911 Dispatch Supervisor Cheryl LaLonde requested authorization to extend the contract with Syracuse University for the radio governance project from 9/1/18 to 11/1/18. The committee approved.

Cheryl explained the County 911 Dispatch Center now has the technology to receive emergency texts through all cell carriers and would like approval to register Lewis County with FCC to accept emergency messages from within Lewis County borders. Messages from deaf persons currently come in to the TTY screen of the phone. The system has been tested and is ready for implementation. Their system is State-of-the-art, capable of locating a caller within 50-60 feet. Cheryl offered to demonstrate the system at the redundant Court House center just prior to the October 2nd Legislator meeting. The Committee recommends an authorizing resolution for Board approval.

Cheryl awaits Canadian response for the Interoperability radio project license modifications. EF Johnson will have all equipment installed by the end of September and will have all coverage testing completed before the first snowfall.

Sheriff Michael Carpinelli expressed support for DA Moser’s request for a part-time investigator for the Drug Task Force and offered to answer Legislator’s related questions.

Legislator Kulzer posed the budgetary issue, indicating the complexity to explain a property tax increase to constituents. Sheriff Carpinelli frustratingly cited the substantial and continual County allocations to support Hospital operations, expressing disgust for incompetency of Hospital administration. Meanwhile, he purports that other county departments’ needs are deferred. He then relayed a personal mis-diagnosis by a LCGH medical provider that caused him and his family undue anguish.

Chairman Dolhof reminded of the additional part-time investigator and four correction officers the Board had approved for his department earlier this year, declaring the Board has supported his more than for any other department. Sheriff Carpinelli appreciates the support, declaring it rightfully so, because “You need us”; adding that without law enforcement the community would fall to ruin.

In support of hospital administration, Chairman Dolhof explained the IGT funding demand is governed by the Federal and State government; while reporting the Hospital had fully satisfied the County loan debt.

Undersheriff McIntosh was looking for guidance for whether the Drug Task Force request was currently being considered, deferred to a later date, or rejected altogether. Legislator King did not feel it prudent to consider additional allocations until all 2019 departmental budget requests are tallied for a preliminary tax levy figure. He asserted the previous 10 miles of County roads rehabilitated annually had been increased to 25 in response to the Sheriff’s earlier comments.

Legislator King asked for the budget figure request to support the Drug Task Force, by his estimation was $60,000 annually. Sgt. Knight indicated urgency stating that immediate help would make a difference.

Ryan Piche referenced the community survey that indicated residents feel that drug and alcohol related issues are a priority concern. That said, he termed the County an extension of State government that mandates the County provide services that equate 80% of the budget. The Social Services Foster Care program will receive less State funding next year while requiring greater level of services; the Public Health Pre-K program for children with special needs will have increased Medicaid reimbursements that are financed 50% by the County for an additional $140,000 in 2019; and the Social Services Sheltering Program required by the State Constitution, and the Safety Net Program that will increase by $150,000 next year. These aggregate costs equate the $500,000 contingency discretionary funds available for unplanned/unbudgeted expenses. The budget must also account for the two percent wage increases and health insurance costs.

Legislator Kulzer inquired the bottom line request to implement the part-time investigator for the remaining quarter of 2018, while cautioning the position may not be budgeted after the end of 2018. Sgt. Knight asserted
great value in the position, recognizing it may be just for the remaining quarter, specifically because of the prospective hire.

In response to Ryan Piche whether the Sheriff could find the money within his budget, the Sheriff clarified the request was for a part-time deputy to investigate narcotics. Chairman Dolhof cited the second investigator approved earlier this year inquiring whether that individual could be assigned to narcotics. The Sheriff reported the investigator has a full docket for all other types of crime.

Undersheriff McIntosh reported that the current 18 road patrol employees remain the same compared to 2012 for 24-7 coverage; 11 deputies, 2 investigators, one Sgt. for each shift, one civil deputy, and the Sheriff and Undersheriff are available.

Leanne Moser posed that $20,000 would cover a part-time DA Investigator through 12/31/18, and understood the position may not be budgeted beyond that date.

Referencing an unrelated request, Sheriff Carpinelli affirmed there was no way his office could provide OFA senior meals.

Ryan Piche cited other budget areas such as Public Health requesting a specialist to address obesity in response to Lewis County having the worst rate in New York.

Undersheriff McIntosh clarified the School Resource Officer (SRO’s) are requested by school districts, not the Sheriff. Legislator Kulzer suggested the County contract with the schools require them pay a greater share. Ryan Piche stated that if a second SRO is hired it will become a policy. The school districts pay two-thirds, while the County portion equates one-third for benefits. Legislator King said the SRO’s are essentially part-time deputies for the Sheriff’s Department, expressing his opposition for additional personnel.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to sponsor a resolution to create a Part-time investigator for the District Attorney that would sunset on 12/31/18. The motion was seconded by Legislator King. DA Moser added there would also be related equipment and vehicle maintenance costs. Legislator Kulzer asked that she submit a written narrative request to County Attorney Joan McNichol indicating the exact amount to finance the position through 12/31/18. The resolution would include specific appropriations from either contingency or other account as determined by County Manager Ryan Piche. The motion was carried.

In response to Legislator King, Undersheriff McIntosh would forward a personnel flow chart to identify all personnel under the Sheriff’s command.

Chairman Dolhof reiterated his skepticism about adding more personnel in one department, when many others are being asked to do more with less.

Legislator Kulzer expressed his support of the Sheriff’s initiatives.

Sheriff Carpinelli then reported a recent on-site inspection by the Commission of Corrections with two minor citations to secure the facility, but no mention for additional manpower.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board