

JP & Constables – Account 1180 (page 10)

Commissioner Carlin stated this is a State Comptroller fee.

Coroners – Account 1185 (pages 11 – 12)

Commissioner Carlin stated historically the Coroners would budget for 84 cases and this year that was lowered to 72, which was approved by Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Nesheiwat.

Sheriff – Account 3110 (pages 64 – 86)

Chairman Jonke acknowledged the situation Sheriff Hess is in since he assumed the role as Sheriff after Sheriff Kevin McConville's passing in August. He stated he is willing to work with Sheriff Hess now, since most of what was submitted had been already done before he took office.

Sheriff Hess stated he joined the Sheriff's Department at the end of the budget process. He stated he would like to begin with the goals set by Sheriff McConville for 2025:

1. Axon Technology – This goal was completed with the implementation of new dash and body cameras. He stated all those systems are working great.
2. Civil Accreditation – The Sheriff's Department is about 90% there, the last piece they need is the Civil Account Clerk position that was approved. He stated the Accreditation should be reached in 2026.
3. TAM Investigator – This has been completed.
4. Closest Car Program – This project did not get completed and he is working with the Bureau of Emergency Services to get this done hopefully in 2026.
5. Freedom of Information System in Civil – This is complete and successful.

He stated he is not looking to change anything in the budget at this time. He stated a goal he has is to be more transparent and have a better online and social media presence, which can be done at no expense to the public. He stated his focus for 2026 is to complete all the goals set by Sheriff McConville, which he believes is possible with the current budget submitted by Sheriff McConville and Undersheriff Lindert. He stated the budget for 2026 is relatively flat as compared to the 2025 budget.

Chairman Jonke questioned if the radio project was complete.

Sheriff Hess stated there are two towers left to finish. He stated the system is currently being used, there are just pieces of the project that need to be completed. He stated they are working with the IT Department to improve coverage.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if any policies have been changed since Sheriff Hess took office.

Sheriff Hess stated a change was made to the Pursuit Policy last week. He stated he has begun reviewing every single policy. He stated the former Pursuit Policy was overly

restrictive therefore it was not being followed on a day-to-day basis. He stated for example, the policy stated that a suspect cannot be pursued for a misdemeanor. He stated the issue is the officer may not know what crime was committed before the suspect flees. He stated this was presenting an issue in regard to holding an officer back and/or being in violation of the policy. He stated the amendment to the policy puts it more in line with the policy of New York City, New York State Police, and Westchester County.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to discuss policy at a future meeting. She stated she would like to see the policies posted online as well.

Sheriff Hess agreed.

Legislator Ellner questioned if this budget includes everything needed for 2026.

Sheriff Hess stated he has a lot of work to do on current projects and initiatives and he is not ready for any new initiatives right now. He stated next year's budget process might look different, but he is comfortable with this 2026 budget.

Legislator Montgomery questioned the \$45,000 increase in the contract line, 54646, on page 64.

First Sergeant Johnathon Cihanek stated it is for tests and shots required by OSHA that had been overlooked in the past.

Jail – Account 3150 (pages 90 – 95)

Sheriff Hess stated the medical contract is the biggest increase to the Jail budget.

Captain James Greenough stated the medical contract increased by \$340,000, \$132,000 of which will be reimbursed through a grant obtained by the Department of Social Services. He stated this leaves an increase of \$208,000.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what type of dinnerware is used in the jail.

Captain Greenough stated they use plastic, non-disposable dinnerware.

Sheriff – Account 3110 (pages 64 – 86)

Legislator Sayegh questioned the difference in the Lake Oscawana Marine Patrol budget between 2025 and 2026.

First Sergeant Cihanek stated a boat was purchased last year so less was budgeted for 2026.

Legislator Crowley questioned how many officers are on a boat as once.

Sheriff Hess stated that is something that will be looked into. He stated it is difficult to operate a boat with a single person.

Probation – Account 3140 (pages 87 – 89)
Stop DWI – Account 3315 (pages 96 – 97)

Director of Probation John Osterhout stated this budget is flat as compared to 2025. He stated Stop DWI has collected more funds so more revenue was budgeted for that.

Chairman Jonke questioned how the Stop DWI has changed year to year.

Director Osterhout stated during COVID the Stop DWI budget was cut in half and a quarter of that has now been restored and he hopes to be able to continue restoring that.

Legislator Ellner questioned the decreased revenue budgeted for 2026.

Director Osterhout stated there is slightly less revenue estimated for supervision fees and DWI fees because they have been overestimated in the past.

Legislator Montgomery questioned the lack of funding in contracts, line 54646 on page 88.

Director Osterhout stated the funding last year was for a contract he was hoping to establish with Putnam Family and Community Services for pre-trial services. He stated there are a few vacancies in the Probation Department that have been vacant for a long time. He stated he cannot ask his current Probation Officers to take on another project without the proper staffing. He stated 67 people took the last test that was posted, which makes him hopeful those positions can be filled. He stated once those positions are filled, they can look into reinstating the contract. He stated he has interviewed a number of candidates, many of whom decided to take positions in other law enforcement agencies for various reasons. He stated some police departments offer “20 years and out” He stated it might be worth looking into establishing “25 years and out” for the Probation Department, which has enabling State legislation.

Chairman Jonke stated that would certainly be worth looking into.

Director Osterhout stated an incentive would be beneficial.

Legislator Ellner questioned if the medical contribution is a deterrent.

Director Osterhout stated yes, it is. He stated Orange County is offering much higher salaries right now, which is causing candidates to go there instead.

Legislator Montgomery stated Probation Officers do a lot of driving and traveling and she questioned why the travel line, 54675 is not budgeted.

Commissioner Carlin stated they utilize County vehicles therefore reimbursement is not necessary.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the increase in line 54329, Promotional Materials on page 96 for the Stop DWI program.

Director Osterhout stated the Stop DWI foundation used to provide promotional materials, however they are no longer able to do that. He stated the funding for this line comes from the revenue generated by the fines.

Bureau of Emergency Services – Account 3989 (pages 100 – 107)

Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton stated there are two (2) things that will stand out for 2026. He stated line 52680, Other Equipment, on page 101 will fund finishing all the projects at the Fire Training Center. He stated the concrete is being done right now and next month the final paving will be done. He stated this money for next year will finish the propane simulator. He stated the other increase is for the ALS (Advanced Life Services) contract, which is shown in line 54646 on page 106. He stated this is a three (3) year contract expiring in June 2026. He stated a little more than the standard 4%-5% increase was budgeted for to allow for negotiation of the contract.

Chairman Jonke questioned if the Meridian contract was budgeted for 2025.

Commissioner Lipton stated it was not, they were looking to fund it through grant funding but that has not been available.

Legislator Birmingham stated during the Budget Address County Executive Byrne spoke about a new program related to community paramedicine.

Commissioner Lipton stated they are working on an addendum to the current contract that he hopes to have ready by the beginning of November. He stated the difference is that rather than a Supervisor, there will be a Community Paramedic. He stated the four (4) fly cars currently in use will remain, and the Community Paramedic will be doing house calls.

Legislator Birmingham questioned if the Supervisor was through a contract or a personnel line.

Commissioner Lipton stated it is a contract.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there is an additional cost with these changes.

Commissioner Lipton stated no, the changes equal out.

Legislator Montgomery stated funding for the hazard mitigation plan was approved at the most recent Full Legislative Meeting. She stated it is her understanding that this requires a lot of time and work from the Towns and Villages; she questioned if they would be reimbursed for their work on the plan.

Commissioner Lipton stated through their work on the plan Towns and Villages have the opportunity to put in for hazard mitigation funding.

Legislator Montgomery stated the personnel in the Towns and Villages are creating the plan, and she believes they should be compensated for that.

Chairman Jonke stated the Towns and Villages can certainly bring that to the Administration.

Legislator Ellner questioned the increase in line 54379, training supplies, on page 101.

Commissioner Lipton stated this pertains to the Fire Training Center and the equipment and supplies needed to comply with OSHA regulations.

Item #4 – Other Business – None

Item #5 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:49pm, Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Beth Robinson.