

**FINANCE/CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
9:35 AM**

Present: John Frey, Rick Wilt, Brian Towers, Neil McGovern, Ermina Pincombe, Bob Edwards

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Karl Abrams, Marsha Purdue and Pete Klein

The Sheriff reported that he is quite sure that he will have a shortage in his budget for boarding out inmates for 2013. He feels it needs to be increased. This year 2012 he budgeted \$15,000 and at this point he thinks he will be able to get through with what he has left. With the D.A.'s case load and what has been coming down the pike for 2013 he believes \$15,000 is not going to be enough. Marsha stated she has right now between 15 & 20 active cases that will most likely go to County jail. The Sheriff stated that it needs to be increased but how much is the question.

The Sheriff had handouts on a survey called NYS Sheriff's Association Jail Boarding Out Costs. Most of them don't have to board out because they have built new facilities that are half full and they are looking to fill empty beds. The Sheriff feels they could compare us to Schuyler County, we are similar in size and they don't house females.

Marsha stated the 15-20 defendants that she spoke of doesn't include the ones that she anticipates that will go to the State Pen, there are more, between 5 & 8 people that she anticipates that will go to State. Crime is increasing and we are getting a lot more burglaries, we have a lot more drugs coming in and we have a lot of domestic violence and DWI's. She understands where the County is coming from, but she can't take into consideration the jail term and how it affects the jail, she just can't do that.

Brian asked in regards to the increase with drugs, domestic violence, etc., how much of this is from locals. Marsha stated it is more people from the outside coming in. The Sheriff stated every one of their burglary arrests, be it Benson, Hope, Arietta or Morehouse, are all from the outside coming into Hamilton County to commit their crimes.

Bill asked if there are instances where some of those have committed crimes in more counties than just Hamilton County. The Sheriff stated absolutely.

Marsha stated what they are trying to do with certain individual's is work out deals with the other counties and if they are going to do county time she hopes they will serve in the other county so they won't be housed here.

Neil asked if it is a multi-county investigation, who decides where the prisoner serves. The Sheriff stated the first arrest.

Neil stated at NYSAC the big topic was should we build more, if you build it will they come was their slogan. Many counties built new jails that were overbuilt and now they are looking to house inmates from other counties.

The Sheriff stated it's a cycle and other small counties are having the same problems as we are. With that the Sheriff suggested increasing line item 3170.401 to \$28,000 or \$30,000. There are

alternatives to incarceration; there is Community Service, make them work at the landfills; make them work in different areas.

The Sheriff stated it was talked about having them serve one day a week. If we are empty and had the room sure, not a problem, but when we are full it's going to cost \$90.00 per day per inmate plus transport and gas. The Sheriff doesn't feel it would be worthwhile and we are not sending the correct message to someone for one day a week. Who are they inconveniencing, them? No, they're inconveniencing us.

The Sheriff stated he had spoken with Bill the other day and the question was instead of us having to transport them to Fulton County, can I have them report to Fulton County. The Sheriff stated that according to the Correction Law, he believes they have to check-in to this facility first and then he has to transport them down. I have to submit a substitute jail order every weekend to the Commissioner of Corrections to let them know where my inmates are.

Bill stated it creates such hardship and we are struggling to find something that will provide some relief.

The Sheriff reported we have one inmate that knows his rights and has a misdemeanor and is using the system to get his dental work done.

Bill stated we need to create different alternatives. How do we send a message to the inmates that are using the system? Do we send a message with a long jail sentencing or forcing them to come back after time served to do some community service? He stated these are only ideas, he is not suggesting that Marsha sentence people more harshly, but we have to rashly look at the penalties we are providing and think about it in terms of the resource.

Marsha stated she has to serve the law and follow her ethics, but she is willing to try to save money for the County but she also needs to do her job.

Neil agreed with Marsha's ethical issues. We shouldn't be looking at it in dollar sense. A lot of this has to do with the effective patrol of our roads. Transporting prisoners does increase the cost but he also feels it waters down the effectiveness of how many people are out on our roads doing more policing.

John thanked the Sheriff for bringing this to their attention because they need real numbers in this tight budget. John asked if the overtime line item needed to be adjusted and the Sheriff stated that he feels that could stay at the requested amount.

It was decided line item 3170.401 needs to be increased to \$30,000 for 2013.

Bill and the Sheriff decided the Sheriff will shop around to the surrounding counties for pricing on housing inmates for us.

The Sheriff and Marsha left at this time.

As there was no further business, the meeting ended.