



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: 315.435.2070 • onondagacountylegislature@ongov.net • www.ongov.net/legislature

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 16, 2024 **MARK A. OLSON, CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. McCarron, Mr. Bush, Mr. Garland, Ms. Hernandez
ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Brown; also see attached

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. **SHERIFF**: Captain Jeremy Young;
 - a. **Authorizing an Agreement with the Town of Otisco for the Provision of Enhanced Police Services and Amending the 2024 County Budget (\$10,000)**

PURPOSE: *Authorize the County Executive to sign an agreement with the Town of Otisco for enhanced police services provided by the Sheriff's deputies on an overtime basis.*

OBJECTIVE/ WORK PLAN: *Many towns – such as Pompey, Van Buren, Salina, and Fabius – have had contracts for enhanced patrol services for several years. These are renewed annually after the Sheriff's Office determines the costs for that year. From time to time, other towns or villages may request enhanced patrol services also. The Sheriff's Office would like to be able to accommodate them by entering into similar agreements.*

FUNDING SOURCE: *The Town of Otisco will be responsible for paying all associated costs – including overtime rate of deputy, vehicle use costs, and administrative and liability costs. The total overtime rate for 2024 has been determined to be \$92.76.*

BUDGET: *The Town of Otisco has appropriated not to exceed \$10,000 in their annual budget for the total amount of money they would like to spend for services. The Sheriff's Office charges the hourly rate determined each year. An amendment is needed to the 2024 County budget for the revenues and appropriations associated with this contract.*

- Propose intermunicipal agreement with Otisco for enhanced patrol services
- Provide law enforcement in form of NYS laws, local laws and patrols within the town of Otisco
- Amount is \$10,000 reimbursed to the County for costs associated with deputies work
- 1 year contract; slated to start upon approval

A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item.

- Have satellite office in Van Buren, but not all of the current contracted towns have satellite offices
- First time contracting and will be 1 year renewable contract
- Law:
 - Authorization for the resolution is for 1 year with annual renewals as appropriated in the budget
 - Will not come back to Legislature every year; subject to budget approval

A vote was taken on the item. ***Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

2. ONONDAGA WILDERNESS SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM: Jeff Sargent; Jason Baleno

a. INFORMATIONAL



Who or What is Wilderness Search & Rescue?

The Wilderness SAR Team is a non-profit organization made up of volunteers, from in and around Onondaga county, who receive intense training to provide them with the skills necessary to assist in managing and working in an organized search and rescue operation.

Our History

- ❖ The team was organized in 1979 out of Cortland County to assist conservation and law enforcement agencies in searching for lost or missing persons in the forest and wilderness areas of New York State. The team was brought to Onondaga County in 1987. Once co-located with NAVAC ambulance. Now units are stored at South Bay and Otisco FDs.

NYS Federation

- ❖ The Wilderness Team is a member of the NYS Federation of Search & Rescue Teams. This allows us many additional resources to call upon when needed.
- ❖ In as little as 3 hours, you can have hundreds of **trained** searchers as well as K9 assets.



Why involve SAR?

- ❖ They can provide **specialty trained** individuals who can arrive quickly and begin search operations with little direct support from you.
- ❖ SAR can help you use your law enforcement officers in a more productive way than walking a grid search in the woods.

*“Over reaction is Justifiable
Under reaction is inexcusable”*

In what situations could a SAR team help?

- ❖ Lost Child
- ❖ Outdoor Enthusiasts
- ❖ Alzheimer's and other mental conditions
-Project Life Saver
- ❖ Attempts, despondent in remote areas
- ❖ Active Criminal Cases where recovery of evidence or victim is critical to the case.
- ❖ In any weather condition
- ❖ In any terrain –
We'll wade, crawl thru or climb over anything

YOU NEED TO ASK FOR US-

- ❖ *WSAR dispatches thru Onondaga County 911 Center.*
- ❖ *Have a WSAR officer report to your location or contact you.*
- ❖ **WE WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY BE DISPATCHED**

Notification

- ❖ Notification with a local team or the Federation should be made as early in the search effort as possible.
- ❖ SAR Teams encourage agencies to place us on “stand-by” in the early stages of a search investigation rather than an immediate (and unexpected) call-out in the later stages.

Training

- ❖ Team members are constantly training to be ready to participate in search activities. All members are trained in basic search techniques, necessary equipment needs, survival, and other needed skills. Members are certified in Basic Wildland Search Techniques taught by the NYS DEC (Forest Rangers). Senior members are certified as “Wildland Search and Rescue Crew Boss”.
- ❖ Our members have medical training either as EMT or Wilderness first aid.



Technical Rescue

- ❖ The Tech Rescue personnel are members trained in low and high angle rope rescue operations, and have all the equipment necessary to handle this type of operation.



First on Scene recommendations

- ❖ Preserve area, keep people away from Last known point.
 - ❖ Try to preserve scent item for K-9 units
 - ❖ Do not touch
- ❖ Dispatch WSAR- Average response time: 1 hour
- ❖ Do not randomly search in the woods.
- ❖ Establish- ICS, rehab locations
- ❖ Work with law enforcement to initiate search of houses or structures

Man Tracking

- ❖ Tracking is the only physical evidence resource available to SAR missions. Trained human trackers are a primary, immediate response resource for SAR managers to establish :
 - ❖ **1) bona fides of a reported missing person incident**
 - ❖ **(2) Factually establish the Point-Last-Seen,**
 - ❖ **(3) Determine the direction of travel,**
 - ❖ **(4) Continue a physical evidence pursuit of the missing person's travel.**
- ❖ *Tracking is the most overlooked investigative tool for crime scene incidents!*

“Lost in the Woods”

❖ The Lost in the Woods program was developed by the Search and Rescue Association of British Columbia. It was developed to teach survival to children, but the concepts are the same for both children and adults alike. Our team has done this presentation for many groups of both adults and children such as scout troops and school classes. The Wilderness Search and Rescue Team is happy to make this presentation to any group as requested.

- ❖ Don't wander
- ❖ Stay together
- ❖ Stay warm
- ❖ Find a cozy waiting place
- ❖ Put out something bright
- ❖ Make yourself look bigger
- ❖ Don't lay on bare ground
- ❖ Don't eat anything you aren't sure of
- ❖ Stay away from large bodies of water

If you get lost.....

- ❖ DON'T PANIC! If you do, you will use up needed energy and accomplish nothing.
- ❖ Stop and Stay Put. We will be able to find you faster if you stay in one place.

❖ Remember the nine rules of survival.....



Before you go into the woods:

- ❖ Learn how to use a compass and carry it with you.
- ❖ Let someone know where you're going and what time you expect to return.
- ❖ Try not to go alone.
- ❖ Dress appropriately for any kind of weather (it could change quickly).
- ❖ Carry a pack with survival essentials.

What Should you take?

- ❖ Food
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Compass (know how to use it)
- ❖ Flashlight & Batteries
- ❖ Rain Gear or trash bag
- ❖ Knife
- ❖ Extra socks/clothes
- ❖ Signal device
- ❖ Waterproof matches



K-9's

- ❖ K-9 units utilize tracking and air-scenting canines in search operations. One K-9 can search an area that would take about 20 grid searchers to cover, increasing the chances that a person will be found alive in a shorter period of time.



Dispatch / Call-out

- ❖ The Wilderness SAR team is dispatched through the Onondaga County 911 Center. Once dispatched, team members are notified by a phone/pager system that activates multiple member pagers, alerting them to the search and location, allowing members to become mobile within minutes. Also our team has there own highband radio system to communicate within our county and surrounding counties.

MCU

- ❖ Our Mobile Command unit is equipped with high band, low band, UHF, 800mhz and ham radios. This allows us the ability to communicate with most organizations within NYS.
- ❖ On board computer system allows map generation and internet access.



WANTED

- ❖ Men and Woman at least 18years of age for unique community service. Must be willing to travel at a moments notice and hike great distances over varied terrain. Shifts are mainly late night and early morning hours, often working with no help to do the impossible in poor or extreme weather. You provide all the equipment, We provide the working conditions. Interested applicants apply to your local Search and Rescue Unit. Salary \$0.00 - \$0.00

Interested?

Before you commit to becoming a SAR member, please consider the following:

- Are you ready, physically and mentally, to spend long hours, day and night, in some of the worst weather and terrain conditions?
- Are you willing to get up at 3 a.m. and drive for 5-6 hours, possibly to spend only 1-2 hours on a search, or possibly not search at all?
- Are you willing to continue training 2-4 times a month or more, even when searches are few and far between?
- Are you willing to commit to participation in public education and displays, giving up free weekends to do so?
- Are you willing to spend possibly thousands of dollars on equipment that could mean your safety or even saving your life?

Some specific skills:

- ❖ Incident mapping
 - ❖ Members trained in computer based mapping (Caltopo)
 - ❖ Documentation of incidents
- ❖ Back country injury extrication
 - ❖ ATV/Gator with stokes trailer
 - ❖ Big wheel
 - ❖ Sked
- ❖ Using “Lost person behavior” statistics to develop IAP for searches.
- ❖ Do local fire departments and law enforcement have this capability?

Call outs 2024

- ❖ Scott – Lafayette
 - ❖ Team requested by 911 but not Sherriff
 - ❖ No self dispatch so services not used.
- ❖ Andrews – Norwich
 - ❖ Subject located rapidly by teams once activated by FEDSAR thru Chenango Co Sherriff.

Incident List

From: 1/1/2023 To: 12/31/2023

Wilderness SAR Team

Date	Incident	Incident Description	Address
1/14/2023	2300001	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	222 GARDEN CITY DR. MATTYVILLE NY 13211
3/22/2023	2300002	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	24 COUNTY ROUTE 2A. REDLAND NY 13244
4/26/2023	2300003	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	TAMBER DR. CONSTATITA NY 13044
5/6/2023	2300004	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	95 HILLSBORO RD. ARROY NY 13316
5/19/2023	2300005	STATUS CHECK	2021 W GENESEE ST. PLAINVILLE NY 13226
6/11/2023	2300006	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	629 COUNTY ROUTE 85. NEW HAVEN NY 13226
6/13/2023	2300007	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	3992 APRILLA RD. JAMESVILLE NY 13078
6/20/2023	2300008	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	7725 VAN BUREN RD. BALDWINVILLE NY 13027
6/22/2023	2300009	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	343 EAST AVE. OSWEGO NY 13226
8/16/2023	2300010	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	7174 OSWAGO RD. PELICUS PARK NY 13021
8/20/2023	2300011	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	3001 EAST AVE. CENTRAL SQUARE NY 13036
8/20/2023	2300012	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	134 ROUTE 40. HENCO NY 13214
9/17/2023	2300013	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	132 NORTHERN LIGHTS PLAZA. MATTYVILLE NY 13211
9/27/2023	2300014	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	147 COUNTY ROUTE 51A. SOONA NY 13226
10/3/2023	2300015	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	34 AUREN CR. CONSTATITA NY 13044
10/27/2023	2300016	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	1827 HANCOCK DR. SANEY CREEK NY 13342
12/26/2023	2300017	MISSING PERSON SEARCH	1911 HENCO ST. ALBION NY 14411

Page: 1 of 1

April 3, 2024

Funding

- ❖ Team is self funded through member dues, donations, and work details.
- ❖ We spend hours raising funds that could be otherwise used for enhancing/maintaining our skills.

Expenses 2023 - \$5,848.77

Auto & Transport -\$1,241.58
 Maptech Subscription - \$494.00
 Bills, Insurance & Utilities -\$3,654.58
 NYSFEDSAR Dues 100.00

- ❖ Expense 2022 -\$5,769.28
- ❖ Expense 2021 -\$9,014.09 (aprox \$3000 property expense)

Auto & Transport
 Gas & Fuel 878.53
 Registration 237.50
 Service & Parts 125.55
TOTAL Auto & Transport 1,241.58

Bills & Utilities
 Insurance 2,488.50
 Internet 274.86
 PO Box and Postage 216.00
 Utilities 405.22
 Website 270.00
TOTAL Bills & Utilities 3,654.58

Computers
 Maptech Subscription 494.00
TOTAL Computers 494.00

Education
 Books & Supplies 205.65
TOTAL Education 205.65

Fees & Charges
 Bank Fee 73.34

Financial
 Quicken membership 64.68
TOTAL Financial 64.68

NYSFEDSAR Dues 100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 5,848.77

Summary

- ❖ Please use our services. Were here to help and have specialized and unique skills.
- ❖ Assistance with funding greatly appreciated.
- ❖ Oswego Co legislative resolution adopted for use by Onondaga Co.

Legislative resolution used by Oswego

- ❖ WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 91 of the year 1973, and by Resolution No. 48 of the year 1974 this Legislature officially recognized the Oswego County Pioneer Land Search and Rescue Team, Inc, and
- ❖ WHEREAS it was resolved by this Legislature to formally recognize the Oswego County Pioneer Land Search and Rescue Team, Inc as the official rescue team of Oswego County, and
- ❖ WHEREAS, since 1971 the Oswego County Pioneer Search And Rescue Team has provided exemplary Search and Rescue services to this county and the state, and
- ❖ WHEREAS since 1999 the Oswego County Pioneer Search And Rescue Team has been an active and professional member of Oswego County's Emergency Services Organizations, working closely with the Oswego County Sheriff's Office, other law enforcement agencies in the county, Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Services in Oswego County; the Oswego County 911 Center; and
- ❖ WHEREAS the Oswego County Pioneer Search And Rescue Team has demonstrated, through it's performance and professionalism, that it provides an important and life saving service to residents of Oswego County and New York State.

- ❖ NOW upon recommendation of this Legislature's Public Safety Committee, be it
- ❖ RESOLVED, that the Oswego County Legislature does hereby, formally, and in a furtherance of the previously noted Resolutions, recognize the Oswego County Pioneer Search and Rescue Team, Inc as the official Search and Rescue team of Oswego County; to be recognized as a member of the Oswego County Emergency Services community such that the team is available to Law Enforcement, Fire, Rescue and other agencies in Oswego County through the County's 911 Center, and also that the team is included in County decisions affecting the Emergency Services organizations operating in Oswego County.
- ❖ FURTHER, that a certified copy of this resolution be directed to the Director of the Oswego County Pioneer Search and Rescue Team, the director of the Oswego County 911 Center, the Sheriff of Oswego County, the Director of the Oswego County Emergency Management Office, and the Oswego County Fire Coordinator memorializing the formal action taken by this Legislature.

Where would the funds go?

- ❖ Annual expenses plus
- ❖ MCU has nearly 200,000 miles
- ❖ Gator and trailer are 20 years old.
- ❖ Updating equipment:
 - ❖ Ropes and equipment need updating 10 year lifespan
 - ❖ New big wheel for stokes attachment
 - ❖ GPS units
- ❖ Updated training: Low/High angle rescue certifications.

- Equipment:
 - Mobile Command Unit (MCU) a 2003 with 200,000 miles; Gator is 2004; Trailer is 2008
 - Majority of equipment at 20 yr old mark
 - \$5,800/year does not include updating or upgrading
 - Gator out of service because they do not have money to fix it
 - Would like to replace Gator with Polaris Ranger
 - When taking 30 people to remote location, can spend an hour walking or transport in these vehicles
 - 1 or 2 is not enough for an incident that needs multiple all-terrain vehicles to get personnel in to start search
 - Ropes are ~10 yrs old; does not matter how much or how little they are used, at 10 years ropes have to be replaced

- Training
 - Fall under National Search and Rescue Agency, who charges for the classes
 - Volunteers pay for courses themselves
 - Low Angle Rescue Certifications – go to rope rescue agencies and the cost is \$1,000 to attend classes
- Counties
 - Oswego County provides funding for their search and rescue team, so the team does not collect dues or fundraise
 - Asking for funding from Onondaga County for this program
 - No affiliation with Cortland County, as they have their own teams
 - 23 search and rescue organizations across NYS (by county or area)
 - Have mutual aid program to go county to county
 - Currently WSAR team is responding to other areas in state, and they are not paying for WSAR
 - To be useful team, have to have the funding
- Budget
 - Annual expenses are \$6,000 and does not include capital improvements; (i.e.) replacement plan for MCU
 - Have spreadsheet started on what funds WSAR is looking for
 - WSAR is recognized as the search and rescue for the county
 - WSAR falls into gray area when it comes to grants; grants not there for these organizations
 - Fundraising is tough, as most people want recognition, which does not happen often (underutilized)
 - If WSAR receives county funding, they would not stop supporting the runners
 - Would remove the burden of handling as many events
 - It is tough to balance life, work and training; volunteers can only do so much
 - WSAR supports Finger Lakes Runners Club the most with longstanding relationship; probably 5-6 events/year
 - Time and hours spent on googling grants is what WSAR could scale back on
- General membership
 - See people come and go without utilization; hard to keep people
 - Average fire department running 100-2,000 calls/year; people stay interested
 - WSAR may go 3 months with nothing, so why do the training when they are not getting the call
 - Difficult to keep volunteers motivated to be on top of their skills
- Project Lifesaver International (PLI)
 - International organization for people who wander (i.e. Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism)
 - Based on family ability to pay or not, but low threshold
 - Person who wanders is given a bracelet that is a homing beacon
 - Bracelet gives off specific frequency and nowhere in the region would that frequency be repeated
 - If person goes off wandering, 911 center has ability to give WSAR the frequency
 - WSAR has receiver units (\$2,500-\$3,000 each); plug in frequency, start walking, wait to hear ping to hone in
 - Average time frame to find the person is 30 minutes or less
 - Work with Air One, who also has receiver
 - Program came here in early 2000's; number of Sheriffs are trained; everyone in aviation trained
 - If Air One spots, would notify with general search area
 - Air One sees 7-8 miles; ~3 miles on foot depending on terrain
 - Number of rescues with Project Lifesaver
 - Want to train with Sheriff's Department - deputies can be detailed to train while working, but they are working daytime hours when WSAR volunteers are at their own jobs
 - Train twice a month, and to get a deputy trained in PLI at the same time is hard

3. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

a. **Tour**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: APRIL 16, 2024

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Lisa DeLu Jeremy Young	OCSO
Nancy Lowery	EX
Jeff Sargent	WSAR
Jason Baleno	WSAR
Joe Fanteschi	Leg Atty.
Ben Yans	Law
Jason Dean	Finance
Ryan Lamson	Finance
Jim Beebe	Leg
Debbie Kaminski	Leg
Jeremy Young	OCSO