PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Monday, September 14, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Kenneth Hughes, Chairperson
Davina Thurston, Vice-Chairperson

Chairperson Hughes called this Public Safety Committee to order at 9:30 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Kenneth Hughes, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Cathleen Reusser, Matthew Stanley, Davina Thurston, Michael Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Meg Wood. Chris Clark, Timothy Follos and Steve McNally were excused.

Department Heads present: Jim Dougan, Josh Favro, Judy Garrison, Miriam Hadden, Roy Holzer, Michael Langey, Mary McGowan, Mike Mascarenas, Heather Sheehan, David Reynolds, Eric Weyand and Dan Woods.

Also present: Michael LaVallie.

HUGHES: Good morning everybody the time is 9:30. I call this public safety committee meeting to order please rise to salute the flag. Good morning everybody I apologize for that delay we are going to move into our agenda and we'll start with the Veteran's office this morning.

PIERCE: I submitted a report and I don't have anything new to add unless you do Clayton?

MENSER: I did want to add the fact that there's a lot of Veterans in the county who they initially get discharged from the military and they are not necessarily briefed when they check into the VA and become any disability ratings they might have and a couple months ago I met with an individual who had been discharged about four years ago he was given a disability rating when he got out and in talking to him I felt his disability rating was wrong. I sent him up to see Ben and Sarah and he is now rated as 100% disabled and it made the difference between $2000 a month in disability to just over $4,000.

HUGHES: Good work.

MENSER: So people need to know there are disability ratings that can be improved upon but they have to come and file the paperwork.

HUGHES: Very good information thank you for saying that. Is there anything else from your office?

MENSER: No.

HUGHES: Thank you again. Moving onto Mr. Woods, County Sealer good morning.

WOODS: Good morning everyone. You have my report. I'll give you moment to look at it. If you have any questions I'd be happy to answer.

HUGHES: You have his report in front of you. Any members have any questions for Mr. Woods this morning on what he submitted? It appears not.

WOODS: Great thank you.

HUGHES: Awesome have a good day. Moving on now to Board of Elections, Roy Holzer and Mary McGowan.

MCGOWAN: Good morning. You have our activities for the month of August. The highlights were the New York State Election Commissioners association conference that we attended and there was also a cyber security workshop that was held prior to that.
We have two new poll sites up we have one in Ticonderoga and another in Saranac Lake the previous sites were a little too small or we didn't fit and that's through the North Country Community College we will be using some of their classroom spaces which his excellent we have our own in and out and it's handicap accessible it hits all the right buttons and I believe we don't get charged for it.

MASCARENAS: We do.

MCGOWAN: Oh, we do?

HUGHES: Yeah, we do.

MCGOWAN: What is up and coming is the poll worker training which is tomorrow so we have about I think 12-14 classes that we are teaching.

HOLZER: Yes, one session in the morning and one session in the afternoon if any of you would like to become election workers because we don't use the word poll workers anymore for Mr. Stanley election workers. Just real briefly Mary covered 90% of what we're working on we have the election coming up in the next few days you will be getting copies of the sample ballots in your communities so just take a quick look at them and make sure you help us with spelling. We triple, double check and everything the last thing we want to do is make the news at the Essex County Board of Elections but you'll be getting a sample ballot in your email, please check it out for us. One brief thing is Dominion Liberty voting machines have made the news again in Georgia concerning scanning of ballots appearing with AI they've been able if anyone does a freedom of information request down there they can kind of zero in on how people voted, it doesn't change the vote but it could, people would know how someone voted and I have to let you know here in Essex County New York that's not an issue we use Dominion Liberty voting machines and the scans are not available to the public at all so just as you're reading the news in the next few days be aware that this does not to the best of my knowledge apply to us here.

MENSER: In our case, our ballots don't have any personal identification on them to begin with the only thing they can find out is the numbers and they can't find out who.

HOLZER: Well apparently from reading the information on what happened in Georgia is if you go in and vote at 9:01 through AI technology they have down there they can say, Clayton Menser voted at 9:01 and they could get a copy of the ballot apparently down there but here there was a court case back in I believe in 2015, that it's not allowed here in New York no one is getting a copy of scans of ballots and anything like that. It's just so reassure your constituents if anyone asks you we are safe and secure here in our county.

PIERCE: I just had a question on early voting, are there going to be sites, when does it start and where are those sites?

HOLZER: The early voting sites because of the general election we are really uncertain what the turn out will be current senate race and all that we will have them both in Lake Placid and in Lewis.

PIERCE: When does that start?

MCGOWAN: October 23rd

REUSSER: It says the 24th on your report.

MCGOWAN: Then it's the 24th. I'm prepared for the 23rd. Mail in ballots will be going out for military this Friday.

HUGHES: Any other questions for Mary or Roy this morning? Excellent report. Thank you both. Have a great day. Moving on now to District Attorney, Mr. Langey. We missed you, welcome back.

DA LANGEY: Thank you. Good morning everybody. Are there any questions?

HUGHES: You have the District Attorney's report in front of you. Are there any questions for him this morning? Anything you want to highlight?

REUSSER: In light of the cost of the Frattolin trial and this most recent arrest and potential for another case I'm assuming that will come to Essex County court as well?

DA LANGEY: Correct.

REUSSER: And will those costs be treated differently?

MASCARENAS: We have costs that come out of the District Attorney's office and we have costs that come out of the Public Defender's office and/or Assigned Counsel office for those things and what you recently approved for expenditure was really having the attorney appointed. Initially our public defender's office was handling that case so we weren't prepared to budget that but it just didn't work out that way in the end and we ended up with the extra cost there. Mr. Langey does have some funds at his disposal we'll talk about during budget time whether we need to increase those or change them in the future but yeah, having excess for lodging, witnesses all those things that matters and he was just telling me this morning that he seems to be getting one a year now and we used to get them every how many years Mr. Langey?

DA LANGEY: Probably once every six, I think when Julie was DA we had no murders I would say every six years but we've had five in the last four years.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, so times are changing and yes, it certainly is going to hit your bottom line that's a great question.

HUGHES: Any other questions for the DA this morning?

PIERCE: Just a question on staffing where does that stand now?

DA LANGEY: We are back to full staff. We hired a victim advocate the first of July and that was our last hire so we're back at full staff.

PIERCE: Perfect, thank you.

HUGHES: Any other questions for the DA this morning? It appears not. Thank you very much sir. Moving on now to Emergency Services, Josh Favro.

FAVRO: Good morning. Are there any questions on our report this month?

HUGHES: We'll start with the report, any questions for him?

O'BRYAN: We are working on the budget of course just like everybody else right now and one of the things that came up with our emergency squad in Ti in presenting their initial proposed budget to us was there is a need for two new cardiac devices I'm not sure what those cardiac devices were but I do know that are about $50,000 each and they are managed through the state because we have paramedics on the unit so I didn't know if you can comment on what they're talking about? I should have asked another question I didn't.

FAVRO: They are the ALS defibrillators the big boxes you see in the ambulances. They do blood pressure and they are super expensive they cardiovert, everything ALS needs to mainly for your heart. I don't know what the new stipulation is off the top of my head I couldn't find that out from the state on why we need a new one but I do know they run about forty or fifty thousand dollars.

O'BRYAN: Yeah they quoted $50,000 and I asked them the question I said, okay so we've got paramedics so we have to have one what about squads that don't have paramedics? No, they are not required to have one obviously because they are not trained for them so I mean the monies that we receive because of the fly cars that service our town actually is a way if you have to buy one so we'll have to talk some more about that all of us.

FAVRO: Yeah, I can get some more information on that.

O'BRYAN: If you would I would appreciate that for sure.

REUSSER: Elizabethtown-Lewis is in the process of purchasing a sole similar project that you're describing and it shouldn't be more than fifty, it shouldn't be more than forty and again, yes, the paramedics such as your discussion in Elizabethtown-Lewis as well.

O'BRYAN: Good to know, thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you. Any other questions or comments?

MENSER: Would it be possible for the different units throughout the county to make a I'll say a blanket purchase for the numbers for the whole county to get a better price?

MASCARENAS: Yeah, you could. I'm not sure how they are purchasing them now so if they are going off of state contract that would likely be the price but we can certainly look at that option as an option to consider. I'm not sure again what Ti EMS is using for purchase or Elizabethtown-Lewis is using for purchase but we could certainly look at it sometimes you get a bulk rate that will incentivize purchasing in that manner.

MENSER: I that for stuff that cost that amount of money buying one or two you get one price, buy ten, you get a different price.

MASCARENAS: Yes, we can certainly look. If we have a make and model and get people to agree on what is the better one in your communities can also be an issue but I think we can certainly look at it.

HUGHES: Fair points. Any other comments before we go into resolutions? Okay.

FAVRO: I do have two resolutions this month. The first resolution is to purchase portable radios from Southern Tier Communications not to exceed $13,000 with money to come from budgeted SICG grant funds.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO PURCHASE RADIOS IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FROM SOUTHERN TIER COMMUNICATIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $13,000, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM SICG 24 FUNDS. Thurston, Stanley

HUGHES: Questions, concerns?

MASCARENAS: Josh can you just give an overview of where these radios go, who is using them?

FAVRO; Yes, sure. So portable radios in the county they go to Sheriff's office, they go to our fire coordinators and our medics we don't supply portable radios to departments it's mainly just county staff and employees. It was probably four years, three, four years since we've made the last purchase for portable radios. This year we are going with Kenwood it's a much nicer price on the radio per radio so we can buy two for one pretty much what we figured from Motorola and they get damaged and dropped and wet and whatnot so it is a normal purchase every few years to try and update a few of them.

HUGHES: Great thank you. Any other questions? Being none, all in favor, opposed – motion carried. Thank you. Next.

FAVRO: The second resolution is to purchase radio parts and pieces from Motorola Solutions not to exceed $8,000 with the money coming from the SICG grant as well. These are older radios that we've had. When they get moved from vehicle to vehicle the county parts and communication cables and whatnot don't always make it so this is instead of buying new radios we have an inventory of probably six or seven which is the display in the radio these parts and pieces will make so we can get them back out in circulation as opposed to spending $8500 on one radio.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO PURCHASE RADIO PARTS AND ACCESSORIES IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $8,000, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED SICG 24 FUNDS. Stanley, Pierce

HUGHES: Questions, concerns? The details are in the invoice on page 4. No questions, no concerns all in favor signify by saying aye, opposed – motion carries. Thank you.

FAVRO: And the final resolution is a resolution to purchase replacement DC power plant for UPS system for the Gore Tower site. It's going to be installed by our term contractor JPJ not to exceed $38,000 this is going to come from the equipment/repair budget line item.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO PURCHASE A REPLACEMENT DC POWER PLANT FOR GORE MOUNTAIN TOWER SITE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $38,000 WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS. Menser, Stanley

HUGHES: Questions, concerns? There is currently UPS up there now?

FAVRO: Yes, there is an AC UPS installed in 2015, it failed a couple months ago. The DC unit has a lot less moving parts so it's pretty much bullet proof and being at Gore Mountain in the winter time is not very pleasant to get to. We figured we would go that route and replace it with a new unit.

HUGHES: I know residentially UPS are five to six years so these larger ones certainly have a larger life span but eleven years is certainly pushing it as well. We have a motion and a second. Any questions? All in favor on this resolution signify by saying aye, opposed – carried. Anything else for Josh this morning? You're off, enjoy. Sheriff Reynolds welcome.

SHERIFF REYNOLDS: You have our August report. If you have any questions I can answer anything on that.

HUGHES: Questions for the Sheriff on his report, last page of the packet? It appears not sir.

SHERIFF REYNOLDS: I do have one resolution it is authorizing the purchasing agent to award bid to Nielsen Ford in the amount of $158,465.40, for two new 2027 Ford Police Interceptor utility vehicles to include upfitting.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AWARD BID TO NIELSEN FORD IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF $158,465.40, FOR TWO (2) NEW 2027 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY VEHICLES. Lamphear, Menser

HUGHES: Questions, concerns?

THURSTON: Where is Nielsen Ford?

SHERIFF REYNOLDS: I think it's New Jersey?

HUGHES: What was the question?

THURSTON: Where is Nielsen Ford?

GARRISON: New Jersey.

THURSTON: So, it's in New Jersey. Any of the vehicle maintenance that needs to be done locally here?

SHERIFF REYNOLDS: If it's a warranty issue it can go to any Ford dealer.

HUGHES: Thank you. Any other questions?

TYLER: These are budgeted funds?

SHERIFF REYNOLDS: Yes. We did a resolution last month to transfer month that I guess we didn't need to do.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, we should have just done it all in one.

SHERIFF REYNOLDS: We budgeted $150,000 and it came in a little over budget.

MASCARENAS: The upfitting was little more than we anticipated so this is the total amount but yes, it's all budgeted funds.

TYLER: Obviously there's no grant money for these vehicles or anything?

SHERIFF REYNOLDS: For the actual vehicles no but everything we put in them we purchase through grants so in car cameras, radars, Josh buys our radios which you just heard all that equipment so this is one hundred fifty-eight for two with the equipment probably closer to two-twenty, computers, all of the internet connection all that stuff is paid with different grant money that we use but the vehicles themselves no.

TYLER: Thank you.

REUSSER: Routine maintenance for vehicles is that done through DPW like oil, tires all that?

SHERIFF REYNOLDS: Yes.

HUGHES: Thank you. Any other questions for the Sheriff on this resolution? Being none, all in favor signify by saying aye, opposed – carried. Thank you. Anything else for the Sheriff this morning? Thank you sir. Okay I don't see coroners in our audience so we're going to move onto Probation, Heather Sheehan welcome.

SHEEHAN: Good morning everyone. So you have my report and I can answer any questions you may have. Also, I just added another piece of information to my report this month it's a comparison chart from August 2025 to August 2026 just so you can see a comparison from one year to the next.

HUGHES: A jammed packed report, lots of information in here. It's helpful. Are there any questions for Heather this morning on her report? It does not appear so, thank you have a good one.

MASCARENAS: Thank you for doing a comparison Heather I appreciate it.

HUGHES: Moving onto the Public Defender, Eric.

WEYAND: Good morning I am Eric Weyand the Deputy Public Defender in the Essex County Public Defender's office. I'm here to answer any questions. I did submit a report that was last evening on Sunday. Our numbers are down slightly we expect that to increase come October. We did hire an attorney so that's good news there it's myself, Ms. Moody and now Erin Tavani so exciting news.

MASCARENAS: Yes, just to bring the board up to speed quickly we have a plan where we are using our ACP panel they handle the overflow you see them in different communities. We're in

discussions, we met last week on when potentially public defender can reabsorb those cases while you're seeing low case load is because we always have others that are kind of pitching in right now to handle some of the cases while they are down attorneys. The short of the long of it is it's likely going to stay that way mostly through October the public defender is going to bring back a handful of courts slowly and we're in discussion with ILS on how long they will allow us to continue with this plan but we certainly can't offer resources we don't have in terms of attorneys so last year the DA was scrambling, this year the Public Defender is scrambling it's just kind of the nature of the beast but we are continuing to work on it. I haven't gotten a lot of complaints in courts I think it's overall going pretty well, some minor hiccups that aren't really connected to our plan but all in all pretty well currently.

HUGHES: Thank you. Any questions for Eric this morning?

PIERCE: That's a good plan. One open position, are there other applicants at this point?

WEYAND: No there's none on my radar. There is a full-time full position and we are looking to fill that but I haven't seen any applications come through on that. We also have funding I think for the Discovery Coordinator which we handle a lot of discovery so there's two positions that we are hoping to fill one is full-time attorney, the other is a Discovery Coordinator to deal with the copious amounts of discovery material.

HUGHES: Any other questions for Eric this morning? Thank you very much. And Conflict Defender, Miriam Hadden.

HADDEN: Good morning. I did submit my report and circulated it this morning. I can answer any questions if you have any?

HUGHES: Okay you have her report here in front of you. I appreciate you providing that data, thank you. Any questions for Miriam this morning on what she's presented to you?

O'BRYAN: Miriam I see you've got 68 felonies currently on your caseload. How do you feel? How are you doing?

HADDEN: Well I think we're doing pretty well right now for a while there we were pretty overwhelmed and then a couple months ago the plan effected our office as well so my numbers did go down a bit and we had a little reprieve from the numbers coming in so we kind over the last few months we have been able to kind of get back to a normal schedule and one of the things that has made the biggest difference is that our case numbers with regard to Ticonderoga have gone down but I am still going down to Ticonderoga but instead of having ten, fifteen cases I've got a couple one or two maybe three so it's definitely been a bit more manageable. Some of the cases that I have currently open are cases that are there's not a lot of activity going on sometimes clients will stop showing up to court and warrants get issued and so the cases will sit there sometimes for a year or more with no activity and then six months later, a year later they show back up again and the case starts back up again so some open cases there's not going to be too much activity but we're doing good right now. We have a good handle on it.

MASCARENAS: Just so the board understands the current plan you're not getting as much conflicts so she's able to catch her breath a little bit compared to where she was at. If there was a conflict with an attorney with the ACP panel somebody else from the ACP panel would get assigned to that it wouldn't go to Ms. Hadden so that's kind of how we're working currently once

we back she might see an influx of cases again and if that's the case we will have to address it at that time.

HUGHES: It's very dynamic.

MASCARENAS: It is.

HUGHES: It's very dynamic. Any other questions for Miriam this morning and her report? Thank you Miriam have a great day. Is there anything else to come before this committee this morning? We have substantially completed our agenda so we are adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this Public Safety committee it was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors