

**STEBEN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**Special Meeting**

*Wednesday, January 28, 2026*

*9:55 a.m.*

*Legislative Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Annex Building  
Bath, New York*

**\*\*MINUTES\*\***

**COMMITTEE:** Jeffrey P. Horton, Chair    Frederick G. Potter, Vice Chair    Joe Tobia  
Paul E. Van Caesele    Daniel Warriner

**STAFF:** Jack K. Wheeler    Christopher Brewer    Tim Rosell  
Rochelle Casselbury    Curtis Warner    Lisa Rodbourn  
Michele Kuhn    James Allard

**LEGISLATORS:** Kelly H. Fitzpatrick    Justin Eberlin    K. Michael Hanna  
Jeffrey P. Horton    Hilda T. Lando    Shannon Logsdon  
Robert V. Nichols    Nicholas D. Pelham    Brian C. Schu  
Deborah Shannon    William Thew    Scott J. Van Etten  
Michael Volino    Daniel Warriner

**OTHERS:** Eddie Van Stine, Public Information Specialist

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Horton called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.

**II. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS**

A. Sheriff's Office

1. **Inter-Governmental Agreement – Housing of Federal Inmates** – Sheriff Allard requested authorization to renew the inter-governmental agreement with the U.S. Marshalls for the housing of federal inmates. This has been a long-standing contract for decades. We negotiated an increase in rate to \$130.00 per day, per federal inmate housed. This rate will take effect if signed by January 31, 2026. Sheriff Allard explained this contract helps defray our costs in the jail. Pre-COVID, this represented \$1.5 million in revenue. The only two sources of revenue the Jail has are the phone commission and the housing of federal, state and out-of-county inmates. We house inmates from other jails and that is the majority of our revenue. After COVID, the number of federal inmates housed is 3 – 4. With this new contract, our staffing will increase and we will be able to take in more. Livingston County has more federally housed inmates than regular inmates. This is not anything that is unique to us and happens in almost every jail in the region. If we do not want to accept an inmate, we do not have to. Sheriff Allard stated ICE has been a big topic and we have not received any ICE inmates in over four years. There has been a significant amount of disinformation started. Approximately 99 percent of jails have the ability to house ICE inmate if they are legally remanded by a judge.

Mr. Wheeler stated the Jail, about 30 years ago, was built for this specific capacity. We house inmates from other counties, the State and we have a federal contract with the U.S. Marshalls. Box 19 was checked on this contract 15 years ago. We polled other counties, and they have the exact same contract.

Mr. Van Caesele asked will this contract require a new program, new building, etc.? Sheriff Allard stated no, not at all. Mrs. Lando asked are we building a facility to house ICE inmates? Sheriff Allard replied no, not at all. Mrs. Lando asked what will happen if we do not approve this contract? Sheriff Allard stated if it is not signed by January 31, 2026, the rates will remain at \$100.00 per day, per inmate. If this is not

approved, we lose that additional \$30.00 per inmate revenue, and it will take another six months of negotiating before we can bring it back to you.

Mr. Van Etten stated what is the average number of federal inmates that we house and what are they housed for? Sheriff Allard stated the highest average was 40 – 50. Typically, the average for the last 13 years has been around 20. After COVID we closed a housing unit in the Jail and then the numbers went down to 4 – 5 and we did have a period of time where we did not have any. All of the federal inmates have been indicted and are awaiting trial or adjudication. The convictions range from gang related crimes, murder, rape, criminal conspiracy, child sex offender; anything that rises to the level of a federal indictment we are one of the facilities that will house them. We have a reputation as a jail that is more structured than others. In addition to being reimbursed for housing, we are also reimbursed for transportation costs and those are covered in the contract.

Mrs. Lando asked the Sheriff to explain what Box #19 is in the contract. Sheriff Allard stated this allows ICE as a rider. Should things change if the feds start wanting to bring ICE detainees through the U.S. Marshall Service, we would like the ability to house them if they have been remanded by a judge. He explained there are two different categories of detainees. The first are individuals that go in front of a magistrate and then go to a federal detention center; the nearest is in Batavia, where they await deportation. There are different time limits depending on the country and status of criminal arrest. The second are individuals with work visas. They do not leave and are administratively detained and we have nothing to do with those. Those individuals get picked up and go to a Federal detention center. Sheriff Allard stated ICE has been in our community. He stated his goal is that we have local law enforcement near or present when ICE is in the County so that we don't see the bad things that we are seeing across the country.

Mr. Tobia asked if the contract we passed in June was to allow ICE in? Sheriff Allard stated no, that contract allows us to work with them. Mr. Tobia stated I voted yes on that and then regretted voting yes. I have a ton of respect for the Sheriff and staff and what they do for the County. Anytime I see anything connected to ICE, I will vote no. When I saw that Box 19 was checked on this contract, I already knew what my vote would be. He stated he emailed the Sheriff a couple of days ago and heard that this contract has been in effect for years. However, ICE today is not the same as ICE in the past. What bothers me more than anything is how they are doing it, with no reason. He stated his belief is that the people that put him in this chair want him to vote no and he will honor that.

Ms. Shannon stated I was not here in June. She stated that she appreciates the members of the public that have come to speak. She stated that she will always vote to fund law enforcement whatever they need. As Mr. Tobia said, for me, ICE of today has a political agenda and they are not the ICE of yore. She stated she would like to see a new contract without Box 19 checked. The people that have voted and put me in this chair expect me to represent them.

Mrs. Lando stated I was the only “no” vote for the agreement in June and I do not want ICE. However, this is not the same thing, and I have explained that to a multitude of people. This contract is raising the fee to house federal inmates from \$100 to \$130 per day per inmate. That is the crux of this agreement. She noted she will be voting in favor of this. This is not about ICE; it is about the agreement that we have had. Before it was ICE it was INS and yes, there is crazy stuff going on in the world. However, this agreement has nothing to do with Minneapolis. This is our fee structure for the jail.

Mr. Van Caesele stated he does not think ICE of today is the same as ICE during the Obama deportation era. In fact, after doing some research, 156 detainee immigrants were killed during the Obama deportation. He stated he thinks that we need to be a little bit more careful and do our research. There weren't all the cell phone videos and social media back then that there is now and that does not mean those events did not occur then, they just were not shown in as much detail.

Mr. Thew stated he knows that people are concerned about the situations happening with ICE and he also has some concerns. Currently, we have not been housing ICE detainees. However, he would rather, if

someone is detained by ICE, have them be housed locally so their family and friends know where they are. As the Sheriff discussed, the people that are housed here have gone in front of a judge and there has been due process. That has been a concern for a lot of people and for that reason, he believes that it would be better if they were detained here rather than in Rochester or Buffalo, or somewhere else where we don't know where they are or how they are being treated.

Mr. Horton stated, as Mrs. Lando commented, this contract is already in place, and the approval is only to raise the rate. You have to look at if we are not going to house them, then who is, and do we trust those people? He stated he trusts that the people in our County are going to treat people humanely.

Mr. Eberlin asked what is the current length of the contract that we are in now? Sheriff Allard stated he believes it is open-ended, and we renew it. Mr. Wheeler commented he has talked to some counties where their current contract is 10 years old. So, in this case, when the rate changes, it is also when it is renewed. When we can get them to come to the table to renegotiate is when it renews and that has not happened in a few years. Mr. Eberlin asked if we do not renew it, is it still valid? Sheriff Allard stated yes, we would just lose the additional \$30.00 of revenue. Mr. Eberlin asked has there been an increase in ICE presence here? Sheriff Allard stated we have zero control of when ICE comes in. Because we partner with them, we get a list of who they are looking for and it has never been more than 10 per month in the past.

Sheriff Allard stated he would like to thank everyone who has emailed him. He received 50 emails and answered all of them. Many of those emails came from people that he does not normally hear from. When you look around this room you see that everyone here cares about the County and that is incredible. Thank you for reaching out.

Mr. Volino stated a couple of weeks ago he toured the Sheriff's Office and the Jail. He was very impressed with the rehabilitation services we have in the Jail. If somebody had to be housed in a jail, they would be fortunate to be housed in the Steuben County Jail. He commented he also watched the Sheriff's interview on Frankly Speaking where he said that what is happening in Minneapolis, Minnesota is not going to happen here. I absolutely trust him 100 percent when he says that.

**MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE U.S. MARSHALL SERVICE FOR THE HOUSING OF FEDERAL INMATES AT A RATE OF \$130.00 PER INMATE PER DAY MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELEE. SECONDED BY MR. WARRINER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-1 (LEGISLATOR TOBIA OPPOSED). Resolution Required.**

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESELEE. SECONDED BY MR. TOBIA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman  
Deputy Clerk  
Steuben County Legislature