

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Monday, April 12, 2021 - 10:00 AM

Steve McNally, Chairperson
Ike Tyler, Vice-Chairperson

Chairman McNally called this Public Safety Meeting to order at 10:20 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Archie Depo, Stephanie DeZalia, Shaun Gilliland, Joseph Giordano, Charlie Harrington, Roy Holzer, Kenneth Hughes, Steve McNally, Jim Monty, Jay Rand, Tom Scozzafava, Jeffrey Subra, Ike Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Davina Winemiller. Robin DeLoria and Noel Merrihew were excused.

Department Heads present: Patty Bashaw, Brandon Boutelle, Dan Palmer, Jim Dougan, Judy Garrison, Allison McGahay, Sue Montgomery-Corey, David Reynolds and Heather Sheehan.

New Media: Sun News, Tim Rowland.

Also present: Max Thwaites, Matt Watts and Margaret Bartley

McNALLY: I call the Public Safety Committee meeting to order. Noel has been excused. Board of Elections – Allison McGahay, Sue Montgomery-Corey.

MONTGOMERY-COREY: Good morning. Before we get going on the Board of Elections stuff I just want to thank you all for the discussion about the electric vehicles as former Chair of the Green Committee of this board I am thrilled that you are talking about it, thinking about it and that department heads are thinking about it is a great thing.

We have some good news. We received word last week that the State budget has passed it includes a couple new pots of money for local boards. One is a \$2-million-dollar pot for early voting expenses and another one is \$20 million for local boards for equipment so we will be exploring both of those. We haven't got any idea yet how much that is going to be for each of the local boards but we expect to get that information soon so you will be hearing from us about contracts for both of those things I suspect.

We did early voting site visits in North Hudson last week and we want to thank Supervisor DeZalia for her hospitality. We're still exploring with the changes with the State budget money and we're not sure in terms of the deadline is May 1st there's also a bill in the Assembly.

McGAHAY: State board is asking each of the local boards of elections to let them know where our early voting sites are going to be for the June 22 primary by May 1st. Now the issue with that is we recently have legislation which moved our early voting site to the municipality with the highest total population not enrolled voters, highest population which is the Town of North Elba. We met with Supervisor Rand who is able to find a location for us that would work great for early voting but now there is a bill A6478 pending in the legislature right now which would again, move it to a new location. Now they are saying for primaries there's a bill that passed would move the primary early voting from June 10 to June 19, 11-20 to the municipality that has the highest population and has a primary which at this point would be Ticonderoga so I spoke with Supervisor Giordano on Friday about possibly locating a site for Ticonderoga just in case it gets moved to Ti that makes it difficult for the Board of Elections to notify voters where the early voting sites are going to be because we don't know right now so we are working on it.

MONTGOMERY-COREY: I also want to mention that the North Hudson site is also a really good site great parking, good space, security and so I think we have a couple of good options but –

McGAHAY: And Public Safety, possibly public safety.

MONTGOMERY-COREY: So we're waiting on the legislature to help us figure this out and we will be discussing what the options are going forward.

McGAHAY: We should point out we have ten towns that have primary elections.

MONTGOMERY-COREY: Yeah, we have Etown, Essex, Jay, Keene, Moriah, Newcomb, North Hudson, Minerva, Ticonderoga and Willsboro so it's going to be a very busy primary season and we're working to get ready for all that. Also, want to mention the independent petitions of the starting date for those is tomorrow the 13th with filing in May from the 18th to the 25th so that's all of what we have at this point.

McGAHAY: We've also come to you before letting you know that our voting machines that we got right now were purchased in 2010 and we've been setting money aside in a capital reserve fund to purchase these voting machines. The grant money that's coming out will also would allow us to use from that money for the voting machines as well so that's another thing that we have in the back of our minds.

SCOZZAFAVA: Do we know what the numbers are for independent yet?

McGAHAY: They are posted on our website. Yes, we already calculated them. The bill passed about a week or two ago that reduced the number of independent signatures needed for this year because of Covid to 50% of what we would normal need. Every town's number is posted on the website.

SCOZZAFAVA: Thank you.

McGAHAY: Your welcome.

McNALLY: Okay, anything else? Alright thank you.

The next item on the agenda was the District Attorney. Kristy Sprague was not present; no report was given.

The next item on the agenda was Emergency Services with Max Thwait's reporting as follows:

THWAIT'S: Good morning. I just have two resolutions we are requesting today. One is appreciation to the 9-1-1 Communications Center Call taker dispatchers during National Telecommunications week which is this week, April 11-17.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE ESSEX COUNTY 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS CALL TAKER/DISPATCHERS DURING NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK APRIL 11-17, 2021. Hughes, Holzer

McNALLY: Questions, concerns? All in favor, opposed – carried.

THWAITS: A resolution of appreciation to EMS providers in Essex County during Emergency Medical Services Week, May 16-22, 2021.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO EMS PROVIDERS IN ESSEX COUNTY DURING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK, MAY 16-22, 2021. Rand, Tyler

McNALLY: All in favor, opposed – carried.

THWAITS: You have my report if there are any questions?

McNALLY: I guess we're all set, thank you.

The next item on the agenda was Emergency Medical Services with Patty Bashaw reporting as follows:

BASHAW: Good morning everybody. You have my report. Any questions for me?

McNALLY: Any questions for Patty? Alright, thank you.

The next item on the agenda was the Sheriff's Office with David Reynolds reporting as follows:

REYNOLDS: You have my report. If you have any questions I can come up.

MONTY: I'm not on this committee Dave but I know you handle wildlife calls and law enforcement. In the Governor's budget he announced that he was changing the ability for youth hunters ages 12 and up to hunt big game with a rifle legally in New York State but this has to be adopted by each local county to allow that. I sent the resolution as it was presented with the budget to the board members last week when I received it. Didn't know if you had an opinion on it at all as a law enforcement perspective?

REYNOLDS: For the law enforcement perspective? No, I'm not concerned at all about 12 year olds carrying fire arms. I grew up in the North Country so I can remember before I could even hold a gun walking through the woods with my father and uncles with a stick making noise and then as I grew up and learned, let's put it this way by 12 years old I was carrying a firearm in the woods even though I probably wasn't legal to even do so but I learned how to respect it and do things the right way so law enforcement doesn't have any concerns as long as you're going through the training and learning how to properly carry fire arms.

TYLER: Is this a good place to bring up a resolution to, for a new law for the 12 year olds?

PALMER: Yeah, all you would be doing is a resolution to introduce the Local Law and we'll let, Mr. Manning is not here today but we'll let him set the date for that public hearing for the local law.

TYLER: Perfect, I'll move that resolution.

PALMER: You need a mover and a second.

McNALLY: Second, Mr. Holzer.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW ENTITLED, "A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING 12 AND 13 YEAR OLD LICENSED HUNTERS TO HUNT DEER WITH A FIREARM OR CROSSBOW DURING HUNTING SEASON WITH THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED ADULT" Tyler, Holzer

McNALLY: Questions, concerns?

GILLILLAND: There was a quote that I did read on this about a NYC member of the legislature that was concerned that it would place young children in combat with bears. (laughter)

McNALLY: I have the same exact concern. (laughter) All in favor, opposed – carried. Alright, anything else for the Sheriff? Thank you.

PALMER: Just quick on Coroners, Jim had done some language related to our current local law and some changes to that. Mr. Manning is not here today but I will ask him to bring those things forward at the Finance committee next week so we can get that on the agenda as well.

The next item on the agenda was the Probation Department with Heather Sheehan reporting as follows:

SHEEHAN: Good morning everyone. You have my report. Does anyone have any questions?

McNALLY: Any questions for Probation? Alright, thank you.

The next item on the agenda was the Public Defender, Brandon Boutelle reporting as follows:

BOUTELLE: Good morning. I have one resolution. It's a resolution authorizing Essex County on behalf of the Public Defender's office to accept a three-year NYS indigent Legal Service Grant in the amount of \$191,496.00 and Distribution Grant #11 in the amount of \$63,832.00 for Year 1 and authorizing the Chairman or County Manager to execute the same.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESSEX COUNTY ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE TO ACCEPT A THREE-YEAR NYS INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$191,496.00 AND DISTRIBUTION GRANT #11 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,832.00 FOR YEAR 1 AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE

THE SAME. Rand, Hughes

McNALLY: Questions, concerns? All in favor, opposed – carried.

BOUTELLE: Thank you.

McNALLY: Anything else for the Public Safety Committee? If not, we are adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this Public Safety Committee it was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors