

# The Legislature of Rockland County



**ARON B. WIEDER**  
*Legislator – District 13*

Chair, Public Safety Committee

**Members Present:**

Leg. A. Wieder  
Leg. J. Hood  
Leg. N. Low-Hogan  
Leg. A. Paul  
Leg. P. Soskin  
Leg. D. Jobson (Late)

**Members Absent:**

Leg. L. Santulli

**Others Present:**

Leg. L. Hofstein  
Leg. H. Cornell  
Leg. C. Carey  
Leg. V. Tyer  
Leg. C. Falciglia  
Leg. I. Schoenberger  
Leg. M. Grant

E. Yeger, Esq.  
R. VanCura  
J. Tirino  
M. Sullivan  
L. Garvey  
R. Sena

MINUTES  
***PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE***  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2016  
6:00 PM

ROLL CALL  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF JULY 26, 2016

**MOTION TO ADOPT:  
SOSKIN/HOOD**

**UNAN**

1. REF. #5327 - APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUNDS REQUESTED BY THE SHERIFF TO COVER EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PURCHASE OF A CANINE, POLICE/ANIMAL SUPPLIES, AND ANIMAL CARE SERVICES  
[OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF] (\$60,000)  
**(LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF)**  
**DL#2016-02713**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
WIEDER, LOW-HOGAN/PAUL**

**UNAN  
TRANSFER TO B&F 8/30/16**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WIEDER, HOOD, LOW-HOGAN, PAUL, SOSKIN, JOBSON**

2. REF. #6675 - APPROVING AN AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH TETRA TECH, INC. FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE UPDATE TO ROCKLAND COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL, ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UNDER RFP-RC-2016-003 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$179,758 FOR THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 15, 2016 THROUGH FEBRUARY 15, 2017 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
[OFFICE OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES] (\$179,758)  
**(GORDON W. WREN, JR., DIRECTOR, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES)**  
**DL#2016-02704**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
SOSKIN/PAUL**

**UNAN  
TRANSFER TO B&F 8/30/16**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WIEDER, HOOD, LOW-HOGAN, PAUL, SOSKIN, JOBSON**

3. REF. #6704 - APPROVING AN INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000 BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE TOWN OF RAMAPO FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ONE RAMAPO POLICE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT TO WORK ON CARP (CRIMES AGAINST REVENUE PROSECUTION) FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THIS AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY] (\$150,000) (THOMAS P. ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY) DL# 2016-02549

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
HOOD/PAUL**

**UNAN  
TRANSFER TO B&F 8/30/16**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WIEDER, HOOD, LOW-HOGAN, PAUL, SOSKIN, JOBSON**

4. REF. #6704 - APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF A CONTINUATION GRANT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 (NCTD) FOR THE COUNTY RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE – OFFENDER RE-ENTRY PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY GRANT DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY) (\$25,000) (THOMAS P. ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY) DL#2016-02600

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
JOBSON/SOSKIN**

**UNAN  
TRANSFER TO B&F 8/30/16**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WIEDER, HOOD, LOW-HOGAN, PAUL, SOSKIN, JOBSON**

5. REF. #6760 - APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,244,712 (NCTD) FROM THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER ARTICLE 18-B OF THE COUNTY LAW FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY GRANT DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [PUBLIC DEFENDER] (\$1,244,712) (JAMES LICATA, PUBLIC DEFENDER) DL#2016-02636

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
HOOD/JOBSON**

**TRANSFER TO B&F 8/30/16**

**AYES: 5 (WIEDER, HOOD, PAUL, SOSKIN, JOBSON)**

**ABSTENTION: 1 (LOW-HOGAN)**

**ABSENT: 1 (SANTULLI)**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WIEDER, HOOD, PAUL, SOSKIN, JOBSON**

6. REF. #6704 - CALLING ON THE CLARKSTOWN TOWN BOARD TO FORMALLY DISMISS ALL CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST MICHAEL SULLIVAN AND IMMEDIATELY REINSTATE HIM AS CHIEF OF THE CLARKSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**(HON. ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER, ALDEN H. WOLFE, HARRIET D. CORNELL, TONEY L. EARL, DOUGLAS J. JOBSON, ANEY PAUL, PHILIP SOSKIN, AND ARON B. WIEDER, LEGISLATURE)**  
**LG# 2016-79**

Legislator Cornell said that Chief Sullivan did what the Board asked him to do and was then suspended. His record is exemplary, and that is why so many have supported him during this time. We are getting involved in this issue because Clarkstown collaborates with the Sherriff and other police departments and works on threats that affect the entire county. They do not do surveillance- they monitor websites to help public safety.

Legislator Low-Hogan said that she has mixed feelings about this, but will vote for it in order to move it out of the committee and get a full vote in the Legislature, and will not commit to voting for it at that time.

Legislator Jobson said he has a great deal of respect for Chief Sullivan, and while the Legislature does not decide on this issue, he will vote in favor of this resolution.

Legislator Soskin said that an individual such as Chief Sullivan who has given so much service to the town should not be subject to the treatment he has been given.

Legislator Falciglia said that there's an inconsistency in what makes it to the Legislature that is outside its purview, so he will be voting against the resolution.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
WIEDER/SOSKIN**

**UNAN**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, LOW-HOGAN**

7. REF. #9346 - CALLING UPON THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO CRIMINALIZE THE INTERCEPTION OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGES TO/FROM OFFICIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCOUNTS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF THE SENDER  
**(HON. ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER, HARRIET D. CORNELL, TONEY L. EARL, ANEY PAUL, AND PHILIP SOSKIN, LEGISLATURE)**  
**LG# 2016-80**

Leg. Schoenberger stated that when law enforcement officials message each other, that information should be privileged. Messages contain sensitive information and if that information is shared with civilians, the risk exists that the information could be used to harm law enforcement. Such messages should not be able to be accessed by civilians without permission from the sender. This is a memorializing resolution asking that the state keep such messages confidential and make it a criminal matter if messages are intercepted.

Leg. Jobson asked which messages this referenced, and Leg. Schoenberger stated that it includes any messages from an official law enforcement account, including e-mails, texts, etc.

Leg. Schoenberger noted that this does not relate to any specific town, but it is a general issue that should be criminalized.

Chair Wieder recommended that the resolution be changed to include messages that are sent from a private citizen to a law enforcement account, so any messages to and from law enforcement should be privileged, not just those sent from such accounts.

E. Yeger said that the resolution is aimed at preventing third parties from accessing law enforcement messages. Private citizen's emails are not privileged. Legislator Wieder then withdrew his recommendation.

Chief Michael Sullivan said that the Strategic Intelligence Unit, which gathers information from online sources such as Facebook, does not intercept private messages. He noted that one of the things he has been accused of is unlawful surveillance of Lou Falco. The accusation is untrue. There was an email from a subordinate who had an issue with Lou Falco, but there was no effort to surveil or impact the election. The publicizing of that e-mail has created a different impression. As Chief he received many e-mails about corruption and other issues from private citizens, and does not know what was intercepted. Recent events in Clarkstown have hampered the mission of the Clarkstown PD. He stated he supports this resolution and asks that the state criminalize such interception.

Lawrence Garvey read from the counterclaim filed by the Town of Clarkstown against Chief Sullivan. He quoted an email attacking Lou Falco and others. He stated that this resolution would have prevented such emails from being read.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
PAUL/SOSKIN**

**UNAN**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. WIEDER, HOOD, LOW-HOGAN, JOBSON**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:55 PM  
JOBSON/WIEDER**

**UNAN**

“The Rockland County Legislature is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To that end, the Legislature is committed to creating an accessible environment for all. To request accommodations that you may require, please call Damaris Alvarez at 845-638-5248 (845-708-7899 for TTY/TDD). Please request these accommodations three (3) days in advance so that we can seek to meet your needs.”