

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2010

The Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Monday, March 8, 2010 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: R. Materese (Chair), M. Diffendorf, J. Marinich, S. Messina, M. Whalen

Members Absent: None

Others Present: N. Warner, J. Dadamio, Security; P. Brennan, D. Fauci, County Exec's Office; M. Kalka, M. Gerchman, Budget; D. Harder, K. Moore, Sheriff's Office; K. Bevelacqua, DPW-SWM; N. LaBare, Town of Union, M Mauro, City of Binghamton; J. Hess, Chamber of Commerce; D. Correll, Binghamton Police Department (Retired); O. Rivera, Neighborhood Taxi; R. Pornbeck, A-One Courtesy Cab; J. Martin, J. Devine, University Cab; T. Ang, ACE Taxi; Y. Salen, Safe Taxi; A. Ahmed, Five Star Taxi; N. Husiu, Express; S. Abdulliam. S.T. Taxi; L. Dana, WBNG TV; C. Whalen, Fox 40; P. Quinn, WIVT; N. Dooling, Press & Sun-Bulletin; B. Klipsch, S. Herz, M. Nirchi, W. Howard, S. Buchta, D. Reynolds, E. Denk, C. Marion, C. Hall, Legislature

The Committee meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:30 P.M. Ms. Messina made a motion to move the agenda, seconded by Mr. Whalen. The Committee took the following action with regard to the matters before it:

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Mr. Denk gave some background information on the introduction of Resolutions #1 and #2. (Comments attached)

Comments from the Office of the Sheriff regarding the administration of taxi cab regulations

The Sheriff stated that his department would be able to handle the administration of taxi cab regulations without an additional cost to the department. He stated that it could be a one stop shop were permits, licenses, registrations, fingerprinting, collection of fees, and indoor bays for vehicle inspections,etc. could all be done.

Comments from the Division of Security regarding the administration of taxi cab regulations.

Mr. Dadamio gave a presentation on the benefits for county wide regulations for the taxi cab industry. He stated for Security to oversee the administration it would be an enhancement of current enforced industry regulations that Security currently credentials Medi-Van transportation companies and operators and Security also interfaces with the taxi industry as part of the provisioning of Medicaid Transportation. The Division of Security also has the Case Integrity Unit based at DSS where they have interactions with the Medicaid Transportation Unit. Security will notify the Medicaid Transportation Unit if a company falls out of compliance. It would be an efficient use of current administrative structure and resources. Security has \$25,000 in their budget from the hotel motel occupancy tax which will cover the costs associated with overseeing the taxi cab regulations this year. Security is already on site at the airport and will be on site when the intermodal opens.

Mr. Howard noted that resolutions were submitted in support of the proposed legislation by all those affected except the Village of Johnson City and felt it was important to have their support also.

Some taxi owners and operators spoke against the proposed regulations. Mr. Pornbeck stated that the regulations were unnecessarily burdensome. Mr. Martin from University Cab agreed that there should be a county wide approach to the regulation of the taxi industry but felt the fees were too high.

#1 RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW INTRODUCTORY NO. 3 OF 2010, ENTITLED: "LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 85 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LOCAL LAWS, AS AMENDED, REGARDING TAXICAB REGULATIONS."

It was the consensus of the committee to defer this resolution to a special Public Safety and Emergency Services committee meeting on March 18th.

#2 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTION OF FEES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 85 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LOCAL LAWS FOR THE REGULATION OF THE TAXICAB INDUSTRY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES

It was the consensus of the committee to defer this resolution to a special Public Safety and Emergency Services committee meeting on March 18th.

#29 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIFIED COURTS SYSTEM-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT FOR COURT SECURITY SERVICES PROVIDED BY BROOME COUNTY DPW SECURITY DIVISION FOR 2009-2010

It was noted that the budget line will be corrected to 22000203.5000800
Carried. Ayes-4, Nays-0

#41 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BROOME COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR LEASE OF SPACE AT THE BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR 2009-2010

This resolution was withdrawn at the request of the Budget Office. No action was taken.

Sheriff-latest report on staffing at the Correctional Facility

Sheriff Harder provided the committee with the Broome County Sheriffs Correctional Facility Staffing Analysis Update. (On file with the minutes). In 2007 the NYS Commission of Correction conducted a staffing analysis which mandated an increase of 21 full time employees. In 2008 3 staff positions were added and 2009 there were not any added. In September of 2009 the NYS Commission of Correction served a notice of violation on Broome County. In November and December of 2009 the Sheriff and his staff negotiated with NYSCOC and it was determined that some of the staffing requirements would be attainable through overtime and a revised figure of three Lieutenants and one Sergeant was all that is necessary. The Office of the Sheriff received a letter on February 17, 2010 outlining the new requirements. The Sheriff will respond within thirty days to the NYSCOC that he is still negotiating with Administration and the Legislature on the staffing requirements.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Mr. Whalen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Messina. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 P.M.