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Chautauqua Public Defenders' office gets grant

By **Susan Chiappone** (<mailto:>) | Chautauqua Correspondent
 on May 21, 2014 - 8:41 PM

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MAYVILLE – The Chautauqua County Public Defenders' Office announced that it received a new grant of \$299,528 from the Services for the Indigent in New York State to help fund cost-effective programs for its clients.

Assistant Public Defender James Pelletter made the announcement Wednesday at the regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee. Pelletter brought the information to the committee, seeking approval so the matter could be brought to the regular meeting of the Chautauqua County Legislature next Wednesday.

Pelletter also asked the group to approve receipt of an additional \$89,973 in annual funds from the state agency that are used to pay for salaries for attorneys and social workers, office costs and other fees involved in representing clients who are not able to afford an attorney. He said that the annual grant money was awarded in January but that paperwork for the funds has been lagging. The funds require matching money from the county. The issue is also slated for a resolution before the Legislature.

According to Pelletter, his office is seeking funds that will have long-lasting and cost-effective solutions that are alternatives to expensive incarceration for offenders.

The committee also considered several requests from Sheriff Joseph Gerace. He asked the members to approve three agreements for enhanced police services. The villages of Bemus




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Point and Mayville will pay for enhanced services during the summer months. Bemus Point will get services at a total cost of \$6,600 through Labor Day. Mayville will pay an hourly rate for special events. The rate is \$37.28 for regular days and \$47.66 for holidays when additional police services are needed.

Committee members approved the two contracts.

The Chautauqua Lake School District also requested enhanced police service, and a contract was approved for \$2,500 for special events through December.

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