

STEBEN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

Monday, February 2, 2026

9:00 a.m.

*Legislative Chambers, 3rd Floor, Annex Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

- COMMITTEE:** Jeffrey P. Horton, Chair Frederick G. Potter, Vice Chair Joseph Tobia
 Paul E. Van Caesele Daniel Warriner
- STAFF:** Jack K. Wheeler Christopher Brewer Tim Rosell
 Rochelle Casselbury Curtis Warner Noel Terwilliger
 Tim Marshall Michele Kuhn Bill Caudill (Zoom)
 Nick Snyder (Zoom)
- LEGISLATORS:** Kelly H. Fitzpatrick Justin Eberlin K. Michael Hanna
 Shannon Logsdon Robert V. Nichols Nicholas D. Pelham
 Deborah Shannon Scott J. Van Etten Michael Volino
- OTHERS:** Eddie Van Stine, Communications Specialist
 Youth In Government Interns (Zoom)
 Brian O’Neal, WLEA (Zoom)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Horton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Pelham to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S) MADE BY MR. POTTER, SECONDED BY MR. TOBIA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. (LEGISLATOR WARRINER ABSENT FOR VOTE)

III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. District Attorney’s Office

1. **Driver Diversion Program Update** – Mr. Terwilliger asked if there were any questions on the report he provided. This program was established six to seven years ago and provides an opportunity for people that are issued tickets to apply for diversion. They pay a fee and attend a six-hour driver safety class. Upon successful completion, their ticket is eliminated, and they do not receive any points against their license. The county receives 73 percent of the money, and the municipalities receive 27 percent. A portion of the revenue received for the county goes toward the contract to administer the program and the remaining amount goes to the District Attorney and the Law Enforcement Grant Program. Mr. Van Etten asked how did 2025 numbers compare to 2024? Mr. Terwilliger stated we were down about \$90,000. We attribute that to decreased officer numbers resulting in less time patrolling the streets.

Mr. Terwilliger stated there will be changes to the NYS Traffic Code and the number of points that are being allotted for various offenses. He noted the Driver Diversion Program does not cover a lot of those lower offenses and he would like to look at that and incorporate a few more of those lower offenses into the program. Mr. Wheeler stated that Mr. Rosell had noted that we will need to review and see if the Local Law would need to be changed. Mr. Horton commented if you can get more people through the program, that is good for everyone. He asked Mr. Terwilliger to look into that and come up with a potential list.

2. **Budget** – Mr. Terwilliger requested authorization to encumber funds from the 2025 budget to the 2026 budget. We had originally set aside money to purchase firearms and optics, and we wanted to wait until the Sheriff had purchased their new equipment. However, we ran out of time last year and did not get out on the range to test the equipment. He requested authorization to encumber \$4,950 from the 2025 budget to the 2026 budget for the purchase of firearms and optics.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ENCUMBER \$4,950 FROM THE 2025 BUDGET TO THE 2026 BUDGET TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIREARMS AND OPTICS MADE BY MR. TOBIA. SECONDED BY MR. POTTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Emergency Services/E-911

1. **Linstar Credentialing System Contract** – Mr. Marshall requested approval of the two-year Linstar contract for the fire and EMS credentialing system. This is a software and maintenance contract. The two-year cost is \$5,840 and will be paid for using Homeland Security grant funds.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A TWO-YEAR SOFTWARE AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH LINSTAR FOR THE CREDENTIALING SYSTEM FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$5,840 TO BE PAID USING HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELE. SECONDED BY MR. POTTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **EMS Update** – Mr. Nichols asked for an update on ambulance services. Mr. Marshall stated Addison has stepped up and has started filling some of their responses. Your Certificate of Need (CON) for your ambulance came back last week, so they are back up and running. We are still waiting to hear on Jasper; we are continuing to meet with the administration to discuss where we want to go and how we want to lay things out.

Mr. Marshall stated with regard to the Certificate of Need (CON), letters went out to all of the municipalities. When we first got started in EMS, we got a temporary operating authority, and we have two years to do a permanent operating authority. Part of that application is getting letters of support from the local jurisdictions and the response to that has been positive. Hornell and Corning have been supportive and are stating that they understand that we are trying to provide supplemental ambulance service to the rural areas of the county. We are trying to keep the city resources home so they can respond to calls in their jurisdictions. We are just gathering the rest of the information for the packet that will be sent to the Southern Tier Regional Council in March. Once they receive the packet, then there will be a process for holding public hearings, public comment, etc. Once that piece is completed, then it will go to the State for final approval. Mr. Marshall stated he does not anticipate there being any issues. We are showing the need by the number of calls; last year we had 2,000 calls and we had over 5,000 transports.

Mr. Potter asked are you continuing to work toward 24/7 coverage in Woodhull? Mr. Marshall stated we are trying to determine the best way to lay that plan out.

C. County Manager

1. **Animal Cruelty Local Law** – Mr. Wheeler stated this is something that Chair Fitzpatrick had brought to us after noticing what other counties have done. This essentially will be a modification of the Pawn Shop Local Law that the Legislature adopted ten to fifteen years ago. There are some areas where you have discretion to get involved and regulate certain things that the State does not. He stated Mr. Rosell has drafted a local law based on what other counties have done and also worked with the Sheriff.

Mr. Rosell stated after speaking with the Sheriff, some of the misdemeanor convictions may be expunged after three years. You can have people on the list for a period of time that you determine and he stated his concern is that it can be tested and it is severable. If it is determined that the length of time on the list is too long, or if someone's conviction is expunged, we can modify that, or the court can modify it. If you go

online, there is a New York State site that shows all of the counties that have this law. He has not seen anything that has been challenged, but he is in favor of the 7 year timeframe, but if a conviction gets expunged, then that is something we will need to look at. This will take some cooperation with the Sheriff's Office as they will be handling it administratively, if you choose to pass this law.

Mr. Potter asked, does the Sheriff have the staff to do this? Mr. Rosell stated he is sure he does. Mr. Tobia asked is this just a registry law and we already have animal abuse laws? Mr. Rosell stated the only thing that is changing is that if someone is convicted of animal cruelty, they will be put on the registry for seven years.

Ms. Shannon stated you have a section that talks about the clipping/cutting of ears. Will you also be including docking tails? Mr. Rosell stated we can include if that is what the Board wants. Mr. Van Etten asked how many animal abuse/cruelty convictions occur in the county in a year? Mr. Wheeler stated 10 or less. Mr. Van Etten stated there are a lot of claims that animals are abused in the Amish and Mennonite communities. How are people in those communities even going to know they need to sign up for a registry? Are we going to communicate this law to them? Mr. Wheeler stated we can work with the Sheriff's Office and Public Health to communicate that to those communities. Mr. Horton stated if you are in an Amish community and selling a dog, how are you going to see the registry list? Mr. Wheeler stated we will work with the Sheriff's Office on messaging and how that will happen.

Mr. Pelham asked if this can be expanded to livestock? Mr. Wheeler stated we have not seen any other counties delve into that. The Agriculture and Markets Law varies between domestic animals and livestock and we would have to look into that. Discussion followed.

MOTION: ESTABLISHING AN ANIMAL ABUSE REGISTRY IN STEUBEN COUNTY MADE BY MR. POTTER. SECONDED BY MR. TOBIA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. *ICE Agreements* – Mr. Tobia stated that he would like to propose the committee take this month to review and look at the agreements that were signed between the Sheriff and ICE on June 23rd. After last week's meeting, it was pretty obvious that the people of the county do not want an agreement with ICE, and they are angry with that. The Governor is proposing legislation to make it unlawful for law enforcement to be trained by ICE. This is a worthless agreement, and the Sheriff said it best; if ICE wants to come into the county, they will regardless of whether there is a contract in place. So, the agreement is worthless and really doesn't do anything. These are the reasons that he is bringing this up and asking to review and decide if there are any changes we want to make or rescind it and put it on the agenda for the March Legislative meeting.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I appreciate Mr. Tobia bringing this up and I did ask him to take the lead on this to have the Legislature give it some consideration. The agreement that was approved in June was on the agenda for the PS&C Committee and then went to the Full Legislature; so, everyone had an entire month to review. The discussion regarding this is good. However, my personal thought is that the majority of the people that were here speaking last week were from Corning. People from my district are not necessarily opposed. It is a matter of opening the door for communication and letting the Sheriff know when they are coming into the county.

Mr. Tobia stated most of the commenters were from Corning, but he also heard from a lot of people from Hornell and Bath. The concerns were about ICE and how they are conducting themselves and that has turned people off. I think we just need to look at it, talk about it, hear what the public has to say and then make a decision on it by the end of the month. Mr. Horton stated we can ask the Sheriff to provide some data over the past seven months in terms of how many interactions they have had, how many times they have worked with them, etc.

Ms. Shannon stated she is representing Painted Post, Erwin and Gang Mills and she got about 50 emails from her district. It was a very popular topic. She wrote down who was speaking last week and there were people from Hammondsport and Cameron; not just from Corning. Mr. Horton stated he did the same and has a spreadsheet of

every person that was at the meeting last week. We had 28 from Steuben County, 2 from Schuyler County and 1 from Chemung. Of those in attendance from Steuben, there were 10 from Corning, 4 from Erwin, 1 from Bradford, 1 from Cameron, 1 from Caton, 4 from Hammondsport, 1 from Bath, 1 from Caton and 1 from Cohocton. There were also 4 that never stated where they were from. He stated Mr. Tobia made a good comment; he has to represent his voters. Of all the emails and calls I received, the majority were from Corning, so I can see from Mr. Tobia's perspective why he wants to review this. Our job as Legislators is to represent our area(s) and provide the feedback of our constituents.

Mr. Volino commented he received 12 emails and half of those were from Cameron and Thurston. It is good to let people know more about what is going on. Mr. Horton stated we will get the Sheriff to provide us with some data to see what is actually going on. Mr. Hanna asked, "can you do anything about it now since it's signed? Mr. Wheeler stated you could go back and renegotiate; you could rescind any agreement that you have. Considerable discussion followed.

MOTION: DIRECTING A REVIEW OF THE ICE AGREEMENT SIGNED JUNE 23, 2025 MADE BY MR. TOBIA. MOTION FAILS DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.

Mr. Horton stated he will ask the Sheriff to get more information for the committee. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated she would like to see a list of how many federal inmates we house and what agency placed them. Mr. Wheeler stated we can get a report for 2025. Mr. Horton stated for review and discussion at next month's meeting he will get the information on how many federal inmates we have housed at the jail and the agency that placed them, along with data relative to the contract that was passed in June; what that allows the Sheriff to do or the actions that it has created.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS' LAW, ARTICLE 7§ 105.1.F. MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL MADE BY MR. POTTER. SECONDED BY MR. TOBIA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELEE. SECONDED BY MR. POTTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELEE. SECONDED BY MR. POTTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR****

Monday, March 2, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office

NO LATER THAN NOON

Monday, February 23, 2025