

**APPROVED**

**Fauquier County Board of Supervisors’  
Public Safety Committee  
Meeting of October 20, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Public Safety Committee Co-Chairman, Chris Butler, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Introduction of Participants**

Present were:

- Mr. Chris Butler, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Lee District)
- Mr. Chris Granger, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Center District-Virtual)
- Sheriff Robert Mosier, Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office
- Ms. Erin Kozanecki, Deputy County Administrator
- Ms. Tracy Gallehr, County Attorney
- Chief Darren Stevens, DFREM
- Mr. Mark Ciarrocca, DFREM (Virtual)
- Mr. Tom Marable, President, Fire and Rescue Association
- Ms. Mallory Stribling, Office of Management and Budget (Virtual)
- Chief Michael Kochis, Warrenton Police Department (Virtual)
- Ms. Carrie Horvath, Human Resources (Virtual)
- Mr. Greg Shoemaker, Guest
- Tom Pavelko, Staff

**3. Approval of the Minutes and Agenda**

Mr. Butler moved for approval of the current agenda and the minutes of the August 25, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Granger.

**4. Communications Statistics and Updates**

The Sheriff's Office communication statistics for the month of September 2020 were included in the meeting handouts. There were no questions or additional discussion.

**5. General Assembly Updates**

Sheriff Mosier advised they have been tracking current bills that are under consideration in the General Assembly that would impact the safety of Fauquier citizens. Of particular concern, are HB5058 and SB5029 that remove the ability of law enforcement to lawfully stop a motor vehicle for various safety infractions including driving without head lights at night. He indicated this hinders the ability of law enforcement to prevent serious accidents that are often precipitated by these safety issues. The Sheriff distributed letters issued to Governor Northam from both the National and State Sheriff's Associations that outline their concerns and ramifications should these bills be passed. Chief Kochis of the Warrenton P.D. indicated the Chief's Association has sent a similar letter to the Governor, discouraging the signing of these bills. Supervisor Butler suggested sending a letter to the Governor on behalf of the BOS that also expresses their concerns with them. County Attorney, Tracy Gallehr, advised she will draft a letter for approval by the BOS and email it to the Governor's Office promptly.

**6. Mental Health Response Unit**

Sheriff Mosier indicated that his department has been actively engaged in discussions with the Community Services Board, DSS, DFREM and the Warrenton P.D. regarding the necessity of law enforcement for service calls where mental health is determined to be the underlying issue. He announced that they have entered into an agreement that will allow mental health clinicians to be present in situations where law enforcement are not considered to be the primary responders. This type of coordinated response is expected to reduce the agitation level of persons experiencing a mental health crisis. These situations are often escalated when uniformed officers are introduced. Sheriff Mosier is requesting that a more formalized mental health response unit be explored to address these types of situations. Similar groups have been formed in other states with positive results. He is recommending that a work group be convened with stakeholders to consider a program that involves embedded clinicians. Supervisor Butler requested that County Administration put this work group together to gather more information from first responders and the community. A date and location is forthcoming.

**7. BOS Resolution Request**

Sheriff Mosier asked the BOS to consider a resolution that opposes any legislative efforts to revise the judicial doctrine of qualified immunity for law enforcement officials. While a similar bill recently died in the General Assembly, they anticipate it will come up during the next session. Supervisor Butler expressed his support for law enforcement and requested that the County Attorney assist the Sheriff with this resolution.

**8. Audit of Public Accounts**

Sheriff Mosier shared the audit results of Constitutional Officers by the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts. The state agency confirmed that the local officials who were audited, were in full compliance with all state laws and regulations related to the disbursement and custody of state funds.

**9. Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Mr. Butler called for adjournment at 6:39 pm. Generally concurred.

*Given under my hand this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2020*

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*Thomas S. Pavelko, Staff to the Public Safety Committee*