

LAW AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Law and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beggs, in the Board Conference Room of the Oceana County Courthouse on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 9:46 a.m.

Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Christians, Ms. Meyette, Mr. Morse, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Beggs. Mr. Hardy attended via Zoom.

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Dr. Karen Moore, Indigent Defense Coordinator, Mr. Jack White, Shelby Fire Chief; Mr. Dwight Fuehring, Hart Fire Chief; Mr. Jake Whelpley, Golden Township resident; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident; Ms. Marilyn Morse, Benona Township resident; and Ms. Gail Merten, Elbridge Township resident.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Erickson to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2021 Law and Safety Committee minutes as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Beggs requested that the Medical First Responders and Hart/Shelby Fire Departments be added to the agenda, between Dr. Moore and the resolution for security services.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the agenda as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

No public comments on agenda items at this time.

Dr. Karen Moore, Indigent Defense Coordinator, provided a brief update regarding Indigent Defense. She noted that currently she is involved with a regionalized public defender program for specialized attorneys. Dr. Moore observed that today is adoption day in the courts and wished everyone a happy Adoption Day!

Mr. Beggs began discussion regarding Medical First Responder (MFR) programs with the Hart Fire Board and the Shelby Fire Department. Shelby Fire Department and Hart Fire Departments have not responded to medical calls to date as they do not have the certification. With increased response times from LIFE, these departments would like to get individuals certified in order to assist.

Dr. Sobie noted that he contacted Mr. Jeff Stockhill, LIFE EMS, and he indicated that there are ongoing staffing issues, but will take another look at the data regarding response times.

Mr. Jack White, Shelby Fire Chief, and Mr. Dwight Fuehring, Hart Fire Chief, provided their perspectives regarding the reasons for the need to begin the MFR program.

Mr. Beggs asked for guidance from Dr. Sobie as to the establishment of the MFR programs for the two departments. Dr. Sobie responded that a letter stating the desire to begin the program and the "go-live" date.

Mr. Morse questioned if the Ambulance Fund would be able to withstand the additional MFR fees for many years to come. Dr. Sobie noted that the millage collected would be able to cover the costs.

Mr. White reviewed the statistics for the assist runs that have been provided by Shelby Fire Department. Mr. Jake Whelpley, Golden Township resident, noted that the number of assists that Hart Fire Department provides are approximately 1.5 times the amount that is provided by Shelby Fire Department.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a resolution to approve a three-year agreement for security services in the county building. We received a bid from H Security; the security service that the County has used for years. The County also received a bid from STT Security, from Mt. Pleasant. Dr. Sobie opined that the price difference between both bids would make it worth continuing the contract with H Security.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of proposed resolution to post approve a grant application to the Michigan State Police Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program. This funds from this grant will provide the courts with some additional materials, technologies, etc. to deal with the effects of the pandemic.

Ms. Gail Merten, Elbridge Township resident, suggested that the board reach out to our local high schools to speak with high school students about EMS and Fire for recruitment purposes.

Ms. Peggy Whitman, Hart City resident, asked Dr. Sobie to explain the protocol for addition of new items to the agenda. Chairperson Beggs explained that changes/additions are acceptable when brought before the Board, and then the Board votes to add it to the agenda. Sometimes things come up after the agenda is sent out about a week ahead of the meeting. She expressed concern that, as a citizen, she cannot participate in discussion of items she didn't know about ahead of time. Mr. Beggs pointed out that, typically, this may be the first time an item is being discussed, so it would need to be added to the agenda.

Ms. Marilyn Morse, Benona Township resident, asked for clarification as to what MFR stands for and what services EMS provides that differs from the fire departments. Mr. Walker clarified that the fire department can treat patients on the scene but they are not allowed to transport.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Beggs adjourned the Law and Safety Committee meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk