

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

March 22, 2012

PRESENT:

**Roy Brown, Chairman
Kevin McDonald
John Porreca, Sr.
Valerie Bertram, non-voting
Matt Murell**

ABSENT:

**Jeffrey Nayer, notified
Jeffrey Braley, notified
William Hughes, Jr., notified**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Robert Lopez
Arlene Levinson
John Howe
Sheriff Harrison
Michael Benvenuto
Robert Linville
David Costanzo
Sean Lally
Robert Fitzsimmons
PJ Keeler
PRESS: 1**

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Sheriff Harrison

Resolution Request – Authorization for one full-time Deputy Sheriff promotion to Sergeant due to retirement effective March 23, 2012, motion by M. Murell, seconded by J.Porreca, Sr., carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review Comm.

Resolution Request – Authorization to fill one full-time Deputy Sheriff due to retirement effective March 23, 2012, with an annual salary of \$44,533.00, motion by K. McDonald, seconded by M. Murell, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review Comm.

Conference Objective Form – Basic Civil School, Phase One, April 16, 2012- April 20, 2012, Saratoga Springs, New York, \$350.00

Conference Objective Form – Social Networking Investigations, June 18, 2012 – June 19, 2012, Syracuse, New York, Course is free, lodging is needed (Part 2 of 2)

Conference Objective Form – NYS Park and Recreation Basic Marine Enforcement, May 7, 2012 – May 11, 2012, Lake George, New York, No cost to county

Conference Objective Form – Civil Supervisors Training Conference, May 14, 2012 – May 16, 2012, Saratoga Springs, New York, \$75.00

Conference Objective Form – Taser X26 and X2 Instructor Course, May 31, 2012 – June 1, 2012, Colonie, New York, \$525.00

Conference Objective Form – FBI Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Program, June 6, 2012, Albany, New York, No cost to the county.

Conference Objective Form – MGT 383 Emergency Management Operations Plans for Rural Jurisdiction, April 4, 2012, Goshen, New York. No Cost to County

Conference Objective Form – Emergency Management 101, May 9, 2012, Hudson, New York. No Cost to County.

Motion made on all above conferences by J. Porreca, Sr., seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

FEMA Reversal on decision regarding Hurricane Irene, means we bill FEMA directly.

Re-appointment of LEPC Chairman, the Sheriff has re-appointed Lt. Thomas Lanphear, motion by K. McDonald, seconded by Chairman R. Brown, carried.

FIRE COORDINATOR: J. Howe

Conference Objective Form: State Fire Coordinators Conference at State Academy on March 29th & 30th in Montour Falls, NY, total cost is for gasoline only @ \$75.00, motion by J. Porreca, Sr., seconded by K. McDonald, carried. J. VanDeusen thanked the county for his 29 years of service as the Columbia County Fire Coordinator. J. Howe also mentioned on Monday evening @ 8:30 PM is the graduation of the new Firefighters at Central Station, all are invited.

911: R. Lopez

Resolution Request: Authorizing the Emergency Management Grant Administrator to accept the FY2011 HazMat Grant Program totaling \$53,500.00 with no match from Columbia County. I am additionally requesting authorization to disperse such grants in accordance with State Homeland Security Guidelines, motion by M. Murell, seconded by J. Porreca, Sr., carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review Comm.

Permission by J. Porreca, Sr. seconded by K. McDonald was granted to apply for the State Homeland Security Program Grants that is due on April 25, 2012. That includes the SHSP (State Homeland Security Program Grant) and the SLETPP (State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant). The amount of said grant will not be known until next week.

The FY2011 HazMat Grant Program was written for Columbia County and its regional partner Greene County. This was a competitive grant opportunity that will allow us to hire a consultant to provide CAMEO Data Collection for Columbia, and Greene County, and enter data sets into the database.

As an overview this opportunity will allow us to continue to develop and maintain plans needed by our first responders. It allows the partnership to contract for CAMEO data collection and entry. CAMEO Chemicals has an extensive chemical database with critical response information for thousands of chemicals. Chemical datasheets provide physical properties, health hazards, information about air and water hazards, and recommendations for firefighting, first aid, and spill response. UN/NA datasheets provide response information from the Emergency Response Guidebook and shipping information from the Hazardous Materials Table (49 CFR 172.101). In addition to the information on the datasheets, you can also add chemicals to the My Chemicals collection to see what hazards might occur if the chemicals in the collection were mixed together. With our limited resources and funding we would not normally be able to complete such a large project with our volunteers.

Agency Data:

Call volume for February was 4,197 calls.

In February Columbia County 911 dispatched:

994 EMS Agencies

207 Fire Agencies

869 Police Polls

551 Public Service Calls which includes (Controlled burns, Highway Dept calls, Power Company, Phone Company, Cable Company, Addressing etc.....)

PUBLIC DEFENDER: A. Levinson

February 2012 monthly report distributed.

Conference Objective Form: 26th Annual Metropolitan NY Trainer in New York City on March 10, 2012, One (1) attended, at a total cost of \$85.00, this is for continuing education credit, cost of \$85.00 to be reimbursed to Jessica Howser for cost, motion by M. Murell, seconded by K. McDonald, carried.

Assigned Counsel Costs: An up-to-date recap of the costs billed to the County in 2011 was \$256,319.21, up from \$190,030.21 in 2010. The increase in one year in the total is \$66,289.07.

EMS: PJ Keeler

Update on the Summary of Hearing to the CON Committee in support of the application and stated that public need exists for the Applicant's services. PJ Keeler termed the Columbia County program a "success" and provided data that demonstrated a marked drop in response times. There was no opposition expressed. It is the recommendation of the Hearing Officer that the Application made by the Columbia County Ems System for a Permanent Operating Certificate was approved.

PROBATION: M. Benvenuto

Submission of the 2011 Probation Department Annual Report for the committee's review pending approval at the April Public Safety Committee meeting.

On Friday March 16th I met with CGCC Assistant Professors of Criminal Justice, William DeLuca, Jr. and Frankie Timmons, at their request. The CGCC Criminal Justice Program would like to begin an annual Criminal Justice Field Study (internship) program at the Columbia County Probation Department beginning in the fall of 2012. The professors indicate that they have been experiencing a number of academically qualified students who are interested in the field of probation. Field Study students must be above a 3.0 GPA and must complete a minimum of 120 hours field study during the semester. The professors have developed a comprehensive Field Study Contract, which includes a General Release, Confidentiality Agreement and Code of Conduct. Since I have been Director we have hosted several student interns from different local colleges, but I welcome a formal agreement with our own Columbia-Greene Community College.

I was just recently informed by my Bookkeeper, Michelle Kocan that she will be retiring from her position at the end of April of this year. Michelle has officially filed her retirement papers with state retirement as of 3/12/12. Michelle has held the title of Bookkeeper since 2004. She assisted the Director with an extensive 2005 NYS Comptroller's audit, which included three other local county Probation Departments. In addition, Michelle has helped convert our manual accounting system to the automated Caseload Explorer case management software program utilized throughout NYS. This department receives and disburses an average of approximately \$150,000 per year in court ordered restitution and fines (not counting supervision fees).

Resolution Request:

Authorizing approval to fill an existing Grade 12 Bookkeeper position from a Civil Service List having a 2012 Step 4 base salary of \$37,668.00, due to retirement, motion by J. Porreca, Sr., seconded by M. Murell, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review Comm.

Resolution Request:

Authorization to Create & Fill a Temporary Grade 12 Bookkeeper position have a 2012 Step 4 Salary of \$37,668.00, (not to exceed)this temporary position for a period of ninety (90) days to train the new Bookkeeper, motion by K. McDonald, seconded by M. Murell, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review Comm.

A motion by J. Porreca, Sr., seconded by M. Murell to move into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:47 PM, motion carried.

REASON: to discuss a legal matter

A motion by J. Porreca, Sr., seconded by K. McDonald to move back to REGULAR SESSION AT 7:24 PM, motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM by M. Murell, seconded by K. McDonald, motion carried.