn't planning on doing this for a full year. Mr. Cutting stated he understands the need for it with COVID-19 and that many of the department heads have expressed their appreciation. Mr. Mastro asked if more funding for positions is available. Mr. Seneck stated he sat in on the FEMA webinar last week and it looks like there is additional funding. Mr. Seneck stated they would need to apply for additional funding. Mr. Seneck stated currently there is no deadline for COVID-19 Relief Funding. Mr. Mastro stated that it has been carried in the budget for the Sheriff's Office and he thinks they can probably continue to do so. Mr. Cutting stated it was just a reminder that if they keep going, he may need additional funding in the future.

Mr. Outwater asked if the Sheriff Deputies were manning the front doors. Mr. Cutting stated that Deputies and Correction Officers were manning the doors. Mr. Outwater stated that since the population at the jail was lower that there must be some Correction Officers that they can spare. Mr. Outwater stated that part of his update is that he terminated two Corrections Officers within the last seven days. Mr. Cutting stated one was due to poor work performance and the other due to a problem he had in Morrisville. Mr. Outwater asked if Mr. Cutting thought he would be pressured to refill these positions. Mr. Cutting stated most likely yes. Mr. Cutting stated he recently received a call from the Marshals Service asking them to house 12 prisoners. Mr. Cutting stated if he did this, he would probably have to open up another pod. Mr. Cutting stated that if he can get prisoners from the Marshals Service that he would take them in order to bring in more revenue. Mr. Cutting stated that he already had 5 from the Marshal's Service currently. Mr. Cutting stated he is down in Corrections staff. Mr. Cutting stated he has 18 slots for part time Corrections Officers and he currently only has two or three.

Reform Plan:

Mr. Cutting stated he provided a draft of the Reform Plan for the Supervisors who were present. Mr. Cutting stated it initially talks about the New York State Governor's plan. Mr. Cutting stated further in are some mandates and legislative changes that came about last year. Mr. Cutting stated they have already completed almost every one of those. Mr. Cutting stated there is one thing that needs to be filed with the Attorney General's Office in the first quarter of this year. Mr. Cutting stated once this is done, they will have completed all of the mandates. Mr. Cutting stated further in are the strategies going forward. Mr. Cutting stated he outlined a lot of the duties that they perform.

Mr. Cutting stated he has been working with the Department of Mental Health. Mr. Cutting stated they had several conversations about mental health issues and how law enforcement may be able to do soft hand-offs to mental health professionals or provide a referral. Mr. Cutting

stated he is looking at a system in Broome County that is in place for children who have been in or witnessed a traumatic event. Mr. Cutting stated that the school counselors are notified so that if a child is acting out, they know it could be due to this traumatic event. Mr. Cutting stated this is a program that the Chenango County Sheriff's Office is looking at getting involved in next year.

Mr. Cutting stated it goes on to talk about staffing and budgeting at the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Cutting stated that they work with the county to make sure they are within the realm of the 2% tax cap. Mr. Cutting stated they are going to promote Procedural Justice more. Mr. Cutting stated in the last quarter of last year he sent two instructors to a two-week school so that they could instruct the Sheriff's Office personnel and the local PDs on principal policing. Mr. Cutting stated one of the biggest things is to maintain community engagement. Mr. Cutting stated they go to senior centers to provide education about scams and they do prescription drug pick-ups. Mr. Cutting stated he thinks there is room for improvement in their communication with the public about the programs and services they provide. Mr. Cutting stated it is important to maintain their accreditation which has really helped them.

Mr. Cutting stated he included a copy of the survey results in the report. Mr. Cutting stated he received about 265 total responses to the survey. Mr. Cutting stated the report contains charts on all of the questions that were asked. Mr. Cutting stated there were several areas where the public could comment. Mr. Cutting stated he received many comments regarding state and local police departments rather than for the Chenango County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Cutting stated that many answered they had no knowledge or experience of bias. Mr. Cutting stated the Reform Plan was made based on the public's responses to the survey. Mr. Cutting stated this Reform Plan is a draft and he would like to add additional public comments later. Mr. Cutting stated he would like to post the plan on their website, Facebook page, and phone application for public comment. Mr. Cutting stated he is seeking approval of the Reform Plan from the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Cutting stated he should have a final draft prepared in time for the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Mr. Mastro asked how the board can approve a plan that is final on the day of the meeting. Mr. Mastro stated he would take the draft home to review but it sounds like changes will be made before the board meeting. Mr. Cutting stated the only thing that would change would be if he receives a public comment that they should consider. Mr. Micklas asked if the Reform Plan could be emailed to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Cutting said he could do that. Ms. Nucero-Alger asked if they were required to host a public hearing. Mr. Cutting stated no they were only required to open it for public comment. Ms. Nucero-Alger stated she saw on the news that Broome County held a public hearing for their Reform Plan. Mr. Mastro stated that originally, they thought this was going to be a law but it is not, it is just a resolution. Mr. Mastro asked when the deadline was. Mr. Cutting stated April 1, 2021.

Ms. Nucero-Alger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Outwater to refer to the next Board of Supervisors meeting to approve the Chenango County Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan. Carried.

Resolution to Follow.

Discussion: Mr. Outwater asked if the Reform Plan would be sent out to the supervisors in time to review it. Mr. Cutting stated he would email it out today. Mr. Seneck asked if additional changes can be added separately so that they can easily see any changes. Mr. Cutting stated he could do that and create a separate public comment section.

Updates:

Mr. Cutting stated once again he terminated two Corrections Officers positions yesterday. Mr. Cutting stated both were still under the probationary period. Mr. Cutting stated one had poor job performance and the other had some issues with the Morrisville Campus Police. Mr. Cutting stated they are COVID-19 free again. Mr. Cutting stated they are starting non-contact business again with inmates. Mr. Cutting stated they submitted a plan to the Department of Health and Commissioner of Corrections. Mr. Cutting stated they are currently housing 5 prisoners from the Marshal's Service and they are always looking for more to bring in revenue.

Mr. Mastro asked if they would need to refill the two Corrections Officer positions. Mr. Cutting stated these are mandated positions and in the past he had received permission to refill mandated positions and then update the Safety and Rules Committee.

Mr. Outwater asked if the Reform Plan was required and whether any funds were provided for this. Mr. Cutting stated it was mandated and funding was not provided by the state. Mr. Cutting stated if he had not completed the Reform Plan, they could have lost funding they typically receive from the State. Mr. Outwater stated he was not criticizing Mr. Cutting for completing the Reform Plan, but he was criticizing the state for creating this mandate without any funding.

Mr. Outwater made a motion, seconded by Ms. Nucero-Alger, to refer to the Board of Supervisors to notify state representatives of an unfunded mandate to establish a Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan. Carried.

Resolution to Follow.

Discussion: Mr. Outwater stated that hopefully by creating this resolution other counties will follow suit to let state representatives know that they are not pleased with the creation of unfunded mandates. Mr. Seneck stated it is important to let them know that they do not have the staff or resources to handle these unfunded mandates. Mr. Outwater, Mr. Mastro and Ms. Nucero-Alger complimented Sheriff Cutting for his comprehensive Police Reform Report.

Mr. Seneck asked if Mr. Cutting would do a press release to notify everyone of the public comment period. Mr. Cutting stated he would make sure to email the information to the press.

Other

Authorizing Reappropriation of Funds For Purchase Of Computer - Board of Elections:

Mr. Mastro stated this was a computer they were approved for previously, but their request was lost somewhere. Mr. Woodford stated the appropriation was done right before the cyber-attack so it was not completed.

Mr. Outwater made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mastro, to refer to the Board of Supervisor to authorize the reappropriation of funds for the purchase of a computer for the Board of Elections. Carried.

Resolution To Follow.

Discussion: Ms. Nucero-Alger stated she would like to see a process put in place where the IT Department sends out notifications for the arrival of new equipment. Ms. Nucero-Alger stated she would also like to see them provide notifications of when departments might expect to receive new equipment. Mr. Mastro stated that this is being worked on.

Authorizing Transfer of Funds for Purchase of Computer and Peripherals - District

Attorney:

Mr. Mastro stated this is for \$1,250. Mr. Woodford stated the District Attorney's Office has discovered a need for a laptop and other equipment such as web cams. Mr. Mastro asked if this was within their budget. Mr. Woodford stated yes.

Ms. Nucero-Alger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Starr, to refer to the Board of Supervisors to authorize the transfer of funds for the purchase of a computer and peripherals for the District Attorney's Office. Carried.

Resolution To Follow.

Mr. Outwater stated Chairman Decker served on the county board for 14 years and Chairman Wilcox served 9 years. Mr. Outwater stated he thinks they have done a good job but he thinks that it is too long. Mr. Outwater stated he thinks they should consider putting a term limit on the Chairman of the Board. Mr. Outwater stated they should discuss the legality of this with the County Attorney. Mr. Outwater stated he would vote for a maximum of 6 or 8 years. Mr. Outwater stated there are many people who could do a good job and it may be good to allow someone with new ideas to come in. Mr. Mastro stated that this is an elected position every year so if there is an issue with the Chairman of the Board it could easily be changed. Mr. Mastro stated they could refer to the County Attorney to look at the possibilities for this. Mr. Outwater agreed they should refer to the County Attorney so he can come to the next Safety and Rules Committee meeting to discuss this.

Mr. Outwater made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mastro, to refer to the County Attorney to on the legality of establishing a term limit for the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Carried.

Resolution To Follow.

Discussion: Ms. Nucero-Alger stated she would like to see an annual performance review completed before the new election for the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Nucero-Alger stated she does not think a term limit should be provided if someone is doing a good job as Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Outwater stated that the Chairperson should be

able to accomplish what they set out to do within 6 years. Mr. Mastro stated the referral for now is just to see if legally they can establish a term limit.

Adjournment:

Mr. Starr made a motion, seconded by Mr. Outwater, to adjourn the meeting at 11:22am.

mld