

POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COMMITTEE

Organizational Meeting

Wednesday, September 30th, 2020

Board Room, 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Staff: Shaun S. Groden, Chairperson and County Administrator; Sheriff Kusminsky; Undersheriff Brainard; Warren Hart, Deputy County Administrator and Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Chairman Patrick S. Linger; Legislator Greg Davis; stenographer Linda Dunn.

Members: Gary Slutzky; Jeff Friedman; Katie Oldakowski; Rabbi Zoe B. Zak; Pastor Turpin; Angelo Scaturro; Joe Stanzione; Rita Taylor; Dr. Ronel Cook arrived a little late. Pastor Snowden was absent.

This meeting began at about 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Groden continued: "I'm going to start this off, we'll do an introduction, but I'm Shaun Groden, I'm the County Administrator. Again, Shaun Groden, County Administrator. I'm going to introduce Pat Linger, our Board Chair, to say a few words and then I have another Legislator in the back, alright?"

Chairman Linger stated: "Thank you everyone for coming and volunteering to be part of this group, the Greene County Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative. It's hard enough to get people to volunteer to do anything these days, so this is a pretty big undertaking and I just wanted to let everyone know that it's very much appreciated. For members of our community that represent various groups around the county to step up and bring forward your thoughts for this process, I really do appreciate that. We did not, intentionally, we did not put a member of the Legislature on this Committee. I don't want the politics to be a part of this. I don't want to create solutions to problems that don't exist. But that's the reason there's no Legislator on this Committee. This should be a community discussion as to how our police departments interact with the community and with our criminal justice system. So, we have representation there from those groups, as well as various groups from around the county: religious groups, business groups, not-for-profits. I would encourage you to go back to any of your communities and let people know that you're a part of this. Let them come to you with suggestions. Bring them here. This is going to be a pretty lively and good discussion I think, as far as what our policing is going to look like in Greene County. You'll also see some members from various Town and Village Police Departments. They're going to be partners with this group, because they also have to go through the same type of thing and the hope is some cohesive policies that kind of work across the Board, so nobody's kind of tugging at each other's policies, depending on who shows up on a call. So, with that I'm going to turn this over to Shaun. I am not going to stay tonight. I want you guys to dig into this and hopefully we have some good outcomes and a good list of things to bring to the Board. We are going to be the ones that have to ratify anything at the end. So that's why I didn't want to kind of put that into the mix here, but thank you so much for volunteering to do this for us. It is much appreciated. Thank you."

Mr. Groden stated: "Thanks Pat. And then secondly, Greg Davis, our Greenville Legislator (who was sitting in the back of the room), Greg do you have any opening comments?" Legislator Davis replied: "Nope. I'm just here to observe." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay. Alright. Thank you everybody. As you see, we cut a few trees but I guess the first thing that I would say to you:

consider this entire document in pencil. You know, we put this together thinking what would you seek? If I got it wrong, tell me I got it wrong. We'll tear it out and we'll give you new pages of what you want but I, I thought the best thing would be to give you some base information and from that we can do questions or we can do brainstorming, etc. So again, this is all pencil. All subject to change. You just, you're the boss. As Pat said, the Legislature is absolutely going to take a hands-off approach to this and let the community, via you or via public comments, make some contributions. So with that, I don't know if everybody knows each other, so I'm going to go around the room and I'm going to start with Angelo and we'll come across and then go back, and introduce yourself and your affiliation."

Angelo Scaturro stated: "I'm Angelo Scaturro and I'm the Greene County Public Defender."

Rita Taylor stated: "I'm Rita Taylor and I'm a resident of Cat, of the Hop-O-Nose."

Joe Stanzone stated: "I'm Joe Stanzone, the Greene County District Attorney."

Rabbi Zoe B. Zak stated: "I'm Zoe B. Zak. I'm the Rabbi at Temple of Israel of Catskill."

Pastor Turpin stated: "The Reverend Doctor Richard B. Turpin, Pastor of the Second Missionary Baptist Church and Area 4 Vice-President of Empire Missionary Baptists"

Gary Slutzky stated: "I'm Gary Slutzky. I guess I represent the mountaintop. I'm from Hunter."

Jeff Friedman stated: "I'm Jeff Friedman. I'm the President of the Greene County Chamber of Commerce."

Ms. Oldakowski stated: "I'm Kate Oldakowski. I'm the Director of the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team which is operated through the Mental Health Association of Columbia and Greene Counties. They like when I say that. And also, my family has a business in Greene County."

Mr. Groden then stated: "Okay, then on page 2 here, if I have your name wrong, spelling wrong, affiliation wrong, anything you want me to change for further documentation, please just let me know and then we'll make the changes. I'm going to go through some things here somewhat quickly. Again, this is just, my thought here today was this is just organization. How are we going to do this? When are we going to do this? So that then thereafter I can plan for you, get the information, I'm sorry, my bad. I just happened to look over there, Sheriff, please." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "It's okay, we're in the corner." (laughter). Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "Pete Kusminsky, Greene County Sheriff."

Adam Brainard then stated: "Adam Brainard, Undersheriff." Mr. Groden then stated: "And also in the back, Warren Hart, Deputy Administrator and Director of Economic Development. My apologies to the three of you." Ms. Oldakowski asked: "And who's taking our minutes?" Mr. Groden replied: "And Linda Dunn, in front of door number 3. (laughter) Yes, she is going to be our scribe at all these sessions. And you'll get minutes afterwards and the minutes will become part of your documents here and your booklet as well. Warren as well is our social media guru, so we will have on our county website an icon right on the front page, so Warren I'll give you a platform to talk about what you're planning on doing there." Mr. Hart replied: "Sure. We've built a landing page on the Greene County website already. We're waiting to see what the outcome of some of the decisions are tonight about the frequency of the meetings and what information will be put on the website. So we'll be live with that and then we have a bunch of social e-mail marketing tools available to us, so as the Committee meets and as it's important to communicate out to the public topics that are discussed and comments and issues that are raised, we have the ability to send out e-mails to thousands of residents and businesses in Greene County. We have quite a few followers on our

social media channel. It's an excellent platform to get the word out about county government actions. So we'll be supporting the work of the committee through those vehicles." Mr. Groden stated: "Okay, any questions on that?" (

There were none). He continued: "Alright, so again, this pencil outline, I think probably the biggest question mark that I have is, excuse me, the Board using the Governor's outline, that's in your tab here, on page 110, kind of gives an outline of who should become a member of this, but certainly if you watch this issue statewide or nationwide, I open the door to you is: do you want to expand the membership? You know, we have extra chairs here and venue, for future meetings, will certainly become a topic. I don't want it to look like we're trying to 'cook the books'. Membership can be kept here. It can be expanded. Community involvement and community comments can be made either on social media or we are required to have at least two public hearings. We could have ten if we want to and feedback can be discerned there. Again, from an organizational structure standpoint, I just wanted to have some kind of a kickoff. If there's other people who you know in the community that you'd say 'hey, you know what? Sara Jones from XYZ would be a good candidate to come on.' I'm all for it, as I often say to kids, I do a lot of merit ceremonies, the first rule is: you make the rules and we'll follow from there. And so I just leave that open to you tonight. We can discuss it again. My office is getting onesie, twosie calls about when is this Committee meeting and when is the public forum going to be, so I definitely need to communicate that information out. I don't want to be accused of having this as a closed book and no comments. I want to open it up as much as you feel comfortable with. And I'm on tab #3 here, which is just the basic outline of the Governor's guidelines and what he's asking to be accomplished. In terms of meeting schedules, again, I just threw darts here on nights. I will meet at ten o'clock in the morning. I'll meet on Saturday. I'm just trying to be as flexible as we possibly can be because you are so different in the community and will have different schedules that how to pick the best ones so we have the best attendance that we can have. Again, that's our thought process to you but again take out your pencil eraser and we'll pick some different dates. And also venues. You know, Mr. Slutzky mentioned he's a mountaintop guy. I don't think he wants to come down to Catskill seven times. We can go to Cairo, we can go to wherever." Mr. Slutzky replied: "I don't mind it. It's not a problem." Mr. Groden continued: "Okay, well, other members of the community who may want to participate may not want to come down to Catskill all the time, so we have other venue opportunities: schools, the Cairo 911 Center has a large room that could accommodate us. But again, I want to open that up to you. Number 5 here really comes down to again, how do you want to proceed? You make the rules. We have the website. We can certainly do press releases. How many is enough? What is sufficient? And how do we make this, how could we not set ourselves up so that anybody can point a finger and say 'oh, it was all bologna all along'. You, at the end of this exercise, you will be tasked to give the Legislature a report, or a finding or a sum document, that could be for recommendations for change. You name it, but there is a schedule here that we need to keep and again, the things that you're going through tonight are probably are only a scratching of the surface of things that you're going to need to read and understand, so that's why that schedule that I said, today's the last day of the month, so you've got October, November, December and January. Then my Legislative cycle, your document would probably need to be a draft in January, February to the Legislature for adoption and acceptance, etc. and then we are required to submit it to the Governor's office no later than April 1st. So if we need to meet more than this schedule then that's what we've got

to decide, to meet more often because, as I say, there's a ton of things that I think you should go through, let alone what you want to go through. So I just thought, two meetings in October, two in November, two in December, someplace in there public hearings, or those public hearings could become your meetings as well and then during this time if we're taking the notes as to questions, do those questions then become questions that we put to the Sheriff as to can you do this change in operations. Then he's going to respond from his standpoint. But I do want us to understand that I'm going to help you craft a document that's going to be submitted to the Legislature. And it's on my head, if I don't submit by April 1st, the Governor's going to start keeping money from us and that's the last thing my budget needs to do is have any shortfall on revenue with aide coming to the County budget. So, this is going to, this is a lift, this is a heavy lift and that's why Pat comments and why he wanted to address you tonight."

Mr. Groden continued: "So flip the page. We've already discussed some of these things. On top of page 3, the Board giving you great latitude, hands-off approach. You will have legislators in and out of these sessions. They want to give you latitude, but they're not going to be invisible. So these two gentlemen are here tonight, but there's fourteen in total and depending upon where we are, maybe if you're in their town, maybe they'll show up for that meeting that Monday night or that Saturday morning, wherever it may be. Then we're going to need to, again, how are we going to communicate any progress? You know, it's easy to say 'okay the minutes are going to be on our website' and we can send a press release to the media, but how do you think it best to communicate whatever material we're reviewing, suggestions you're having, questions you need answered by whatever agency. And then the, again, the product. 'B' on page 3 references really your first tab and that's what we sent to you electronically and that was the 133 page Governor outline, which I, it's, again, it's 133 pages, so it takes a lot of reading, and then after that there's also the Greene County Code of Ethics. Anytime you are appointed to a committee or a commission by the Board, we ask you to embrace the Code of Ethics as well. Then, I'd better stop we have an attendee (coming in to the meeting). Dr. Cook, you're up here, front and center. This is Dr. Ronel Cook. He is Superintendent of the Catskill School District." Dr. Cook apologized for arriving a little late, explaining that the school had a board meeting. Mr. Groden replied: "I'm sorry. I didn't know that. That's one of the things we just talked about was meeting schedules and what's best for you and what's best for us. Everything you're about to receive here, consider it in pencil. It all can change. It can all be amended and revised. We are on page 3 of the front page of the first tab. I'll go down to Item #4. Again, schedule and what do you wish to review. So I'm going to give you a lot of data tonight. Again, we tried to prep for this. You know, we read this Guideline backwards and forwards so there's a lot of data that we can try to get into tonight, or keep this meeting just for organization and structure only, but I'd like to get into some detail for you tonight. And then what do you and your membership to whatever affiliation, what are you seeking to accomplish here? The more you can define that for us, the more I can get you data or get you the person here who may need to speak to us about whatever your issue is. It could be the other police agencies. Whomever it could be, it could be Probation, who do you want? That's why on the bottom of page 2 I've listed some of the other county agencies, some of my Department Heads who you may want to speak to. It could be Mental Health, much of this document references how we deal with people in the community who are suffering from a mental health issue. Social Services as well and the 911 Center. I was interested, when I read in here they have portions of the Governor's outline focusing on 911 Centers, which

I thought was interesting so I've included some information in here for you about 911 Centers because ultimately when there's a cry for help or a need of service, typically that's the number that gets called first. And perhaps it would be best for us to understand what are their doctrines? How do they take that call? What is there automated system to handle that activity because and I use to run a dispatch center, you know, dispatchers don't debate things. They're not clinical people. If there's a call for service, they're making a decision to send somebody to an address. And so when I was, I was distressed a little bit that there was a suggestion that 911 operators should become more clinical and make more diagnosis and I can tell you, they can't handle that. They're not clinical people. They're not mental health specialists. What they need to discern is who to send, and send it, without delay. Alright, next page, I'm on page 4 now. Top of page 4 is your third tab here and I want you to turn it over, there's a map. If you could turn that over and this is, and I don't mean to be insulting but I want to give you some baseline data here. You see the color back here, this is what I'm referring to right here (he showed a copy of the colored map). So, Greene County is covered by multiple law enforcement jurisdictions. Over the top, let's say, is the State Police, who, oddly enough, are not required to go through this exercise and yet they probably handle, I think 30, 40 per cent of calls in the county and yet the Governor excluded them from this effort. Then come down, it's the Greene County Sheriff's Department with obviously the green shade, are those townships that do not have their own law enforcement agency. Then the few colored towns are towns that have some semblance of a "police department" and I want to put that in quotes. The Police Department is going to be different from the Sheriff's Department and I'm going to get into that difference in a moment. But some of those departments are full time, some of them are quasi part-time and when they're part-time, then that 911 Center knows 'okay, they're off, that 911 call is going to go to the Sheriff's Department even though there is a bonafide Police Agency in that jurisdiction. So that was the whole attempt here, as you see, this tab has one page. And on "B" on that item, the difference, and this is a layman's term difference, maybe attorneys of the world will give you more detail but the Office of the Sheriff is a constitutional office of the State Constitution. A Police Department is a creation of a local Board. A township or a village can create their own police department if they feel they want extra patrols or extra effort to be kept tight. And they can be created or disbanded by the will of that Legislative Board. The Sheriff however is a State Constitutional Office. You've got to change the State Constitution to change anything that falls, I won't say anything, but falls under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff. Again, my only purpose here is to just to give you some differentiation between law enforcement types." Mr. Hart commented: "And the Village dispatches too." Mr. Groden replied: "I'll get to that yep, I got that too. Sorry here, I lost my part. 'C' becomes Tab 4, I probably should have marked those for you and that's just the traditional Table of Organization of the Sheriff's Department, you know, broken down for you by division, you know, deputies versus the jail, it shows you from the Sheriff down. Again, it's just the classic T.O. There are in round numbers, Sheriff help me, 27 sworn uniformed personnel in..." Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "32 total". Mr. Groden stated: "32. 32 total." Sheriff Kusminsky added: "Full time." Mr. Groden continued: "Deputized Sheriff's, including you down?" The Sheriff replied: "Correct." Mr. Groden continued: "As comparison, the State Police, last time I knew has forty some troopers?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Forty-one plus the Sergeants in the County." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay. And then your police departments are going to be you know, all across the board. They might have part-time personnel. We don't have part-time

personnel. And that is not meant as a criticism whatsoever. Behind the Table of Organization is just some background information, as you noted there, under the second column at the bottom box is the School Resource Officer. That is one of our few designations or units, assignments under the Sheriff's Department. And it is something that is relatively new to our community anyway. I think we now have five individual school districts. We are covered by, in some manner, ten I believe districts, but six that are fully within the confines of the 640 square miles that represent Greene County. Some of those fringe districts, you know, Plattsburgh gets into Gilboa. Ravena is obviously in Albany County but those school districts cross county borders, so I believe there's actually ten total school districts, some of them being a fraction of county kids. "E" is the next Tab, or the Tab 5. This is probably the Tab that we might spend the most time on at some point. These are the basically the Operational Procedures of the Sheriff's Department and I'm delineating Sheriff's Department from the Jail. Two different entities. The, as you know, Sheriff Kusminsky is new to the office. He's just been here nine months and one of the things that he ran on was to take this Department through what's called an Accreditation Program. That's a national accreditation. So, a lot of these I should say probably all of these now, have been reviewed and either accepted as is, this practice is okay, or they've been amended or there are probably new things in here as well. Tonight I'm not thinking we're going to get into the weeds this deep tonight, as I want to get into more organizational stuff, but you have it. And I think again, with this story statewide or nationwide, I think much of much of our focus perhaps will be as 'how does the Sheriff's Department operate? What's their M.O.? What's the procedure? How do they do X versus how do they do Y'. You can just imagine it, that there's a million scenarios of what can go on. Under the next page is the next Tab and that's an outline of Training Programs that all uniformed personnel go through and we operate here typically and Sheriff or Undersheriff, you can jump in, we have a system by which we train the trainer, so we send somebody to be trained and to be certified in some process and then they come back and do the training for our Department. Is that across the board or is that a general statement?" Both Sheriff Kusminsky and Undersheriff Brainard explained that this applies for most trainings, but there are some trainings that the individuals have to attend in person, so they have to each be sent. Mr. Groden replied: "Okay. Then staying in that Tab but in 'G', and Sheriff if you want to just talk a minute about what does it mean to be accredited?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Accredited basically is best practices. It's a standard set by DCJS, which is the State Division of Criminal Justice Services and pretty much set by and run by the Governor who has set these guidelines so if we are theoretically accredited, then we would be meeting or exceeding all of the State Standards, to make it as simple as possible." Mr. Groden stated: "Okay. Is it typically a long process to go through?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "It's usually between two and three years to get it done, but we're on a fast track and we will be submitting our final application Friday." Mr. Groden asked: "Okay. And that accreditation is for the Sheriff's Department." Sheriff Kusminsky explained: "That's right. There's four different accreditations that we are involved with. The one regarding the road patrol is the one we are talking about." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay. And then in the future, the accreditation for the County Jail, the County Dispatch Operations and?" Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "Civil Operations." Mr. Groden replied: "Civil Operations, okay. Landlord disputes and that type of thing. Alright, so that's and then that takes care of Tab 6, then Tabs 7 and 8 and make this as your insomnia section, this is just pure data statistics. And we can get into, again, we can get into all of these stats and how we collect stats

and how we don't collect stats as a matter of fact. But, you know, in government you know there's always data. The old adage is 'In God We Trust, all others send data.' Question?" Ms. Oldakowski asked: "Can I ask a question? So the Sheriff's Office has a training guy. Are the local law enforcement under the same trainings, like do they get the same training or is it separate?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "It's available to them. Whether they choose to opt in or not, that's their call. The only other accredited agencies in Greene County are the State Police and the Village of Catskill Police. Everybody else is not accredited." Mr. Oldakowski then asked: "Is there like mandatory training before you're accredited?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Yes." Ms. Oldakowski asked: "And are they, they have to do the same trainings that the Sheriff's Office does?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "To the minimum to get accredited, but you can always do more." Mr. Groden asked: "Did everybody hear that question? There's a contrast between the Sheriff's agency and then the independent town and village departments. They are going through this same exercise on their geography. You know, Athens is doing their Police Reform and Reinvention Act, Windham's doing it, Coxsackie will do it. They all have to go through this same process. They may end up coming here, either because we request them to come here to talk about things that may be happening in their sphere of geography, or they may want to try to piggyback with us to try to accomplish some of their own goals and objectives, but each of the agencies would be responsible for submitting their own individual reports to the Governor by April 1st. Okay? Alright, so stats, stats and stats. And then we also included some affordable housing type information. Here again, I'm just, I'm brainstorming as to what do we think we need to evaluate. And I'm going to apologize in advance on that because as I tried to think of what to put up here and as I was reading the 133 page Governor's Guidelines, many of the examples that the Guidelines outlined, and this may be offensive to you, so I'm going to apologize up front, they just seemed to me that they were action items that have occurred in a very urban center. You know, Greene County does not have a chartered city. And our population is fairly low. That doesn't mean we don't have the same problems, but I just kept on saying to myself 'we're not Portland', but maybe we are because you peel the onion back and maybe we are, so I want to be careful with that statement, but, that's why when I thought to myself what information can I give you that either answers questions for you or gives you a question that you want to ask of us. So that's why I put in there something about housing and that goes around the county as well." It was noted that someone had a question and Shaun asked them to go ahead. Pastor Turpin asked: "Well the question is, on the statistics of how many arrests or how many times you report on certain reason, is there any way that you can show us a percentage of where those calls was at?" Mr. Groden replied: "So generally yes, dispatch, because every home has an address, okay? So I could get a report, that could be documented by zip code or by, they probably don't go by census track, but if there was a specific address, absolutely." Sheriff Kusminsky asked Pastor Turpin if he was looking for like a clustered area of calls and Pastor Turpin replied: "Yes, where, okay, on your statistic report it suggests 53 total..." He was then asked what page he is on and he replied: "On your statistics report, it says '...section 5, report arrests, 18 plus. It doesn't have a page number.'" Mr. Groden replied: "Yeah, it doesn't list a page number, I'm sorry." Pastor Turpin asked: "Well, I was looking to see where are those 53? How does those 53 fall in our county? Of the 53, is it 50 calls from this corner and three calls from another corner? That would kind of help to see where the problems were at." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay, I will make that note and see if, and I intend to bring our Dispatch Director here to one of our sessions

so that he can give you some of that direct information or if possible, via computer, he can tap right into the, what's called the 'CAD' or the 'Computer Aided Dispatch System'. Adam or Sheriff, are these reports in FBI statistical format, that we just fill in boxes on an online survey or is this something that we did internally?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "These are UCR reports, right?" Mr. Groden replied: "I'm sorry. A UCR means?" Sheriff Kusminsky explained: "These are Uniform Crime Reports that we submit monthly." Mr. Groden stated: "Okay, so this is, somebody else is asking us to fill a hole, right?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Correct." Mr. Groden stated: "Okay, so we're not specifically, does that UCR have anything specific that we've asked for it to analysis or report out?" Sheriff Kusminsky said no. Mr. Groden replied: "Okay, okay. Is that Suggestion Number One? Maybe we should. One of the things in here that the Governor talked about is 'hot spots'. And do we have hot spots? That's something we need to talk about. I'm not going to answer that question for you but it does, and I think that's also, as I've said before, an issue that's nationwide, is there, are urban centers more prone because there's just more people per square foot versus, we're a rural community. There's only 47,000 people. Does that 47,000 include the two State prisons?" Mr. Hart replied: "Yes, the prisoners have to be subtracted out." Mr. Groden replied: "Yeah, so that's about 4,000 people so we're, our census data is kind of skewed by the fact that we have 4,000 people in two facilities up in Coxsackie at the State institutions. So we're a rural town. What I'm looking for is the relativity here. How can we discern this information to be any kind of useful data for us to make a projection, a recommendation, a change in policy, a creation of a policy. So, I just printed what I have. If we want something different, tell me what we want and I'll try to print it, if possible. Alright? Alright. Then after 7 and 8, so the 9th tab gives you, it's listed as "Closest Car Doctrine" and again you open that up and you see the same map that you had before. So I want you to re-think now for a moment. The purpose of that map originally was to show you or delineate for you town police departments, Sheriff's Department, NYS Police over the top. Now, let's go to the 911 caller. There are three dispatch centers or what we call "PSAPs" – Public Service Answering Points being the acronym, and that's how your call is answered. So right now, when I use this (holding up his cell phone) I'm going to be picked up by the closest tower. Depending upon where you are in the County, that tower could be in Delaware County, it could be in Ulster County and then the call gets transferred back to the Dispatch Center in Cairo. If we're using a landline, which I don't have around here, that call is computer-programmed to be answered at one of the three PSAP centers. So if you live in the Village of Catskill and you use your landline, your call is going to be answered across the street at the Village Police Department. However, if you're in the Village and you use your cell phone, who knows where it's being picked up. If we pick it up, then we transfer it to the Village PD and then they dispatch their car. It's kind of a, I wouldn't quite call it a convoluted system, but it's how back in the days when we only had landlines that's how the technology was driven so that eventually what they call 'next generation dispatch', right now when you call in my dispatch center says 'receiving a call from 411 Main Street.' In the old days, it didn't quite get that specific, it just knew it came in the Village of Catskill. And hopefully at the end of the technology advancement, not only will it say the call is coming from 411 Main Street, but it will say '4th floor', because how do we dispatch? Some buildings can be pretty big, where are you going? If you don't get a room number or something like that. So I just wanted you to understand how that dispatching system works, then within that, depending upon the geography where the call is to be dispatched from, if somebody is already busy, so if the Athens

Police Department, if their one police officer or two officers are already on calls, our dispatch center will know that and then it goes to the closest car thereafter. So you think you called Athens and you think an Athens police officer is going to come and what do you get? You get a blue New York State Police Officer show up. Because the first two cars were tied, the next closest car, and we have that on our visual screens in front of us, my dispatcher knows State Police are closest, therefore they have the least amount of time to get to the scene. So sometimes things move around and even though you're expecting a certain color car to show up, it may not depending on how busy we are with calls on that same night, and it happens all the time. In addition, the State Police, we dispatch to the State police under that Closest Car Doctrine but the State Police also have their own PSAP Center and we don't really have a lot of those statistics because they're the State Police and we're not. But they're dispatching their own Troopers. It may be, is that primarily on the Thruway, because nobody else runs the Thruway but the Troopers or?" Sheriff Kusminsky explained: "No, each, well they do it with traffic management centers but Greene County is the last one in this troop that's not dispatched out of Troop Headquarters, so they're still doing their own, their own thing." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay, I'm not sure anybody understood that, but I didn't." Sheriff Kusminsky explained: "They want to consolidate dispatching throughout the state, so they're called Traffic Management Centers, where basically each troop headquarters, ten in the State, all the calls get routed through them and they dispatch the entire Troop. This is Troop F, this is the northern most section of Troop F and they still have their own station in-house dispatcher here for Greene County, basically Catskill which covers Greene County." Mr. Groden stated: "Okay. Years ago, when I first started and I'm from Monroe County originally and then I was in Michigan for a number of years, it was very common to have 10, 15 dispatch centers. Everybody had their own dispatch center. As technology got better and costs grew, the mergers began, really began to go. In my mind, there really should only be a single dispatch center in the County with the exclusion of State Police because they operate, but in my career previously, my attempts to get a PSAP closed of a local jurisdiction and I think that is somewhat the case here in the Village, the Village Police Department never closes. They're open 24/7, because that Chief and that Village Board wants someone to be able to go up at 2:00 a.m. and pull that door and not find a "closed" sign "see you at 7:00 o'clock tomorrow morning." So the person who is the overnight shift, is probably also the dispatcher. So they would say because they want that door 24/7, the elimination of the dispatch operation is not going to save us any money because I'm still going to have a body sitting in that office 24/7. So a lot of times it just doesn't make economic sense because yes, you may not be dispatching, but you didn't cut your budget at all. And they want that personal service. Again, a village is typically going to be your more dense areas of population, more buildings, more residences, more businesses, and that philosophy across the street is 'we're going to keep our doorman 24/7'. Okay, again, general background. Okay, so, I think I've been through just about everything here, besides miscellaneous and minutes which are empty and those will be filled up as we go forward, particularly the minutes. So, before we go any farther, I went through that ninety miles an hour. Does anybody have a question? Did I go too fast? Did I confuse you? Or do you feel you have a basic footing on just some of that operational stuff before we go through any farther?" There was no reply. Mr. Groden continued: "Alright. So then really I think the next two biggest things that I want to accomplish is what you want to do with this committee membership and then what do you want to do in terms of meeting frequency and meeting venue. Because you're going to

be a hot ticket in this county, I assure you. Now, this effort is going to be watched. People are going to watch this. So that's why I'm trying to make every effort to give you as much information as you can to make any kind of a recommendation. And I know like you have School Board meetings (speaking to Dr. Cook) and I don't want to, you were late because you came from a school board meeting and you're doing double duty tonight. I have Board meetings on certain nights of the month too that's why if we need to meet on Saturday at 10:00 o'clock then I'm okay with that. I just need some direction from all of you and I know you are all diverse but, so maybe by process of elimination, we've got to go from there. Is there anybody who's got like, is there a bad day for everybody?" Dr. Cook replied that the third Wednesday of the month, he usually has Board meetings. Dr. Cook added: "And then when we're into the budget season, then they become more frequent." Mr. Groden replied: "Well, we'll be done by your budget season." Dr. Cook replied: "Oh, okay. So we're going to be done by January?" Mr. Groden replied: "Well, pretty much. In February our draft report will be out and then..." Dr. Cook replied: "Oh, okay, so." Mr. Groden explained: "Yeah, that calendar, when you weren't here, so let me rehash. My thought is two meetings a month, October, November, December. Then during that time we're drafting something. We're going to review it in January and then it goes to my Board in February for review and then my Board approves it in March in order to be given to the State by April 1. But in there, we also have to have at least two public hearings, totally advertised, totally open and of course with social distancing as best we can, that's why most likely we're going to be in a school auditorium or something with a big venue. And what I'm saying is, in three months, you've got a heavy lift. You have a lot of things that you need to review and understand and ask us questions as to why do we do something this way or why don't we do something this way. I think if there's any litmus test that I think you want to meet is, you want to challenge how we do things. I think that's the genesis of this whole effort as to why we do things a certain way and they may make perfect sense to us and you may not like them but can they be changed, because many things are driven by law and we can't change the laws, but one of our recommendations to the Governor could be 'change the law'. Pastor Turpin stated: "Who would be welcomed to the hearings?" Mr. Groden replied: "The public, a total open, media, news reporters, Grandma, anybody. I mean, I've held this meeting quiet because I wanted to go through an organizational effort first, not because I wanted to keep people closed out. I don't think we want a board membership of 55 people, because you're going to be here for many, many hours. But I don't want to be exclusive either, so where is that mix that we can pass a red face test and say we sought comments and we worked through as much as we can work through with the time frame that we have, because, how many pages is this? And there's a lot of work here and as I said I think this is going to be a visible effort. I think people are going to watch for status reports and who came and who talked." Mr. Hart added: "And ask questions and have comments of their own that will come into the website." Mr. Groden replied: "That's true. You may get people who just telecommute. And I want to be able to address those questions while as thoroughly as we can and again, I'll be honest and I'll be insulting, I also think we're going to get some comments that are just like, you know, why are uniforms blue, type of thing. I don't know." Yes?" Member Rita Taylor stated: "About public housing." Mr. Groden stated: "Public housing, okay." Ms. Taylor continued: "Why doesn't it get the proper funding that some of the public housings need, right? Number one: Hop-O-Nose. Hop-O-Nose ain't funded." Mr. Groden asked: "For police protection?" Ms. Taylor replied: "Not for police protection. For everything." Mr. Groden asked:

"Are you talking facility management?" Ms. Taylor replied: "Yes." Mr. Groden replied: "That's a, Warren help me, that's a federally funded housing project?" Mr. Hart replied: "True, it's highly regulatory, it's regulated. I guess what I would ask is, if there's any funding needs at a public housing project that has a relationship or a nexus with our police review, then there's a potential question. But the budget that the housing operates under, their policies and procedures aren't really the focus of what our committee should be looking at." Ms. Taylor replied: "Okay, but with the police down there, the police is pretty good, when they come down there." Mr. Groden stated: "Okay, so you're the unique case where you're calls for service are answered by the Village of Catskill's police department, unless we're busy and then the closest car doctrine..." Ms. Taylor replied: "Yes, then they send..." Mr. Groden replied: "...sends a different uniform." Ms. Taylor replied: "Yes." Mr. Groden continued: "And that's the same, that's why I also, we listed some of the other housing authorities and jurisdictions throughout the county..." Mr. Hart added: "Because there's a lot of people..." Mr. Groden continued: "Because there's a lot of people that have that need and want and I can't fix the gutters, but if you're not getting the police protection, than that's different." Member Katie Oldakowski asked: "Are you planning on sending out like a community, like survey, to community members?" Mr. Groden replied: "Are you?" (laughter). Mr. Groden continued: "Because you make the rules." Ms. Oldakowski continued: "Because what I would suggest that we should develop a survey that's put online and advertised and then they can kind of, the community doesn't have to come and necessarily speak to us, especially in the time of COVID." Mr. Groden replied: "True." Ms. Oldakowski continued: "Have them do the survey online and it could be anonymous and if they want to be contacted about their results, provide an e-mail or something and then we can see what the community wants without having them like have to come to meetings. I think that would potentially do that." Mr. Groden asked: "Well, would a survey monkey work on our webpage or is that technology-wise? So, I like the idea, it's just the mechanics. Do I have the Daily Mail put something in their Saturday paper and someone can go online and just fill out something. Do they tear it out and send it in? Would a survey work for us? I think you'll get a lot of response." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "Well, the second part is I would love to do a survey of the actual Sheriff's Department Officers and staff and see what they think are, would be positive changes within their own organization. I think that there's a lot of insight. They do this every day. Clearly we're not the professionals when it comes to working in law enforcement." Mr. Groden replied: "Great seqway. Again, preparing for this, we met a few times and what we're also in the middle of is the construction of a new county jail. And I fully expect that at some point someone to ask a question, you know, don't build a county jail without blah, not to be offensive, that ship has sailed, we're going to have a new county jail. But the underlying issue though is, and I'm glad you're here tonight, what percentage of people who are going to be in that county jail has an underlying substance abuse problem and what is the community doing for that action? Because, I'm telling you, 70, 80%, now I'm coming off the cuff here..." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "I just looked at those numbers in the actual town reports and so on top of that I think that an impacted citizen's program needs to be built in as a policy, as well as a formalized OD map..." Mr. Groden asked: "Would you explain that please?" Ms. Oldakowski explained: "You want me to explain the impacted citizen's program?" Mr. Groden replied: "Yep." Ms. Oldakowski hesitated and laughed and so did others and then she replied: "Sure. So..." Mr. Groden interrupted: "First of all, not to be insulting, does everyone know what MCAT is? I just want to be make sure before

we go too far.” One of the members said no. Ms. Oldakowski explained: “So you want me to start with that? So, we are the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team that covers both Greene and Columbia Counties. We do four tiers: we have Prevention, to link people to services; Crisis Intervention; Post-vention, when people are discharged from the hospital and then we do critical and stress management, which is some of those pretty big traumatic events to make sure that the first responders as well as we respond to schools and different places to provide support so that the, it’s basically like a program that reduces the possibility of PTSD further down, helps processing events.” Mr. Groden stated: “If you’re an EMT and you respond to a motor vehicle accident, and you’ve just seen something horrific, you might need some debriefing after that event rather than just going home and open up a can of beer, and so, that’s why I’m glad you’re here tonight for that very explanation.” Pastor Turpin stated: “I have a question.” Mr. Groden replied: “Okay.” Pastor Turpin continued: “I would like to ask Sheriff Pete, I didn’t see on your page of leadership, I didn’t see any Chaplains in there, unless it’s under another title that I didn’t...” Sheriff Kusminsky replied: “You’re correct. We just actually spoke about that last Thursday. That’s certainly something we would gladly take on because anybody that we can use to relate to a particular community, we’re certainly willing to...” Mr. Groden replied: “And we’ve just found our first recommendation.” Sheriff Kusminsky replied: “Yes.” Mr. Groden then asked Ms. Oldakowski to continue and she stated: “What we were noticing in the county is that we were seeing really high spikes in overdoses, both fatal and non-fatal in Greene County. Initially, we had come to the county, we had a meeting with Twin County’s Greener Pathways, Public Health and we said ‘we know these things are happening. How do we help the first responders and take some of that lift off so that there is some kind of follow-up or response to the overdoses and connecting people to services.’ After multiple attempts at an MOU and e-mails back and forth with the way information is shared, realistically the Sheriff’s Department said ‘we can’t give you the information to do the follow-up, but we’re going to create this entire new program to help impacted citizens within Greene County.’ So it really was to give back to the community and respond to a need that we saw overall. We knew at Mobile Crisis that these things were happening. We knew and they really stepped up and said ‘Alright, cool. We’re going to figure it out. And here, this is what we’re going to do’. So now the Greene County Sheriff’s Office, all the overdoses that happen in the county are sent to Investigator Tortorelis who then investigates and for, some of the overdoses are like psychedelics or not true overdoses, so once he figures out what he can respond to, he goes with another officer in person and talks to the individual who sustained the overdose and says ‘hey, we’re here to help you. Can we get you connected to services?’ And then we’ll do follow-up if they don’t make contact, or will refer to, we have a Crisis Case Manager so they refer to us and then we try to get them connected to other services. One of the biggest issues that we came up with the Impacted Citizens’ program is the information that we’re getting from the CAD system. It’s a lot of hunting for Investigator Tortorelis to figure out what’s going on.” Mr. Groden added: “CAD system – Computer Aided Dispatch.” Ms. Oldakowski continued: “Sorry. And then the second part of that that has been a struggle is the numbers that we’re getting into OD Maps so the number of overdoses that they’re getting, so OD Map is a program that came out of Baltimore to track narcotics and overdoses and it started in Baltimore and now its spread nationally. So you can kind of track/trend if everyone’s using it appropriately. You can see where overdoses are happening and kind of the direction that they’re going.” Mr. Groden asked: “You mean physically, like on a map, there’s a flag – 25 Smith Street

just had an overdose?" Ms. Oldakowski replied: "It doesn't get into specifics. It just is the zip code, not the specific address." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay. Alright." Ms. Oldakowski continued: "And so but you can see how many are happening in your county and the State and whoever signed onto this. Initially in Greene County we had tried to do OD Map a couple of times. The issue was, I think, a lot of the buy-in. The State Police are mandated to report into OD Map. They have to report in. There's one centralized report which is through Middletown. I think it's a Sergeant there?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "There's a communication Sergeant that enters them all." Ms. Oldakowski continued: "Yeah and so they have to do it. As far as our local municipality's police..." Mr. Groden stated: "Well, there's police and there's EMTs and then there's fire departments who have EMTS, who all may respond, as most of them are not volunteer, so that ability to document the activity was difficult because a State Policeman is a full-time paid employee. A small township volunteer EMT operation may have 15 people but one person works four hours on Monday and you don't see him again until Sunday, so the ability for data collection is difficult. It's hard enough to get them into the ambulance to respond to a car, let alone come back and fill out a report." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "It's not like a full report. I think it's like six questions?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Six questions, yeah." Ms. Oldakowski continued: "It's not very intense, but it is another layer of things when you're dealing with lots of other things. But it's the only centralized reporting for overdoses that happen anywhere realistically. I don't think there's any other program out there that are tracking any of this information and the Sheriff's office has been great as far as when they get, when they're made aware of an overdose, of entering them. I think Investigator Raul is the one who has been entering them. The issue is, if they don't know about it, they can't enter it. So that's been a huge struggle across the board and especially with the Impacted Citizens' Program, it is making an impact. I think, what did George say, that it's 85% successful so far, the people that they engage with. So this is something that's working. They're in the field and they get referred and we don't have contact with them, they go back out and they say 'hey, you haven't answered. Like how can we, like what are you looking to do here?' And that's actually reengaged people pretty successfully once they go through the program." Pastor Turpin stated: "Well it sounds good. I don't understand all of the vocations yet..." Ms. Oldakowski replied: "Oh, I'm sorry." Pastor Turpin continued: "...but sounds like it is something that will help and help provide some type of service to the people. I like where you send an officer to get some help to someone after they calm down or..." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "We're putting those guys out there in not a patrol vehicle. They're dressed down. They're approaching them like a real person, not as a cop would normally approach them." Pastor Turpin replied: "That sounds good." Mr. Groden stated: "And that's a change." Ms. Oldakowski added: "It's a brand new day." Mr. Groden continued: "This is a new outlook or a new functionality of law enforcement operations and I think, look, I've been doing this for 30 years I mean, I grew up in the City of Rochester. There was drug problems when I was a kid but my ignorance, I don't understand it. I don't understand how..." Ms. Oldakowski replied: "I will teach you the science of addiction." (laughter). Mr. Groden continued: "I'm not saying I don't understand addiction. When I see the underlying problem of substance abuse and the revolving door, so let me segway with that very comment. I did mention the county jail. The old jail, I will freely admit, warehoused people. I think we've all seen the movie Shawshank, when Morgan Freeman gets released and he goes to the door, he's got his suitcase and the door opens and they basically put him out and there was no effort, while he was

incarcerated to address the underlying problems. The new jail is built in a 180 on that. This whole facility is designed to address your issues while we have you with us. Now, many times, we don't have you, we're not a state prison. You're not getting three or four years here. You're getting 90 days. You're getting 60 days, something like that. So the focus now and let's say it's an AA ten step program. We may only have you for two steps. We didn't have you for two steps before, but if we can give you the first two, now the decision is who are we handing you off to for steps three to ten? Okay, we never did that before. We now have a very focused re-entry program. You're close to getting out. Do you have housing? Do you have a job? Do you have a resume? Do you need Vivitrol to be released with so you don't hit the street the first thing and go back to the same corner which got you here in the first place. This is all going to be new to us in this community, because we never addressed the underlying problem. You just got arrested, you got arrested and you got arrested, it's just like you came back a year later. What a judge once told me was it's life on the installment plan – some days in, some days out, but we never addressed the problem. And that's why I think now, if we can do this now, the ultimate question: what does it do to recidivism? Come back in ten years and I guess we'll review that data but at least now there's an understanding that if we don't break the chain, the chain doesn't, it just keeps on going around the wheel again. With that, hang on doc, I'm going to ask Joe and then Angelo to touch base on that, as a District Attorney and as a Defender, how are you addressing these things and are we changing anything from the jurisprudence standpoint?" District Attorney Joseph Stanzone stated: "One of the problems I have over the years, you know, I did defense work for many years and my biggest argument was, people go to the jail and they sat there. They had no treatment. There was no way to get them better so that when they're released, they can move forward with their lives. That we need counseling in those jails. We need counselors, we need treatment in those jails and putting together the plan for the new jail, that's exactly what this Legislative body considered and as I understand there are offices for counselors. The problem is, now that we've finally got into a position where we can help these people and put them on the right path so that we can release them and help make them productive members of society, now we suddenly have what's going to benefit society, this great bail reform to help everybody out. The only problem is if you arrested for some serious drug possession, I can't put you in jail anymore. And a lot of times, jail could be the first step towards your path to getting better, especially if you have those programs in the jail. So if you can get into the jail, we can begin you on treatment. What we've done in the past, when we were able to put people in jail would be 'look, if your family, if your attorney, if somebody can set up a program for you, I'm more than happy to release you from jail, directly into that program so that now you can begin your path of treatment and we'll see where your case goes from here. I think this bail reform is actually taking us a step backwards where the problem is if a person is arrested for as much as a Class B Felony, and that's a substantial amount of narcotics possession, that person cannot be incarcerated, by law. So basically, you give that individual an appearance ticket or you bring them to jail, tell him when his next court date is going to be, and he walks out. And what I've learned in my experience is that if you're not incarcerated for at least a short period of time, you don't have a problem. When I'm sitting in jail, I have a problem, I need help. I'll get help, I'll do whatever I have to do to get help and get out of jail. If you're not in jail, you don't have a problem and so the problem continues. And we're seeing that now, where a person is arrested. A large amount of substance. He's given his court appearance ticket. He doesn't show up for court. He's arrested a second

time. He's given an appearance ticket. Another court date in a different court, so I think we have a bit of a problem with this bail, but I do think it's great that now they modified the bail a little bit so that if a person is re-arrested on a felony, I could go back to the previous felony and make an application to get him into jail because he violated his release or some other basis. But I think having counselors in jail is going to be of a tremendous benefit and if we can get the jail population to utilize these counselors, we're really moving in the right direction." Mr. Groden stated: "Angelo?" Public Defender Angelo Scaturro stated: "Traditionally, jail was supposed to be rehabilitative, but it hasn't been up until this point, it's mostly punitive and while punitive may be appropriate to some extent, we do want to set these people up so that they are on their best footing when they do get back out in society. So I think this is a good thing. I'm very happy that we're taking these steps. We're seeing some of the others jails, that they've been working towards trying to help rehabilitate, give people what they need. Part of the problem is once they get released, it's back to that same, you know, setting of people, places and things and how do we fix that, but I think continuity there is going to be an issue and unfortunately we do see the same people coming back into the system and they get somehow, they fall off, which is expected when it comes to drugs and booze and rehabilitation and I'm hoping that this will help give them a step and Vivitrol is something that is a big help. I know a lot of people don't even know what it's about. I think the more we explain it, the more we get it out to the society..." Mr. Groden stated: "On that thought does everybody know what vivitrol is about and does for an inmate? I want to make sure everybody, I don't want vocabulary to get in our way. Do you want to explain?" Mr. Scaturro asked Ms. Oldakowski to explain and she did: "Basically, Vivitrol is a medication that blocks the opiate receptors in your brain so you could do however many opiates and no matter what, you're not going to be able to overdose. It's an injection that lasts I think about 28 days I think and it's really like a maintenance drug. You have to continue to use it, once you stop using it, you do go through kind of like a body..." Mr. Groden asked: "Like a detox?" Ms. Oldakowski replied: "...it's not like detox, it's just like a nausea I want to say. It's kind of different with everyone, where suboxone is still considered an opiate and that's just to monitor kind of system for drug treatment." Mr. Scaturro stated: "We've seen the effects of vivitrol." Ms. Oldakowski agreed and said: "Vivitrol has been extremely effective." Mr. Scaturro added: "The cravings not there, of course it's only for depressants..." Mr. Groden asked: "Not for psychedelics, stuff like that?" Mr. Scaturro continued: "...not for any of that, but it's a start and we're making some progress. In terms of bail reform, I'm going to leave that alone (laughter) but no I think it's wonderful and I'm looking forward to anything that helps society, you know, it's so pervasive. It doesn't matter, economic status or any, it's everywhere. It's unfortunate, it really is." Mr. Groden stated: "It's generational." Mr. Scaturro agreed: "It is, yeah." Mr. Groden stated: "But let me go back then besides that, some of the underlying problems that law enforcement deals with daily from a substance abuse standpoint, there's also the mental health side of things. Now, we have a full blown mental health staff with the County and I will tell you, we have about fourteen hundred clients. Now, twenty minutes ago I just said we're a very small county, you know, forty thousand people. Now, that client base, the frequency of their visits may go from every other day, once a month, every six months, or something like that and they may be at the end of treatment, or the beginning or we have numerous clinicians and we're also in school districts that in the old days, taking the kid out of school and trucking him out to the Cairo Office Building for a half an hour, forty minute sessions, with the drive time, the kid is out of school two

hours. Now we send people right into the schools themselves, so they can get that twenty minute intensity and not miss home room, and not miss cafeteria or gym or whatever. And it's been very effective. So again, how are we addressing these issues from a recidivism standpoint and how does a law enforcement person handle and many times you know, you know it's Steve, you know it's Sarah. You've dealt with them 3 or 4 or 20 times. How do you then, my ignorant question is, how does then a sheriff's deputy handle that person and I'll just turn it over to you (the Sheriff)?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "On a, strictly on a mental health basis, we all have an initial first responder to help a person in crisis basically. And we have, staff that's trained on all the way up through, I'm a trained crisis negotiator with a negotiator and supervisor team that cover five counties, so. And I was an FBI instructor for this, so I can speak on this quite well. But these guys like you said, the benefit to being in a small community is a lot of our guys deal with these same people in and out where you introduce somebody new to this situation, whether whatever training, as I mentioned before, if you bring somebody in that they're not familiar with. I'll leave the name out, but for example there's a gentleman on the mountain who we have frequent contact with and he's thrown 300 pound police officers down two flights of stairs - if he didn't know them. But if he does know them, he'll jump in the car and he's your best buddy, so we, we know who those people are for the most part. Katie I'm sure knows exactly who I'm talking about. So what we'll do is, we have, you know, we make sure that everybody knows who to send there and who not to send there. So, I guess if you want to put it as more of a small town community policing type thing, when it comes to these people we try to do that as best as we can. If we do come into contact with somebody that we don't know and we're not familiar with, then there are other avenues we can take. We'll usually hold them down, get a negotiator there, crisis negotiator. We'll call MCAT. Sometimes MCAT will call us, you know, because they're not going to approach somebody who's actively in crisis and attempting to injure people, that's not, not what they're there for. So we work in conjunction with them to do that kind of service. We've also requested an advanced de-escalation training from the State Police, which has been approved. I used to teach it, so I know that they can do it. They approved it, just waiting for the secondary approval guy." Mr. Groden stated: "But, not to TF a question for Kate, but what facilities do we have to treat people that have an underlying mental health issue?" Ms. Oldakowski asked: "Do you want me to answer it?" Mr. Groden replied: "Please." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "So we, like an inpatient facility?" Mr. Groden replied: "The floor is yours." Ms. Oldakowski replied: "So just to clarify, we have a 99% diversion rate from police intervention at base so we do respond to people in active crisis, but you're right. If they're violent, we do not go there solo. And we have been assaulted because we didn't know that they were violent. In Greene County, we have Greene County Mental Health and then a variety of private practitioners. I will say probably a third of them accept Medicaid, two-thirds are private practice and private insurance only. The only hospital that we have so, when someone is deemed necessary for a further psychiatric evaluation by police, it's a Mental Hygiene Law, called 'the 941 MHL' and that's where Police have deemed them either suicidal with a plan, an intent or they're a risk to themselves or others, like homicidal and then there's like a third clause which is really not, I would not say that law enforcement likes the third clause because it's really very grey and then if that happens the individual has to go to the closest CPEP which is a 'Crisis Psychiatric Emergency Program', not the CEDO, and that's Columbia Memorial Hospital. When they go to Columbia Memorial Hospital, they have a very brief medical assessment which is basically bloodwork and urine. They met with a doctor and

then they have an evaluation by one of their people. (Talking to the Sheriff): I'm sure that you will speak to CMH's..." Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Usually they're out before we get back across the bridge." Ms. Oldakowski replied: "Yeah, without any knowledge that they're going out. So my suggestion to fix that would be, and I know this information stuff gets a little tricky between agencies, especially if you're not a county agency, but follow-up. If you have MHL in your CAD system, have follow-up with an agency, whether it's Greene County Mental Health, Mobile Crisis, but some way to follow-up with them directly, even if it's with the law enforcement that responded on the scene and knew that this was happening." Mr. Scaturro stated: "This goes hand and hand with limited resources in general in a very poor, you know, rural area. This is part of our issue is that what services do we have that are available. We're trying to step it up, Greener Pathways, now people are trying to get involved." Ms. Oldakowski agreed and stated: "And the bigger thing too for mental health care, there's no transportation, realistically, we have the bus line but that doesn't stop at your house, so people have to walk and it's a stretch. And there's Medicaid transportation but you need three days to schedule your transportation if you have an appointment, so it's very difficult to get transportation if you're in crisis and want to meet with your therapist on an emergent basis." Mr. Groden asked: "Has COVID changed that at all, with telecommuting?" Ms. Oldakowski replied: "I think that has helped but I think a lot of people, there in-person experience is very important to them. A lot of people are isolated in their homes. They don't have a lot of supports already, so, and there's still a very big lack of actual service in Greene County. You know, you don't have cell phone service everywhere, you don't have cable that runs everywhere." Mr. Groden replied: "Broadband is a huge issue for this county." Ms. Oldakowski replied: "Broadband is a huge issue for Greene County so I think that's been both a blessing and a curse, because there's people who probably didn't want to go to therapy, and they were like this is their golden ticket. And now we're seeing them who haven't had therapy since you know June, March, in there even and now they're back in the hospital systems." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "There may be a way to expand that ICP program." Ms. Oldakowski replied: "Oh, yeah?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Possibly. We could talk about that." Mr. Groden stated: "Well, I will you anecdotally because of COVID and zooming and telemedicine, many of our patients who were basically forced to zoom from home, (are saying:) you know, that's not so bad. I haven't got to drive to Cairo or have someone drive me to Cairo. I get my 30 minutes or my 40 minutes with my counselor and it works for them. Other people, particularly adolescents, you know, who many times have the attention span of a gnat, TV work just doesn't work for a counseling session so the interesting diacademy is what is the evolution of mental health going to be, if I can ever say the term 'post-COVID' and how are we going to react to things in the future for those people who have this mental health crisis and what triggers it and how do we handle it, where do we put them? Is the County jail the right placement? Maybe not, but a substance abuse person on the other side, maybe it is. It's just, how do we address the underlying issues. You know, crime and punishment have been examined since Cain killed Abel I guess. What are we doing different? Are we doing anything differently? Is it the same old, same old? Can this Committee make any other kind of suggestion? And that's probably a possible question for you, or maybe not, but I, I guess if there's any goal that I have is, can we do something different? Can we break the mold? Can we change the status quo? Can we try something new? Is there a PILOT project? Go ahead, Rabbi." Rabbi Zak stated: "So, when you ask those questions, what I realized after reading the material you sent us and looking at this and

listening to everyone is, how little I know and how much I need to be educated before I could possibly make a recommendation on what could be improved or what could be better. If you all came to me and said 'we're going to have a Committee on how we can improve what Rabbis do', I would really have to tell you about everything I do and what all the other Rabbis do and you know, and where do we get our, many of you really do know what the Sheriff's Department does and what our police officers do and the State Police officers, and all I can say is I'm really looking forward to being educated and the more materials you can give us and the more, because how could I possibly recommend anything. I so appreciate the Sheriff and Undersheriff being here and my one question is, and everybody being here, my one question is, will we have representation from the Catskill Police Department? Will there be officers..." Mr. Groden replied: "I can call Chief Darling tomorrow and say 'our next meeting is and he'll be here, or any of the other Chiefs. That's why I said earlier, my presumption is maybe one meeting we have all the Chiefs come to the session.'" Ms. Oldakowski stated: "But they're doing their own committees within their own jurisdictions?" Mr. Groden replied: "Yes, correct." Rabbi Zak stated: "As you said, I'm very interested to know what the Sheriff's Department wants, what the police want, what your recommendations are because you're the one with the expertise and the years of service." Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "That's why we're a part of the Committees so we can, you may think we do something one way..." Rabbi Zak stated: "Exactly." Sheriff Kusminsky continued: "...and it may totally be different and we may have a total different perspective..." Rabbi Zak stated: "Yes." Sheriff Kusminsky continued: "...but having that in mind we also want to make sure that we include what's important to you. You know, maybe there's something we're not, you know, we're not all perfect. There's certainly room for improvement anywhere we go. And you go and talk to people every day. I've walked through Hop-O-Nose twice in the past two weeks and certain people are, it's very concerning to me that when a deputy pulls somebody of color over and they're truly scared, that's horrifying to me..." Rabbi Zak replied: "Yes." Sheriff Kusminsky continued: "...that should never, ever happen, so if there's a way that we can fix that, that's what we're here for. We're all in on that, so." Mr. Groden then asked: "Rita, do you have a comment on that?" Ms. Taylor replied: "My problem is that, it's not you all. It's the stigma and people's respect. I'm not from here. I wasn't born and raised here in this town. I came up here 23 years ago from the Bronx. It's a different thing that I saw in this town since I've been here. If you threatened somebody, you got arrested. I understood that but in New York, you never got arrested for that. Cops will tell you, well, if you did it, you didn't do it, they said not to do it, we got to wait for it. So that's what I'd like to know about up here. Now when you say that you're off duty and you talk to people, I feel like that's just ignorance in the people there because you act like you scared when the cops do come through there, but think about the things that you do for them to come there. Do you understand what I'm saying? When y'all walk through there, I be happy to see you all walk through there. When the cops walk through there, I'd be so, yelling, I'll be out my window, being like yeah. They in here, they walking through here to see what's going on. Because Hop-O-Nose, they say that they're trying to clean it up. They are trying to clean it up. Hop-O-Nose is, 23 years of me being there, it used to be a whole lot better than what it is now. We was a community. Being together. Sticking together. Looking after each other's kids. Now, all that is gone. We don't even have that there anymore. So when you say that you walk through there and when Catskill walks through there, first thing they did, here come the police, what did they come down here for? Stop being ignorant.

Stop disrespecting people and you won't have to worry about that. Treat the next person like the human being like they treat you. And if you don't do that, then you're going to go through that. We have the biggest problem down there is with the kids. The kids really can't go outside and play. If she do what he do, you're getting jumped by a family of kids. When the cops are called, that family is there 'oh, yous a cop caller. Why'd you call the cops on the kids?' Because when we come to you with respect to ask you to tell your child to leave my child alone, you don't do nothing about it. If a parent snatched that child up because it's tired of you bullying that child, who's going to get in trouble? That parent because that parent is constantly coming to you, (saying) you doing nothing about it. So if that parent snatch you up in this house, come, what you going to do? You're going to cry to the cops and say 'oh, but she just text me a while.' We'll when they come through here, just to do their daily walk, you show ignorance (saying things like) well, who you down here for, or what you down here for or why you coming in to our turf." Mr. Groden asked: "Does the Village P.D. have a PAL or anything like that?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "No." Ms. Taylor stated: "And it's bad down there. When I tell you it's bad down there, it's bad where we are at. The drugs are something." Mr. Groden asked if there is recreation there and if it is organized and he was told it is not organized. Ms. Taylor replied: "There is a basketball court down there. There is also a playground down there but you really can't because your kids are still, they get bullied. I have two grandkids. I'm a grandmother. I don't look it but I'm a grandmother of six (laughter). I've got six grandkids. Four of them live in Hop-O-Nose. I'm raising two of them as my oldest daughter has her two down there. My two grandkids, I don't even let them play in Hop-o-Nose. I take them up to the school and I let them play in the school grounds and if we have dinner up there or lunch up there, we clean up behind ourselves. I take them down to the Point and let them go play. I take them all the way out to Cairo to go play because if they ride their bicycles they get bullied. My grandson is 8 years old. He's autistic. He doesn't look it. He'll go out there and try to be friends with everybody. But he's tired of being bullied. My granddaughter, who is 9, she's tired of being bullied. They talk to the kids and they're 'hi. How you doing?' No, you look them up and down. You've got 9 year olds cussing up a storm like they grown. You've got 5 and 2 year olds out there cussing up a storm, excuse my French "Yo my n**** what's up? Yo my n****, who's got to do this to you?" Like, where's the village? I was raised by a village. I was raised from Harlem straight on up to the Bronx, but I was born in Brooklyn and I look around down here and say 'wow, like, what happened to the village down here in this little community where we live at of 80 apartments. And you have some small kids and teenagers. You have parents that send their kids outside to play and don't even set out there and watch their kids. I mean, if you want to talk. They don't even set out there and watch their kids and I sit on my porch, when my 8 and my 9 year old, when they ride their bicycles, it's a shame that I have to get off that porch and lock my house door and go walk around just to follow them. Just to watch them and make sure that they're not bullied. And that's a shame down there." Ms. Oldakowski asked: "What do you think the answer is to help that, to help change the culture there?" Mr. Groden asked: "Is there a community center?" He was told that the Catskill Community Center is closed. Mr. Friedman stated: "Yeah, but there's a center at that..." Ms. Taylor stated: "There's a community center down, but that's like for us to have little parties in. Years ago, Tom and Anita, when they were there, they gave to the community there. They did like Halloween parties. They did Christmas parties. They did like, they did things down there for the kids, so it wasn't like, and the parents that was down there,

they did for the kids down there. Everybody down there looked out for each other's kids, but this new generation, that I done seen grow up? Oh Lord, help us. Because when I tell you that they don't have respect and then you bringing up your kids. You're not raising your kids with morals or guidance. When you've got 10 and 12 year olds walking out there in hoochie shorts like they grown, where does that come from? It comes from the parents. If you've got a child down there and that parent, or grandparent is sitting there and letting that child bully another child, where does it come from? It starts at home. If they would all teach at home the proper way, and stop turning a cheek and saying 'nah, that's not my child', no. When I tell you that community down there could be a whole lot better. Even with the police, but the police down there can only do for so much. Because the first thing they're going to say is 'we can't arrest a kid'. I think that's where it should come and scare that kid. If you're going to be a bully, and if you're going to do something to another child, then arrest that child to teach that child because if you don't teach that child that way, the parents' not teaching him. Somebody has to teach him. You go over past a child and say 'hi, how you doing', that child will be coming down like 'what you saying to me for? Like what's your problem?' You can't even tell a child to get off your property down there, for destroying your property down there. What that child is saying, a child curses me out like you grown. You knock on that door with respect and the door gets slammed right in your face. Nothing happens." Mr. Groden asked Mr. Friedman: "Jeff, do you have a comment?" Mr. Friedman stated: "I was just going to say, because I, you know when I was, I met Rita down in the lobby and we rode up the elevator together and she said and she wasn't quite sure what to make of this and I said 'well, bring your best ideas' and her first thing was well, I think people need to have more respect for each other and I said to her, well I think that goes both ways. I think, getting back to Pete's comment earlier that it horrified me that one of my officers might pull over, or one of my deputies might pull over a person of color and there would be fear in their eyes. So I think it's both ways. I think my suggestion, and I know this sometimes can be difficult because it can overwhelm law enforcement personnel, but you know, is there any way that we can institute community relations programs. You know, the stuff where, well Pete making a point, can it be a beat or a requirement that if a deputy is on shift that if they're not on a call and as long as they're within their area that they're covering that, you know, maybe they can do a foot patrol through because I think one of the reasons...." Mr. Groden stated: "You're into jurisdictional things now, because you've got a village police department who is primary law enforcement. We're (Sheriff's dept.) backup." Mr. Friedman stated: "No, I understand, but..." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "We may be able to work something out with the..." Mr. Friedman continued: "But my, I guess my point is 'cause Pete also made mention of something earlier about familiarity, like the gentlemen who's throwing 300 pound guys around unless he knows them. I think some of what you're talking about, and I think some of, you know, I'm like, again, I don't know what's feasible here. But you know I had this conversation which is a little frustrating with me with Dave Darling. When we were operating the community center, hard to believe right? (laughter). But we were operating the community center and we had a couple of issues. I'm on the Board of the Community Center and we had a couple of issues with some kids and I wanted an officer, since he always has officers on Main Street, I wanted an officer to make it a point to come in, or officers, to make it a point to come into the community center between the hours of 3 and 7 when we had our afterschool program and literally go in the gym and talk to the kids and even shoot baskets with the kids while they were in there and I wanted those kids to

know those officers by name. I wanted him, for them to go in there and the way I also pitched it to him was 'look, these kids know everything that's going on, so like to me it's almost pre-emptive law enforcement. If they see somebody who's dealing drugs on the street corner, these kids know it. Like, you know, and if they get familiar with the police, they're going to say to them 'hey, you know, I just saw this'. The other thing is they become, if they're friends with the officer and the officer is pulling them over, they don't have to be friends, if they're just familiar with them, if they've met them, and they happen to get pulled over as they get older, that interaction becomes a whole lot more civil. I don't, you know, I know a lot of the officers around here. When I get pulled over, I'm not like freaking out that I got pulled over. I probably know what I did, but I'm just saying that it's not, there's a different mindset. Now I realize, I don't have the same mindset because I'm not a person of color, but I guess my point is and I don't know if this is something that can be instituted and of course you guys would have to say this is something we could actually pull off, but you know, just taking a stroll down North Street, taking a stroll, you know, through Hop-O-Nose, taking a stroll through any street in any of the towns that we have and I guess this goes for even more towards the youth because as Dr. Cook can tell you, you know, the kids just don't seem to have the same respect that they used to for authority or anything like that and but when they're shown some structure and they're shown something else. I know that I love the SRO program because of that because the SROs get to know the kids. They are more social worker I guess than they are law enforcement when they're in there. They find out who's the kids that have problems at home or maybe there are substance abuse users in the home and it's effecting the child's education or behavior or whatever and I guess this is a long winded way, is there a way to do more community policing and I'm probably using the wrong term. But, you know, is there a way to be more visible and create relationships and that's, I think creating relationship creates a better path for less negative interaction, less animosity. Look, people know when they did something wrong. When they're caught, they're caught, but if they're caught by somebody they're familiar with, I think that interaction becomes different." Ms. Taylor said: "No. No it don't because they still disrespect them." Mr. Friedman replied: "I'm not saying that they won't, but." Mr. Scaturro stated: "There's a lot more, I mean, I don't know about you but if you've got a couple of kids, you're more afraid of going home to tell your father or your mother than the school officials, you know what I mean, they don't get the support, I think that's where a lot of the problem is, until we work together to help raise a good kid." Ms. Taylor replied: "Exactly. That's what the whole thing is is that we have the parents that does nothing. I'm not saying beat your child, but sit your child down and teach your child right from wrong. You have a couple of grandparents down there that are raising their grandkids and some of them grandparents down there who are raising their grandkids are not teaching them the proper way. And that's it, along with the younger parents that are down there too. Down in Hop-O-Nose, I think the average youngest parent down there has to be about 24, 25 years old and probably even a little younger than that and they don't teach their kids a proper way. If you would sit outside or walk around and see what your kid is out there doing, they'd get an idea. When somebody comes and knocks on your door, then you know that parent is not lying to you. And that child will go 'oh, no, but she's lying' and that parent is standing there, while that child is up in that parent's face. Where's the morals and the values? Where's the respect that, all of that training comes from home first. It doesn't come from whether the police have to train another, somebody else's child. No, that training comes from home." Mr. Groden asked: "Dr. Cook, do you see

that at school?" Dr. Cook replied: "Yeah, I mean, for me and I'll tell you something about my experience when I was growing up, the Police Department, we used to have the Police Athletic League, PAL, so the interactions that we had were different because we would see the police in the school system but we also would see them after school with the program they had, whether it was basketball, boxing, you know, trips to play land, different things we used to do so that you had that connect, that connectivity and that helped build that relationship so if I saw Officer Bob in school for most of the day, and then I see him after school, we can have little conversations and it helps build connectivity with the community. As far as the kids are concerned, it is a different generation now, you have kids raising kids. Just like she was saying, you have kids raising kids so that respect level is quite different now so, you know, sometimes you have to teach parents on how to raise their kids. And sometimes those interactions will be the same and sometimes those interaction will turn into negative interactions, so. I don't see a lot of it, particularly in the schools here. When I was a kid in the kitchen for 23 years, I saw it all. I don't see much of that. I see a little more structure here, but yet there needs to be more structure, so I know exactly what Rita is referring to because I've seen it in other places, so. I think that community engagement with the police department, that's just icing on the cake from my experience." Mr. Groden stated: "Well, I think one of the best examples of that is going back to the SRO, and I'll go back to Jeff's comment of 'what is my interaction?' I did something wrong so I'm being pulled over or I'm being, you know, versus the helping hand during the school day, where those people in blue they're not so mean after all. That's of assistance, and PAL, athletic league, structure, routine. If you know Tuesday at four o'clock there's a pickup game or whatever, it gives you something to do, and again, we're going to cross jurisdictions, but go ahead Rita, we moving towards the two hour mark here." Ms. Taylor said: "No, cause I need to leave, okay? Because I have a babysitter so and I have to leave." Ms. Oldakowski asked: "Rita, do you think that Kai Hillmann who does the Youth Clubhouse would be a benefit..." Ms. Taylor replied: "I don't even know, what club house?" Ms. Oldakowski replied: "Catskill has a Youth Clubhouse at the end of Main Street." Ms. Taylor replied: "Okay, I know what you're talking about, but it's only certain age. And it's only for certain kids." Mr. Friedman added: "Yeah, it's teens." Ms. Taylor replied: "It's for teens. When I came here, the Boys Club was for everyone. It was for the smaller group, it was for the older kids, but now that I'm a grandparent of kids, it's like they went there and we never had no problems, like they all hung out together and it was fun back then, but now, when you got all these kids running through Hop-O-Nose but no parents are watching them, they running through the parking lot, almost getting hit by cars, throwing bottles, cussing and carrying on, it's like. With the Boys Club, it was kind of structured. You have some of the programs and they used to do the Christmas programs there. When I tell you those kids were in there and acted like they never had anything. I used to sit back and my grandkids used to sit back and say 'Nana, why are these kids acting like this? Why are these kids doing this?' And my grandkids are not perfect kids. I'm not trying to make them two as two perfect kids because I have problems with (name redacted) in school with his being autistic and with his little temper that he has but I took care of that temper, I took control of that. I did not let him get away with doing the things that he had done in the school system, but my thing to say is that when you have other kids sitting back and watching what these other kids are doing and like pushing you and bullying you, like what can you really do? It's not for them to come down here and say 'hey you kids stop doing that'. It's really more for the kids, you've got kids raising kids. If that parent

who sees their child doing something wrong with their child, then tell them. Sit that person down and explain to them, tell them 'honey, I'm not trying to control your life, but I want you to learn how to raise your child. That's not the proper way to raise your child.'" Mr. Groden then said: "Okay, Rita, you've got a plane to catch." Ms. Taylor replied: "Yeah, I've got to go." Mr. Groden stated: "Give me two days. We didn't do a schedule yet. Is Monday better than Tuesday?" Ms. Taylor replied: "It don't matter." Mr. Groden then asked: "Evening or days?" Ms. Taylor replied: "Evening or days. We can't do it while they in school, so I have a good babysitter, but it's just a certain time I get them in bed for school, so they can get up and do their virtual learning. Thank you." Many people said thank you to Ms. Taylor. Mr. Groden stated that he would get back to her in a few days. Ms. Taylor stated that she was glad that she got to meet everyone here tonight and wished everyone a good night. Mr. Groden stated: "We are approaching the two hour mark here, so I don't know if there's another topic you want to get into. Do you want to get deeper into the weeds on the policies and procedures? Do you want to jump into a hot topic, I'll pick one: Use of force. Do you want to get into that and explain how we'd react to those situations of use of force? The question is when was the last time you had a fire arm incident?" Undersheriff Brainard asked: "Besides shooting deer?" (laughter) Mr. Groden replied: "Besides shooting deer. Never?" Undersheriff Brainard replied: "Never a discharge at a person." Mr. Groden then asked: "Okay, use of force?" Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "The last time anybody was shot by the police period in Greene County was like '83 or '84. We had a policeman accidentally shoot himself." Mr. Groden replied: "I'm not sure that counts." (laughter). Come on everybody what do you want to get into?" Rabbi Zak stated: "I have a question." Mr. Groden replied: "Shoot." Rabbi Zak stated: "I'm really interested to know how the Sheriff's department and how the police department, how you interact?" Sheriff Kusminsky asked: "Are we, are we talking specifically about Catskill?" Rabbi Zak replied: "Yes." Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Catskill is extremely well now because Davie was, I don't think this is politically correct, but he was like a father to me, Davie. He was my Supervisor for several years and I get along very well with him, so anything he needs we would definitely help him out with. And very interesting I don't know what impact it may have but I will certainly offer Davie when we bring him in here, or invite him in here." Mr. Groden stated: "Right, he's going through the same. He might hear that same dialogue." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "I believe she's actually on his committee as well, I think. So, he's not going to hear the same dialogue, but if it's a manpower issue, you know where, maybe on a Saturday afternoon or something, where he'd like a deputy to go with one of his guys down there, maybe we could just assign somebody that's familiar with the area, that knows them and could get that familiarity, like Dr. Cook talked about. That might, it certainly wouldn't hurt. I've got no problem with something like that." Mr. Friedman stated: "Yeah, the only reason that I was saying do it is, is that, for the most part, especially for the people in color communities, their only interactions with anybody in uniform is a negative interaction. And I always felt this with the kids, if we could create positive interactions with the teenagers, with the kids, where they don't view the police as their enemy, and enemy is probably not the right word, but their antagonist or whatever, they're viewing it as somebody they're familiar with and they have positive interactions with them, so then with the negative interaction, if it happens to take place, it's on a different plane." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "And that why, like Shaun was saying about the SROs, I think SROs, one in particular goes way out, I mean the guy buys them all cokes, in the winter he takes them all shopping, he

visits the houses. You know, that guy gets a lot of information from these kids and they trust him, and that's back to your point." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "I was going to say, Catskill has an SRO program. It's Catskill PD, right?" Dr. Cook stated: "We have retired officers who are still familiar with the kids and we contract out too, but these officers, you know, they grew up in Catskill, they graduated from Catskill High School, they coached the kids after school and also on Saturdays, so." Sheriff Kusminsky added: "And they're retired police officers." Dr. Cook explained: "They're retired state troopers." Ms. Oldakowski asked: "But they don't like wear a uniform?" Dr. Cook replied: "Well, they were a polo that says "Catskill Security" and you know they have their weapons on them, but these are people quite familiar with the kids in the community." Sheriff Kusminsky added: "And they communicate with us, so we do have that interaction with them as well. Every school district does." Mr. Friedman stated: "I think SRO programs are exceptional. I think they're, it's a good bridge to creating that relationship." Undersheriff Brainard: "I remember when we initially started the program, there was a little bit of apprehension from the public about putting the police in the schools because they say 'oh, you know, it's a pathway to jail' or you know, things that wouldn't normally be seen are now going to be enforced with the rest, right. And that's not what the intention of the SRO program is. What we've seen is the kids have really kind of attached themselves to these officers and in a couple of instances they actually trust the officers to tell them things more than their own teachers, so it has been a pretty good program. We had the opportunity to review a document the other day that kind of horrified me a little bit. The NYS ACLU might have sent it to you Dr. Cook, they sent it to the superintendents of the schools, calling for the abolishment of SROs because of the pathway to jail theory and all of that stuff and the schools to prison. That is such a skewed view on it and all we have seen is positives in our, the police in our community anyway, I can't speak for anyone else." Mr. Friedman stated: "For me, amongst the other Boards I sit on, I'm also on the Greene County Rural Health Network Board and we've been you know working with school districts to help put mental health counselors through Twin Counties into some of the school districts and the appalling part is how many cases those guys are taking on and how much mental health work they're doing in these districts, which is shocking to me because it's not something that you would assume is going on. It's not always the kid who's got the problem, they may be dealing with a problem or dealing with a problem where there's a problem with the parent in their household or something like that, but it's, that's why I always use the SRO program in a very positive light because of what you said, there's a relationship that's been there, and like I said before, they're almost doing more social work than they are anything else. And for me, it's always about, I think we solved some of these policing issues that people have when familiarity is gained. And that to me, when the first thought of a person who's interacting with police and it might be in a call it a 'highly emotional environment' at that moment, when there's some familiarity that the police is not necessarily my enemy, that changes the dialogue. It changes the outcome, you know, as long as there aren't mental health issues or something else going on." Undersheriff Brainard stated: "I don't think I'm jumping to a conclusion but if you look at, if you go back to, and the State Police had this program for quite a while in Greene County when I first became a deputy, they had the SRO programs and they had SROs in the school and then for budget reasons they were taken away." Sheriff Kusminsky added: "And DARE". Undersheriff Brainard replied: "Right, and DARE. There were programs where the police were in the schools that were reduced because of budget. I think in a way you can kind of see where that shift might of happened in terms of

when the officer was taken out of the community environment, I think the trust was eroded there and it kind of came to a head and now we're kind of going back that way with a more positive, bringing it back, so." Mr. Groden stated: "Alright, we're approaching the two hour mark here, I don't want to kill you the first night, so I guess I'd like to focus in on rescheduling or picking the next night and then with the next night or day, Saturday, it's up to you, you make the rules, what you want us to get into next, so that when you get your, I know we're productive and we're moving and you've got questions and I have answers or they have answers. What we have right, and this was my throw a dart to the wall, is in the month of October the 14th and the 28th, I don't know if that works for anybody. Dr. Cook, I'll go to you first and your schedule. And I think this is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays I believe." Dr. Cook stated: "I'm fine." Mr. Groden continued: "Everybody's shaking their head on that. That was the easy one. And now is that the 14th and the 28th, can I be bold? (many said yes.) Okay, now I just need topics. What information do you want? Do you want, one of those meetings, do you want me to see if I can get the town police divisions here? Do you want to read the policies or just focus one meeting on Sheriff's operational policies will be our Agenda?" Rabbi Zak replied: "I think that's a great idea. What I really want to understand myself is the job. Like, not just operations, but as much as we can learn about the job before we could make any recommendations." Sheriff Kusminsky offered to do something. Mr. Groden replied "Okay. So we could do a 'day in the life' of a deputy kind of thing. Ride alongs? (laughter)." Pastor Turpin stated: "This Committee is to find the problems of the concerns of the public and then make recommendations to our law enforcement that will kind of point at what they are complaining about. So I see when I looked at the statistics, 53 arrests, I guess it's 53 arrests, but with substance abuse, substance, what would be the complaint of those who was arrested for substance abuse. I mean, are they saying that, or I mean do they say that, you know, they're being abused or they're being you know thrown down because they were caught with drug or..." Mr. Groden replied: "And one of the thoughts in the Guidelines was to bring an arrestee in to the Committee. Now, I have access to a Probation Department that people, you know, have to report to a Probation Officer because it's part of their sentence or because of their adjudication. Whether or not I can get them to volunteer and say, you know, 'I got stabbed in the back' or 'they were impolite'. I'll invite anybody." Pastor Turpin stated: "We don't know where the complaints are. How are we going to..." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "We can give you a summary of the complaints that we've received okay, without names, but I don't think we had that many..." Pastor Turpin stated: "Because there were 53 and the next one was 28 I think and that was for driving intoxication." Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "I think we only had 9 use of force complaints in three years." Pastor Turpin replied: "Well I guess that's where we have to, I would like to start, at least hearing what the complaints are, so that we get a, we're not just shocked, it comes out everywhere, that we are at least pointing at an area where people are complaining, because if we have to sit at a Board in a hearing in front of the people, they're not going to be talking about things that never happened. They're going to be talking about the things that people complained about. Or at least the majority of the people." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "As long as we're keeping it to things that have happened in Greene County. I think, you know, the problem is going to be we'll have somebody come in and say 'I was abused when I got arrested for whatever in Brooklyn. You know, we can't address problems..." Pastor Turpin replied: "Exactly." Mr. Groden stated: "I certainly so, if I could, I will try, let's see, if I reach out to the police departments and to our own Sheriff and say 'give me the top 5, give me 5 incidences, you

know, I can get you the police report. Obviously, we're going to redact names, but..." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "I don't think we need the full reports, just the complaint section." Pastor Turpin stated: "Just what was the complaint, I mean, if we're a complaint committee, if we don't know a complaint, we're just sitting around the board, talking about other stuff." Mr. Groden asked: "A complaint made against the arresting officer?" There were several members speaking at once. Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "Just to clarify on that, we had 9 use of force incidents. Zero complaints." Ms. Oldakowski stated to Pastor Turpin: "But I think you mean the arrests. What were the 53 arrests?" Pastor Turpin stated: "Right, when I look at it and that was the most popular..." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "He's looking at complaints and why do we have 53 arrests for drug use." Pastor Turpin continued: "...so was there any complaints from that 53?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "No." Pastor Turpin stated: "No? And if there was, let's hear what the complaints are." Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "There were none. That's what I've been trying to address." Mr. Friedman stated: "They have literally none." Mr. Slutzky asked: "What time frame are we talking here? One year?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "We are talking the last three." Mr. Slutzky said: "Three years." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "Well I'm sure we can go back ten years maybe and find something." Mr. Friedman stated: "My concern is, my only, my concern is and I think having representatives from some of the other PDs would be really valuable here, because my concern is, and I talked to Pete about this this past weekend, when you talk about people complaining about use of force in the county or of the negative interactions, it doesn't usually involve, it almost never obviously involves the Sheriff's office. It rarely even involves some of the local PDs. It most of the time involves the State Police." Ms. Oldakowski replied: "Yep." Mr. Friedman continued: "And we have no, this Committee will have no bearing on that but I think we at least need to hear what the local PDs are thinking and saying and what they're doing and they need to hear what we're doing. I think that there's a, it becomes a disconnect when you have nine organizations and I'm just spit balling because I didn't count how many local PDs there are, but you know when you have nine different local organizations going with nine different plans to mitigate what may be a non-issue, but..." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "What we do every month is have a Chiefs of Police meeting. I could actually schedule that for it to coincide with this if you want, to have them all here." Mr. Groden added: "That to me would be better than hit or miss, to have them all at the same meeting, but..." Mr. Friedman stated: "But the other thing I was going to mention, because we have public hearings scheduled, and I'm not sure what the point of the public hearings, whether it's for us to report to them, or us to hear from them?" Mr. Groden replied: "No, John Q. Citizen talks." Mr. Friedman replied: "Okay, so I guess that to Dr. Turpin's point, maybe we should be doing one of those earlier than when they're scheduled right now because it's hard to address the citizens' concerns if we haven't heard from them." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "I think that's the benefit of the survey too, so that they're not necessarily having to come in person if there's a health concern. I think doing an early public hearing while also offering a survey that we could address as well." Mr. Groden replied: "I could make the 14th or the 28th and I think I know somebody who I could borrow a high school auditorium from (Dr. Cook) laughter. Warren?" Mr. Hart stated: "A question for Pete. I don't have it right in front of me. Isn't the purpose of one of the public hearings, that when the report comes out of this committee, it then becomes public so the public can see what the decisions of this committee are and they can react to it?" Ms. Oldakowski stated: "So it's a pre and post public hearing." Rabbi Zak stated: "That's what I read in there." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "I'd

have to review that. There was something, something about comments on the final plan, right?" Mr. Hart added: "It doesn't necessarily have to be a public hearing. It can be on-line." Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Correct." Mr. Hart replied: "Okay." Ms. Oldakowski asked: "Can I go back to the question about the officers and what, you guys said that you had talked to officers within and kind of approached them for what they think some of the needs are?" Sheriff Kusminsky replied: "Yeah, we have some of the things that we certainly can do. We talked about recruitment. We don't do a lot of that and we certainly are capable of doing it." Mr. Groden responded: "Well that's specific to minority groups. We talked about diversity. We talked about, I mean, our hiring practices are driven by the Civil Service system of this county, which is you've got to take a test, you've got to pass, both the written test and then you go to a psychological. And our ability to recruit..." Sheriff Kusminsky stated: "We could recruit them to take the test. We don't know..." Mr. Groden replied: "Right, you can't, but one, I guess one of the things we talked about is, what are we doing proactively on our recruitment methods for diversity in the course as it leads to diversity in the community? And the down side to that is, I could put up billboards all day long, and go to career fairs, at the end of the day you've got to sign up for that test and you've got to pass. And then you've got to pass the background test. Then you've got to pass a psychological. So you start with a funnel up here and by the time you're done, we don't have a large pool of applicants to choose from. And so, let's go there Pete. The one we talked about was the infamous job application. Have you been convicted for an offense? There have been efforts to strike that question from the application process in an effort to, you know, somebody made a mistake a couple of years ago or I was a juvenile delinquent okay, but the law again says if you've been convicted of a felony, you're automatically precluded from a law enforcement career. So is that a statement we want to make to the Governor saying 'well maybe pull back "Es" because it's A, B, C, D, E, right? Did I miss an F, I don't know. Is there something that can be loosened that would then broaden the application pool. But every action has a reaction of equal and opposite proportion, so but the crime definition system of A, B, C, D and E, there's a lot of things that are in Es, you know Joe there's somethings that might be, okay we'll ignore that. But there's another E that you would say under absolutely no circumstances somebody convicted of an E should be in law enforcement officer. It's a difficult. It's just not easy to strike out because it's also state law." Sheriff Kusminsky added: "It's also, anybody convicted of a felony can't possess a firearm, so." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay, there you go. So there's certain serious offenses." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "I would also look at that as retention of the officers that you have because I think especially with the current political and social climate, I think in this county we don't see that so it's not such a bigger issue here, but in looking at resiliency, retention and how to take care of the officers. You are doing this so they also feel supported while we're making changes to their like jobs and the structure of how they do some of these things, it's going to be really important. They should be, and you're here, actually including them and making them active participants in this would be a benefit for us who don't know what they do every day. But you know me, I include everyone." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay. So let me try to do this. Let me try to kill a couple of birds with one stone. On the 14th or 28th, if we could do two things: reach out to the other law enforcement agencies and at that same meeting, is it sensible, let me ask it that way, to also have a public hearing, because if you're going to have multiple jurisdictions and a large committee, just because we're headed into Catskill doesn't mean that somebody from Cairo can't come down to a public hearing and should therefore make the

Cairo police chief be at the session, or is that putting too much in the bag? Should we just have the Chiefs in, and have a public hearing and just listen, are we doing nothing more than let the community come in and say 'this is my concern. This is my complaint. This is my...' Several members said they liked that. Mr. Groden continued: "So, the public hearing is just no presentation other than introduction, why we're here, then turn the microphone over and if there's a line of 20 people, we let them all speak." Many members said yes to this. Mr. Groden continued: "Preferably on the 14th or the 28th?" Mr. Friedman replied: "I would say the sooner the better because..." Mr. Groden stated: "It gives us more time to interact?" Mr. Friedman continued: "...and more time to address the issues." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "Is that a feasible time frame to do it?" Mr. Groden replied that it is two weeks and added: "I think there's a lot of people who are jonesing to get to a microphone. I really do." Ms. Oldakowski said: "Okay." Mr. Friedman stated: "I would agree, just because if you look, it's gotten out on social media that this is taking place, people are talking about it." Mr. Groden replied: "Right, we're meeting in secret. That was the last thing I wanted to be accused of but I felt and I'll take the heat, I think we needed an organizational meeting first." Mr. Friedman replied: "No, it wasn't negative. I don't think it was negative that it was being done in secret, what I saw was that 'I think this is a great initiative' and there were some compliments on Gary being on the thing because the mountaintop doesn't get representatives, you know, and that kind of stuff, so I." Mr. Hart stated: "Things are moving pretty quickly to get that information out." Mr. Groden stated: "I've got to pull a string to get the high school on the 14th, that's all. (laughter). Alright so the 14th, we'll do an introduction and just go through the Guidelines and then at that point, we'll just turn the microphone over." Sheriff Kusminsky asked: "You want the Chief not at that one then?" Several members said no, it would be too much, plus the Chiefs should come to meet with just this Committee. Mr. Groden stated: "Then what I'll do for the 28th, I'll invite the Chiefs here, or the Sheriff will invite the Chiefs and do you want a change of venue? I will give the other situation, if I get too many more people in this room, you know, I'm going to be in violation of COVID, so." Mr. Hart mentioned the 911 Center. Mr. Groden stated: "The 911 training center in the basement is probably twice as big as this room. We could go there very easy, well I shouldn't say very easily because it's also a heavily used training room in the evenings. But I'll go there first, then maybe I can pull that string twice for the high school auditorium. Mr. Slutzky stated: "On the 14th, I wonder if we should consider meeting earlier than 7:00, because if we're going to have a lot of people talking..." Mr. Groden asked: "Six? Are people working? Are the majority of people working until 5:00 and they..." Ms. Oldakowski stated: "Do you want to start at 5:30 and have it end at 7:30 and do two hours?" Mr. Friedman said he was fine with whatever time. Mr. Slutzky stated: "I don't know. I'm just saying that it could take up a lot of time. The Town of Hunter had an open meeting back in July I think about the issue of Kaaterskill falls and that took a good two, two and a half hours easily before it ran out of energy from people wanting to talk. Because if you're going to let everybody talk, this is county-wide, that was town-wide." Mr. Groden replied: "Right. But again, we can't do two of them either." Mr. Slutzky said "true." Mr. Groden continued: "We can do one down here and then we can go up so the mountaintop people don't think they have to drive down here either. I just need a venue. I'm sure I could call the Windham school district or something like that." Mr. Slutzky stated: "And, you know, there's the Village of Tannersville, there's a building in Hunter." Mr. Groden stated: "Let me do this then. Go to November. Again, I'm picking, I'm a

little nervous about the second November meeting, because you're in that Thanksgiving week, people travel, but the first Wednesday, the 10th, I believe it's probably your second Wednesday of the month, if I could lock you in for that, would we do a second open forum and I'll go up to a Windham or a Hunter..." Mr. Friedman stated: "Well, I think we need to see how the first one goes before we can make that determination because it might be that people come down from the mountain and they'll get there and they'll say their piece and we'll have heard what we need to hear." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay." Mr. Friedman continued: "I'd hate to commit us to a second thing that we don't necessarily need and take away from time on the work that we want to do." Mr. Groden replied: "Okay. So I guess for brevity's sake, we'll lock down October, the next meeting will be the Forum, the second meeting will be the law enforcement side. I'll pick the venue, as long as I know everyone's available, it will probably be at the 911 Center because we'll have more people involved, and at least we've locked down the month of October and at one of those two meetings we'll try to lock down the events for November as well, and we'll probably have to reschedule that second November meeting because I don't think the week of Thanksgiving typically is a good week. I don't know, some people travel, they go out of town to see family. If not, you know, I'm good." Mr. Slutzky asked: "So what time are we talking on the 14th?" Mr. Groden asked: "Six? Try six o'clock, okay?" Pastor Turpin stated: "And you'll send us where it's going to be?" Mr. Groden replied: "Tentative, High School Auditorium in Catskill. My staff will contact the school staff just to make sure. And now I think everybody but Rita, we have your e-mail contacts so we'll also give you confirmation of this and then if you have questions, you know, you're driving to the grocery store and something hits your mind, if you want to send it to me, I'll disburse it to everybody, be it you're looking for some information, you're looking for data, stats, that gives me a couple of days to get it available for the next session. Just send me that. My e-mail is my first initial "Sgroden" so it's sgroden@discovergreene.com Fire away, I live on that thing unfortunately. And the 14th at 6:00 o'clock at the Catskill High School Auditorium, unless I tell you differently. Alright, thank you very much. This was a long two plus hours. I appreciate you being here and again, you've got a big lift. There's a lot of work here and I thank you for it. Drive careful." This meeting ended at 9:13 p.m.

