

AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders

Members: Chairman Castellano, Legislators Gouldman & Sayegh

Thursday

6:30pm

December 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 6:30pm by Chairman Castellano who lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Sayegh & Chairman Castellano were present. Legislator Gouldman was absent.

Item #3 – Approval of Minutes – November 19, 2020

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 – Correspondence/County Auditor (Attached for Information Only)

- a. **Sales Tax Report – Duly Noted**
- b. **Board In – Duly Noted**
- c. **Transfer/Revenue Report – Duly Noted**
- d. **2020 Contingency/Sub-Contingency Report – Duly Noted**

Item #5 – Correspondence/Commissioner of Finance

- a. **Overtime/Temporary Report (Attached for Information Only) – Duly Noted**
- b. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 20A069/ Sheriff’s Dept./ Accept Donation from the Mary P. Dolciani Halloran Foundation and Apply to the Road Patrol-Canine Unit (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 20A069; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor. Legislator Gouldman was absent.

- c. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 20A072/ Sheriff’s Dept./ Recognize Revenue Received from Board of Elections for Security at Polling Sites on Election Day (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairman Castellano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor. Legislator Gouldman was absent

- d. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 20A073/ Finance/ Fund E911 Consolidation Project (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Legislator Gouldman connected to the Audio Webinar.

Legislator Sayegh stated she is happy to see the consolidation beginning, it will be a great asset to have all 911 operations in one place.

Legislator Montgomery stated she expressed concerns during the December 8, 2020 Protective Services Committee Meeting and sent a memorandum on December 10, 2020 to County Executive MaryEllen Odell requesting clarification. She stated in her memorandum she questioned how the consolidation relates to other equipment and technology upgrades in the Bureau of Emergency Services and the Sheriff's Department; why the total amount requested on the Budgetary Amendment is \$398,000 when the proposal put forward by Motorola adds to \$397,670; why the additional proposal of \$8,833.50 from MobileTec for software licensing and equipment is not anticipated in the Budgetary Amendment. She stated her memorandum also questioned the validity of the prices within the Dispatch Console Add-on proposal from Motorola because the packet is dated June 13, 2019 and the cover letter states the quotes are valid for 90 days. She stated she is surprised this outdated proposal would be accepted by the Finance Department. She stated she would like to see documentation stating the pricing currently under review is still valid. She stated the Committee will be voting to allocate this large sum of money that was not even discussed at the Capital Projects Meeting. She stated this has an enormous fiscal impact and there has not been a feasibility study conducted that proves this consolidation will make the County more efficient. She stated two (2) years ago she approached County Executive Odell and presented the resources and opportunity to have professional consultants examine the feasibility of this consolidation, however County Executive Odell chose not to participate. She stated she scheduled a meeting with the Department of State to present more opportunities and more options for possible funding because the funding available two (2) years ago is no longer available. She stated there are some ways to receive some funding to take a look at this, but no effort has been made to take advantage of those opportunities. She stated she will not be supporting this and she would like to know where we are with the radio project, which greatly affects the deputies.

Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ken Clair stated this Budgetary Amendment is for the additional consoles for the 911 center. He stated the consolidation as a whole has been discussed in the past. He stated the consolidation is an expensive endeavor and these consoles are necessary equipment in order to bring the Sheriff's Department over to the Bureau of Emergency Services. He stated this will purchase three (3) additional consoles, which is all the equipment needed to have three (3) additional dispatchers. He stated he spoke with Director of IT/GIS Thomas Lannon and Captain James Babcock about getting consulting for the consolidation.

Legislator Albano stated he believes the consolidation is the right thing to do.

Legislator Sullivan echoed Legislator Albano's comment. He stated this is a very important project for the County. He stated the efficiencies that will be created coupled with the benefits to the taxpayers are insurmountable. He stated he is glad to see this moving forward.

Legislator Sayegh requested that Commissioner of Finance William Carlin can speak to the amounts in the backup material and provide clarification of the breakdown.

(Commissioner Carlin was having technical difficulties at this time.)

Legislator Montgomery stated for the sake of consistency and continuity of the conversation, the Legislator who is speaking and asking questions should be permitted complete their discussion. She stated Commissioner Clair was answering her question and it would be good to be able to respond rather than jumping around in the conversation.

Chairman Castellano stated each Legislator should be granted the opportunity to speak before someone speaks more than once. He stated this is a difficult process as everyone is not in the same place and he is doing his best to maintain order.

Legislator Montgomery stated to Legislator Sayegh's point, she too would like clarification of the numbers that do not add up to the Budgetary Amendment amount. She stated to Commissioner Clair's point about purchasing the consoles for this consolidation, she does not believe documentation was provided detailing that the project involves. She stated this request is to spend \$398,000 on consoles with no plan for a project. She stated the magnitude of a project like this is enormous and requires a plan, hopefully with a professional consultant and feasibility study. She stated she sent the Legislators documents pertaining to other feasibility studies done throughout the State and some decided not to go through with the consolidation. She stated it is important to look into before spending a large amount of money on a project that does not have a serious plan. She questioned if the Bureau of Emergency Services currently has four (4) consoles at the dispatch center.

Commissioner Clair stated there are currently six (6) consoles at the dispatch center.

Legislator Montgomery stated it is her understanding that three (3) or four (4) of them are used most of the time. She stated if there is an event, possibly all six (6) would be used.

Commissioner Clair stated that is correct.

Legislator Montgomery stated essentially, there are two (2) spare consoles that could be used to move forward with the consolidation.

Commissioner Clair stated during the day shift, 8:00am-4:00pm, there are three (3) dispatchers and a supervisor on duty utilizing four (4) consoles. He stated with an event such as a storm, another dispatcher will be added. He stated it is important to have a spare console because the infrastructure is not 100%; if phone lines go down dispatchers are moved around on the consoles. He stated it is vital to have spares. He stated in order to bring the Sheriff's dispatchers over, these additional consoles are needed.

Legislator Sullivan stated this discussion is really getting into the weeds of how many consoles there are and Legislator Montgomery is not accurate in her information. He stated he would like to know where she got the detail she is speaking to.

Chairman Castellano requested that Commissioner Carlin respond to Legislator Sayegh's question from earlier.

Commissioner Carlin stated the cost of \$229,241 from Motorola is being funded for the three (3) radios. He stated to answer Legislator Montgomery's questions, he has spoken to Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton recently and Motorola is holding the price quoted in this packet as long as the County places the order before the end of the year. He stated the three phones are being purchased at the cost of \$109,610, and the MobileTec licensing is being funded at the cost of \$8,834. He stated the total is \$347,685, which rounds to \$348,000. He stated the extra \$50,000 on the Budgetary Amendment is for consultant studies and project managers if needed. He stated there are three (3) firms being interviewed for this process. He stated regarding the local government efficiency grants, he had spoken in the past to someone who said there was no funding available. He stated however, he was told that an application could be submitted if funding becomes available in the future so he is keeping track of all the costs for this project.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to respond to Legislator Sullivan's comments. She stated she spoke directly with Commissioner Clair, who she believed confirmed her statement regarding the number of consoles. She questioned why this money is being spent now before having a feasibility study done. She stated she has spent a lot of time in the dispatch center. She stated to Commissioner Carlin's point to there being no funding available, she understands that is the case now however there was funding available two (2) years ago, which she apprised the County Executive of at that time.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

e. Approval/ Fund Transfer 20A074/ Planning Dept./ Adjust Capital Budget to Include Funding for Mahopac Falls Bikeway Construction Project PIN 8759.06 (Also reviewed in Physical)

Legislator Sayegh stated this has been in the works for over a decade. She stated the funding is split 80% Federal, 10% State, and 10% County.

Legislator Albano stated that is correct, the County's share of the funding is about \$130,000. He stated it is great to be connecting these parts of the bike path.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

f. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 20A075/ Year End Journal Entry #1

Chairman Castellano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T213/ Sheriff’s Dept./ Cover Projected Overtime (Tabled from October Audit Mtg. to Protective Committee – Amended & Approved at December Protective Mtg.)

Chairman Castellano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #7 – Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T289/ Dept. of Social Services/ Cover Projected Costs through Year End (Also reviewed in Health)

Legislator Sayegh stated this will reallocate the funds for adoption subsidies generated when foster children are placed.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #8 – Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T290/ Dept. of Social Services/ Cover Projected Costs through Year End (Also reviewed in Health)

Chairman Castellano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #9 – Other Business – None

Item #10 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:07pm, Chairman Castellano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Beth Robinson.