

The Legislature of Rockland County



JAY HOOD, JR.

Legislator – District 3

Chair, Public Safety Committee

Members Present:

Leg. J. Hood, Jr. Chair
Leg. B. Kantrowitz
Leg. D. Jobson
Leg. T. Earl, Vice Chair
Leg. C. Carey

Members Absent:

Leg. J. Meyers
Leg. P. Soskin

Others Present:

E. Yeger, Esq.
M. Barbera
J. Licata

J. Turino
L. Falco
S. Powers

T. Zugibe
L. Chernin

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014
5:00 PM

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF MAY 13, 2014

**MOTION TO ADOPT:
KANTROWITZ/JOBSON**

UNAN

1. REF. #9495 - ***DISCUSSION ITEM: OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT(S) FUNCTIONS & PROGRAMS (DISTRICT ATTORNEY) (HON. JAY HOOD, JR., LEGISLATURE)***

District Attorney Tom Zugibe discussed the progress of the Joint Task Force, noting that other agencies are involved with their work and are sharing resources. Work is being done on various investigations, and different social service frauds were uncovered and arrests were made for them.

Over \$1 million was returned to the state last year from various recoveries. Heroin use is rising dramatically and is being investigated thoroughly. There is now a tracking system for various drugs and prescriptions.

With regard to the budget, forfeiture funds are diminishing and they will be working on increasing those. Also, Assistant DA's have not had a raise in five years, which has reduced morale.

DISCUSSED

2. REF. #9495 - ***DISCUSSION ITEM: OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT(S) FUNCTIONS & PROGRAMS (STOP DWI) (HON. JAY HOOD, JR., LEGISLATURE)***

Leslie Chernin stated that the department is funded by DWI funds, not taxpayer money.

Money goes out to enforcement, patrols and other community activities. There are grants to cover checkpoints during holiday weekends, and programs that help officers identify drugs.

DISCUSSED

3. REF. #9495 - *DISCUSSION ITEM: OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT(S) FUNCTIONS & PROGRAMS (PUBLIC DEFENDER) (HON. JAY HOOD, JR., LEGISLATURE)*

Jim Licata said his office handles defense, paroles, and other programs. Last year 3,700 individuals were served, including roughly 350 felonies. There are 15 full-time attorneys, and one vacant position. The department got a grant to hire a receptionist part-time and a full-time social worker. There was also an arraignment grant to hire two part-time attorneys to handle arraignments on weekends and evenings.

DISCUSSED

4. REF. #3147 - CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER NAU, NANUET, NEW YORK TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD [COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE] (EDWIN J. DAY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE) DL# 2014-02042Z

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
CAREY/KANTROWITZ**

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, EARL, CAREY, JOBSON, KANTROWITZ

5. REF. #5327 - APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUNDS REQUESTED BY THE SHERIFF TO COVER VARIOUS TECHNOLOGICAL PURCHASES THAT ARE NEEDED TO UPDATE VILLAGE OF SPRING VALLEY PATROL CARS [OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF] (\$50,000) (LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF) DL# 2014-01817

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
EARL/CAREY**

UNAN

TRANSFER TO B&F 6/10/14

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, EARL, CAREY, JOBSON, KANTROWITZ

6. REF. #6391 - APPROVING AN INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN TO REIMBURSE SAID TOWN FOR \$2,765.94 OF COSTS RELATED TO ATTENDING THE 2014 NEW YORK TACTICAL OFFICERS TRAINING CONFERENCE USING LAW ENFORCEMENT TERRORISM PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SAID AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT] (\$2,765.94) (LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF) DL# 2014-02124

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
CAREY/KANTROWITZ**

UNAN

TRANSFER TO B&F 6/10/14

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, EARL, CAREY, JOBSON, KANTROWITZ

7. REF. #6704 - APPROVING EXTENSION OF AN INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000 (NCTD) FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015 IN ORDER FOR SAID TOWN TO PROVIDE AN EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFICER IN CONNECTION WITH AN ENHANCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROSECUTION PROGRAM GRANT THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 615 OF 2013 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
[OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY] (\$60,000)
(THOMAS ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY)
DL# 2014-01767

MOTION TO APPROVE: **UNAN**
KANTROWITZ/EARL **TRANSFER TO B&F 6/10/14**
ADDED SPONSORS: **LEGS. HOOD, EARL, CAREY, JOBSON, KANTROWITZ**

8. REF. #9361 - APPROVING AN INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE VILLAGE OF SPRING VALLEY TO REIMBURSE SAID VILLAGE FOR \$5,071.00 OF COSTS RELATED TO ATTENDING THE 2014 NEW YORK TACTICAL OFFICERS TRAINING CONFERENCE USING LAW ENFORCEMENT TERRORISM PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SAID AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
[SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT] (\$5,071.00)
(LOUIS FALCO, SHERIFF)
DL# 2014-02134

MOTION TO APPROVE: **UNAN**
EARL/KANTROWITZ **TRANSFER TO B&F 6/10/14**
ADDED SPONSORS: **LEGS. HOOD, EARL, CAREY, JOBSON, KANTROWITZ**

9. REF. #9495 - *DISCUSSION ITEM:* OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT(S) FUNCTIONS & PROGRAMS
(SHERIFF)
(HON. JAY HOOD, JR., LEGISLATURE)

Sheriff Lou Falco said the Civil Division will receive accreditation by the end of the year. Caseload has increased over 140% in ten years, and evictions have increased as well. Revenue to the county has more than doubled, and last year over \$541,000 was given. The Communications Center is thriving, and the 700MHz interoperability system is running. A 911 call will be able to made over text in about a year.

The Mounted Units are in three villages – Spring Valley, Haverstraw, and Nyack – at the request of the village mayors for crowd control. Hopefully a new home for the mounted unit will be found and funded with forfeiture funds, so less taxpayer dollars will be used because rent will be eliminated. Helicopter is back in service as well.

The Corrections Department is within budget for overtime this year. They are working on dormitory-style suicide watch and some construction is being done on that. A new phone system has been in place in the jail saving roughly \$150,000. A new program has been made to find out if inmates are inappropriately collecting benefits, and that has recovered \$61,000.

This year there has been over \$1 million in salary savings, mostly from the Corrections Department. A new app will be made to see all activities of the Sheriff's Department. New equipment has been brought in and renovations to facilities have been made.

Chair Hood noted that issues with the gun range need to be addressed so that neighbors will not be bothered by it.

Sheriff Falco said that there were meetings about the new taxi law with Terry Grosselfinger and he was supposed to work on moving it forward. Stephen Powers said he would have a plan by the end of the month.

DISCUSSED

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:15 PM
CAREY/JOBSON**

UNAN

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