

**At 9:20 a.m. District Attorney Leanne Moser and Sgt. Richard Knight**

DA Moser presented the attached budget for the Drug Task Force, (DTF) that if approved would result in one full-time and two part-time DTF investigators.

Chairman Dolhof asked if the number of drug crimes has increased. Sgt. Knight stated “we have a serious problem”, that cannot be handled by one person. An addict will burglarize or other crimes for money to support their drug habit. They are starting to see arrests with guns of greater caliber such as “ghost” guns which are self-manufactured, untraceable without serial numbers that addicts use to protect their territory.

DA Moser said she has persons facing 15-year sentences, but the local offender who was charged and faces up to 30 years for a federal crime has gotten people’s attention.

The gang activity in Jefferson and Oneida Counties is escalating. Chairman Dolhof asked if there was an overall increase in crime cases, and whether current staff could handle the ordinary burglary/assault cases? DA Moser said that crime categories shift from one to another. She did not have them with her today, but could provide some statistics. The number of meth labs has increased, as well as sex crimes and theft cases involving property related crimes. The one full-time and two part-time investigators would be dedicated to drug related crime. Other deputies would handle the welfare, sex crimes and assaults.

Sgt. Knight could not impress enough the sensitivity when working with informants, the limitations for involved personnel and the amount of time each case takes.

Legislator King calculated a \$74,800 need to start the Task Force in 2018. He expressed real concern relating the reality and substantial 2019 budget impact related to the recently informed Hospital IGT payments. He cited the addition of four (4) correction officers and one investigator this year. DA Moser stated there is only one investigator wholly dedicated to the Drug Task Force.

In response to Legislator King, DA Moser listed allowable expenditure of forfeiture monies as vehicles, maintenance, equipment and materials, affirming the monies could not be used to cover salaries. The monies could also be used for personnel training. The tracking and reporting requirements of forfeiture revenue and equipment is very stringent. She reported that two recently forfeited vehicles could be utilized by the Task Force. One prospective part-time investigator is a retiree, whose salary would be capped at \$30,000. She advocated for immediate implementation of the Task Force.

Chairman Dolhof reiterated Legislator King’s budget concerns to add \$75,000 to the levy equates an increase of three-quarters of one percent. This compounded by known Hospital IGT obligations results an unfavorable tax increase.

DA Moser referenced the Community Survey that indicated citizens were significantly concerned about drug related crime. She envisions that investigators would eventually have time to educate elementary school age students. The ultimate goal is to have the Drug Task Force self-sustained by forfeitures.

Ryan Piche stated that contingency funds are available, while referring to pending requests to cover County operational expenditures through the end of the year. He impressed the need to capture every cost saving possible. Ultimately, he said, appropriations are covered by taxpayers.

Legislator Kulzer cited the need for full Board discussion at the August meeting. DA Moser offered to present the information, and Ryan would provide budget projections for 2018 and 2019.

Legislator King made a motion to propose a resolution to appropriate the requested funding from contingency for the Board’s consideration, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried. The Committee as a whole rescinded this action, instead wanting a full discussion before presenting any specific action.