At 9:05 a.m. Sheriff Carpinelli, Undersheriff Jason McIntosh, Sgt. Richard Knight and Edward Amelia, District Attorney Leanne Moser and Dispatch Supervisor Cheryl LaLonde. Co. Attorney Joan McNichol entered the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

The following dockets were approved:

1-MOU w/all local Fire Departments for use of County 911 emergency radios

2-Agreement with Deveines Enterprises to snow plow 8 radio tower sites 2018-2019 season-$24,715

At the Sheriff’s request, Legislator King made a motion to authorize to the full Board to refill a FT Dispatcher due to a resignation, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.

Undersheriff McIntosh reported a request from the Harrisville School District for a School Resource Officer (SRO). The school will finance the position within their budget. The Copenhagen School District is researching the possibility of a SRO. If the Board agrees, Mr. McIntosh expects to have a lateral officer transfer from another law enforcement agency to fill the Harrisville SRO.

Mr. Piche reiterated the unofficial agreement for the County to cover the fringe benefits for all SRO’s estimated between $25,000-$30,000 annually; while the school districts are responsible for wages. The Lowville Academy & Central School is researching SRO coverage through the Village of Lowville Police Department, and the Beaver River Central School District is not discussing an SRO at this time. Legislator Kulzer expressed full support for the Harrisville SRO, stating the County receives 100 days/yr. of work from each of the SRO’s

Legislator Dolhof inquired how much time was saved by having SRO’s in the schools. Undersheriff McIntosh relayed historically there were 2-3 incidents per month at South Lewis. Dependent upon the seriousness of the incident, it may consume the deputy’s 8 hour day to process. The SRO can address everything that happens on school property, but would call for assistance to process an arrest. The Department’s old Chevy Tahoe has been assigned to the South Lewis SRO to use for traveling to the Port Leyden and Glenfield elementary schools as part of the South Lewis campus.

Mr. Piche suggested development of a policy for hiring and performances of SRO’s for which Legislators King and Kulzer each expressed their support.

Legislator King stated that the West Leyden School District is part of the Adirondack Central School District. Sheriff Carpinelli clarified the school is governed by Adirondack, but the property is within Lewis County and his department would respond to any incident at the facility.

Undersheriff McIntosh stated that any officer hired as an SRO would attend a one-week August certification training.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion for development of a policy for SRO positions in schools, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried. Undersheriff McIntosh confirmed that SRO’s would be assigned to recreation patrols during the summer months. All applicants go through a thorough background check before being hired.

Sheriff Carpinelli requested creation of a PT Investigator as part of the Drug Task Force. District Attorney Leanne Moser asserted the Task Force needs more than one investigator to be effective. Also, equipment is needed. She also requested another PT investigator be created through her office. Because the NYS Police recognize that the Sheriff and County law makers are taking the drug and opiate abuse seriously, which has been illustrated through recent personnel hires, they are willing to spend more time assisting County personnel to combat offenders. Ms. Moser noted the added nature of all sorts of guns that have become more prevalent with this population that has further heightened the problems.
The gangs in Jefferson County are a very serious problem. The Sheriff insists the need for aggressive enforcement to abate further penetration into our communities. “We want to save our community”, he declared. He relayed the NYS Police recognize our efforts and “good prosecution on drug related offenses”, commending DA Moser.

In response to Legislator Kulzer, Sheriff Carpinelli confirmed the prospective lateral hire receives a pension and would accept the maximum $30,000 wage.

Legislator King asked for a personnel flow chart for the entire department to delineate all positions and associated expenses, to include SRO’s for an overall picture.

Legislator Dolhof cited the $12 million County tax levy, explaining that every one percent increase adds $100,000. Although he supports the collective efforts of County personnel, he urges being mindful of budgetary limits. Sheriff Carpinelli urged Legislators and Administration to make requests from Federal and State level lawmakers for specific identified initiatives, and he will remain mindful of budget impacts and efficiencies.

Mr. Piche reported the personnel additions during the past year of 4 correction officers, 3 dispatchers a FT investigator and PT Assistant District Attorney. There have not been any personnel added in any other departments. He would be remiss if he did not alert of the substantial 2019 budget implications related to the unanticipated IGT obligations.

Legislator Kulzer stated that the Sheriff’s Department had been deprived of personnel until this year, affirming his total support of the Sheriff and his personnel. Legislator King was pleased with the report of no deaths during the past snowmobile season, being a departure from the past and directly related to the strategic patrols, declaring his pride for what has been accomplished. He concurred with Legislator Kulzer’s supporting sentiments.

Investigator Knight expressed appreciation for the support from the Board, District Attorney and Sheriff as well as public support for the cooperative and coordinated efforts to combat the drug abuse problems.

Leanne Moser impressed the importance of education on the multi-tiered problems (Internet, sex and abuse issues) The Task Force will be educating in the schools for positive impacts.

Board Chairman Larry Dolhof asked the Sheriff and DA Moser to formulate and submit a budget for the Task Force.

Nick Altmire noted that Lewis tied Jefferson County for the most meth labs in the State in 2017.

Legislator Andrea Moroughan entered the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Undersheriff McIntosh reviewed the jail personnel. Ryan Piche stated that part-time employees should no longer be working full-time, but only used to fill in when necessary. The Sheriff requested to fill one part-time correction officer due to a promotion, affirming he would minimally assign the officer. Legislator Kulzer made a motion to recommend the full Board authorize refilling one part-time correction officer, seconded by Legislator King and carried.

In response to Legislator King, Undersheriff McIntosh explained there was no budget appropriation for vests, but 9 vests are needed for correction officers at a cost of $8,100. Also, 12 – 13 road patrol vests have expired that will cost $13,200 to replace. Hereafter, there will be an annual $5,000 appropriation to cover 5 replacement vests. Ryan Piche stated that road patrol vests were a known expense and should have been included in the 2018 budget. He suggests the $8,100 be transferred from Contingency to cover the new expense for correction officer vests, but that the Sheriff and Undersheriff research their budget to cover road patrol vests. Also, they should research grant opportunities. Sheriff Carpinelli stated that possibly Federal monies could be used.
At 10:20 a.m. Legislator King made a motion to enter executive session to discuss performance of specific personnel, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried. At 10:40 a.m. Legislator Kulzer made a motion to return to the regular meeting, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

The meeting adjourned by motion of Legislator King seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board