

**MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

APRIL 27, 1999

9:00 A.M.

SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

PRESENT: C. Evans, B. Blanchard, T. Joseph, G. Totman, M. Lane

STAFF: K. Leinthall, Probation Director; K. West, Deputy County Administrator; G. Hammer, Systems Administrator for Criminal Justice; J. Wood, Deputy County Attorney; W. Skinner, Public Information Coordinator; J. Hughes, Assigned Counsel Coordinator; J. Miller, Fire, Disaster and EMS Coordinator; Lee Shurtleff, Assistant Fire, Disaster and EMS Coordinator

GUESTS: M. Raffe, American Red Cross; G. King, City of Ithaca Drug Court Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 12:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- Resolution - Authorizing an Agreement with the Social Security Administration - Sheriff's Department
- Resolution - Authorizing An Agreement with AT&T for Commission on Local and Long Distance Inmate Telephone Traffic - Sheriff's Department

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING SPACE UPDATE

Mr. Joseph stated that the committee has not met. The next meeting will be April 28, 1999, 8-Noon at the Public Safety Building.

ASSIGNED COUNSEL

Ms. Hughes stated she spoke with the Defender's Association about reimbursement for assigned counsel and they are proposing a \$75 reimbursement fee from the Office of Court Administration with the hopes of receiving \$50 across the board for attorneys. She stated that the break-down of attorney hours is still being worked on and she will provide them as soon as they become available. Ms. Hughes stated that her office has been busy with drug court and the first quarter attorney costs were \$8,000, up slightly from last quarter. She stated she is not sure why there was an increase.

Mr. Evans asked Ms. King if it is necessary to have an attorney present in drug court at all times. Ms. King stated that attorneys are needed because decisions need to be made regarding the defendant's plea and entrance into the program and decisions made after entrance into the program. Mr. Evans asked if the number of cases is increasing in drug court. Ms. King stated that the number is consistent at approximately 60 cases. Mr. Joseph stated that most appearances in drug court don't require an attorney, but there is always the possibility that the judge can send the person to jail so attorney's are present. Ms. Hughes stated that there was a recent decision by the Court of Appeals stating that it not necessary to have an attorney present at all times. She stated that she believes this ruling will be challenged and will keep the committee informed.

STOP-DWI

Mr. Beach was unable to attend the meeting. Committee members can contact him with any questions.

FIRE, DISASTER AND EMS

Mr. Shurtleff distributed the 911 expenditures to the Committee and he will forward copies to the full Board before the next Board meeting. He stated that the RFP for the Communications Project was mailed last week, over 20 vendors were identified and he hopes to bring the results back to the May Committee meeting.

Mr. Evans stated that he attended the last E911 Operations Committee and there was concern about where the central dispatch facility will be located and how soon it will be developed. He stated that 911 is a public safety issue and anything that can save response time is life saving. He stated that there have been discussions about moving the dispatch center to the old library, the Public Safety Building and the new Department of Public Works facility. He stated that he hopes this project can move forward smoothly and not take two to three years to develop. Ms. Blanchard stated that she will be meeting with Mr. Withiam and Mr. Miller to bring the project back into focus on potential sites and she will provide a report at the next committee meeting. Mr. Meskill stated that it is very clear that none of the participants want the facility in the Public Safety Building, they would like it in a facility that is not run by an elected official and if this is the decided location, they may withdraw from the project.

RESOLUTION NO. - ENDORSING STATE LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING INCREASING E-911 SURCHARGE

Mr. Wood stated that the Board adopted Resolution No. 42 of 1999 prior to the legislation being introduced in Albany and it is necessary for the Board to readopt the resolution. It was Moved by Mr. Totman, seconded by Mr. Lane and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Board of Representatives desires to maintain and improve the capabilities of E-911 service, and

WHEREAS, the current E-911 telephone surcharges, paid for by all system users, covers a limited portion of actual system operational expenses, and all other costs related to the system must be raised through property taxes, and

WHEREAS, this Board by Resolution No. 42 of 1999 requested the New York State Legislature to authorize an increase in the Tompkins County 911 Surcharge to \$1.00 per month and they have since introduced A.7108/S.4051 "AN ACT to amend the County law, in relation to authorizing the County of Tompkins to impose a one dollar access line per month surcharge for its enhanced emergency telephone system", now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That this Board endorses and requests State approval of legislation known as A.7108/S.4051, and urges its elected representatives in the Senate and the Assembly to support this legislation.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

ASSIGNED COUNSEL – TRANSFER – INFORMATION ONLY

FROM:	A1170.54412	Travel and Training	\$200
TO:	A1170.54442	Professional Services	\$200

Explanation: We need to transfer money to pay services rendered by ITS.

FIRE, DISASTER AND EMS TRANSFER – INFORMATION ONLY

FROM:	A3411.54424	Equipment Rental	\$3,000
TO:	A4819.54432	Rent	\$3,000

Explanation: To cover cost of Land Lease for Radio Tower Transmitter Buildings currently being used.

FROM:	A3411.54311	Maintenance	\$400
TO:	A3411.54306	Automotive Supplies	\$400

Explanation: To cover the diesel fuel charges for Coordinator's vehicle.

FROM:	A3411.54424	Equipment Rental	\$1,000
TO:	A3411.52214	Office Furnishings	\$1,000

Explanation: Office furnishings account needs to be set up to purchase office file cabinets.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Ms. Leinthall stated that the electronic monitoring numbers have been down since January with the highest number being six and the current number being three people in the program. She stated that last year it was necessary to have two people on the program out of the existing ten units so the County did not lose money, but this was before the additional units were bought and she is not sure how this is affecting the budget at this time. She stated that her department is asking to screen everyone, but she is not sure why so few are being sentenced to electronic monitoring and noted that it may be because the numbers are down in the jail and judges do not see the need for the program when there isn't overcrowding.

Ms. Leinthall stated that Peggy Arcangeli will be replacing Sue Robinson as Supervisor. She stated that there is currently a vacancy as a Senior Probation Officer and she intends to fill this position internally. This will leave a probation officer position vacant temporarily because Ms. Robinson is on a leave of absence and rather than fill this position she will be increasing hours of some of the core probation officers.

Ms. Leinthall reported on the Juris Monitor Program and stated that the County has four units presently, and more training needs to be completed with law enforcement. She stated that the program works similar to electronic monitoring in that the perpetrator wears a bracelet and when they get within a specified distance of the victim's home an alarm sounds to let the victim know the perpetrator is in the area. The alarm alerts the monitoring agency who in turn notifies the proper local authorities. She stated that all participants have to agree to entrance into the program and this program will not be used for extremely violent offenders. Mr. Lane expressed concern over the liability issues this program could have on the County and stated that he does not support this program because he believes it provides a false sense of security to the victim. He noted that when electronic monitoring was discussed there was an incident where the victim was killed. He stated that he does not see how the County's liability won't be compromised.

Ms. Leinthall stated that part of the training involves the need to emphasize to all parties that it does not provide safety, it is a tool, but there is no guarantee. She stated that this will be used for cases where there has been no demonstrated violence, but more harassment issues. She stated that she doesn't believe that there will be very many cases to use this program on because of the level of agreement that is needed between all the parties. Ms. Leinthall suggested the Committee invite Ms. Robinson to the next Committee meeting to discuss this program.

Mr. Joseph stated that the County needs to look at whether this program increases safety, not if it is foolproof and look at the alternative. He stated that this is not used as an alternative to incarceration and it is very clear that the program does not provide absolute protection. He stated that this is very similar to an Order of Protection. Ms. Leinthall stated that the people making the recommendations for this program need to be very sure that they do not recommend anyone with violent tendencies.

Mr. Lane asked if the County's risk manager has been consulted. Ms. West stated that the County's Contracts Coordinator has reviewed the agreement, but she does not know if the Risk Manager has seen it.

Ms. Blanchard asked if there is information available about other places using this program. Ms. Leinthall stated that Ms. Robinson would have to answer this question. She noted that there are only a little over 100 of the units used nationwide. Mr. Totman stated that if there is a signed contract, this would reduce the County's liability and it could be used for those individuals who have violent tendencies, but who have not done anything bad enough to be sentenced to jail.

Mr. Evans stated that he is concerned about the response time and noted that the call has to go through a national call center before it reaches local authorities. Ms. Leinthall stated that the timing is very fast and similar to the electronic monitoring program.

Mr. Miller stated it would be useful if this information could go through the centralized dispatch center and asked that if this isn't possible if all dispatcher could be given very detailed, descriptive information. Ms. Leinthall stated that this is currently done and will continue with the Juris Monitoring program.

Ms. Robinson will be asked to attend the May Committee to discuss the program and show the Committee how the units work.

OAR

No report

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

JAIL STATISTICS

Mr. Meskill distributed the jail statistics, these are on file with the original minutes.

Mr. Meskill stated that the dorms and hallways are being painted and once complete the new bunkbeds will be installed. He stated that a new metal detector has been ordered, the manufacturer of the old one has gone out of business. He stated that he is using money from the food account to pay for it. He stated that new games and toys are being ordered for the inmates including two Nintendo systems on carts. He stated that this seems to be working well with the juveniles. Mr. Meskill stated the new commissary contract will be signed shortly. The commission will go down a little, but the cost to inmates will not increase. He also reported that there have been discussions about supervisors using pepper spray, and an intern is working on department policies. He stated that the numbers in the jail have remained fairly consistent with only a slight increase.

BUDGET TRANSFER – INFORMATION ONLY

FROM:	A3112.54303	Office Supplies	\$1,495
TO:	A3112.52230	Computer Software	\$1,495

Explanation: Monies needed to purchase composite software for the criminal investigation division.

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

Mr. Evans stated that he would like to see the Mission and Vision statement used during budget time to see that the department is able to meet their goals. Mr. Joseph asked who was involved in putting together the statements and if those individuals found it valuable. Mr. Meskill stated that the statement was prepared by himself, the Undersheriff and

the Personnel Commissioner. It was distributed to employees for comment, but none were received. It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Totman and unanimously adopted by voice vote to accept the Vision and Mission Statement of the Sheriff's Department. This statement is on file with the original minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A DONATION TO INSTALL D.A.R.E. AND D.W.I. GRAPHICS AND LIGHTING ON PATROL CAR - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

It was Moved by Mr. Totman, seconded by Mr. Lane and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department formed a committee of Department employees to design the graphics for the D.A.R.E. and D.W.I. patrol car, and

WHEREAS, the Employees Union of Tompkins County Sheriff's Department agree to give the County \$1,000 to purchase graphics and safety lighting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County accept the donation of \$1,000 to be used for the purpose of the installation of the graphics and lighting on the D.A.R.E. and D.W.I. patrol car.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration is providing the computer program that identifies from our Jail Management System inmates that are receiving Social Security Benefits and/or Insurance (SSI), and

WHEREAS, inmates identified through the Jail Management System as receiving Social Security Benefits and/or Insurance (SSI), the County of Tompkins will be reimbursed \$400 per inmate, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the agreement for the Social Security Administration to provide the computer program be awarded,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator be and hereby is authorized to execute and agreement on behalf of the County.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH AT&T FOR COMMISSION ON LOCAL AND LONG DISTANT INMATE TELEPHONE TRAFFIC

It was Moved by Mr. Totman, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote. Mr. Joseph asked if the charge to the caller will be changed. Mr. Meskill stated that he will look into this and provide an answer prior to the resolution going tot he full Board for approval.

WHEREAS, the New York State Sheriff's Association is endorsing AT&T as the provider of inmate pay telephones and communications for a five-year period beginning June 1, 1999 to June 1, 2004, and

WHEREAS, the proposal of AT&T offers the best opportunity for revenue, an increase from 31% to 44% for both local and long distance services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That an agreement for inmate pay telephones and communications be awarded to AT&T,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator be and hereby is authorized to execute an agreement on behalf of the County.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Mr. Meskill stated that four weeks of training are being scheduled. The first will be defensive tactics and will be given by officers of the Ithaca City Police Department. Mr. Meskill stated that the training does not cost his department

anything because he will be providing deputies to help IPD with the Cornell party weekend. The second week of training will be to provide CPR and first aid and the third will be firearms training so qualifying can be done twice a year. The last week of training will consist of Right-to-Know, suicide crisis issues and child abuse training.

Mr. Meskill stated that he is working on a final budget adjustment for 1998 for over \$100,000. This will clear the department's deficit and will give administration roll-over money. He stated that replacement pay was not requested in 1998 and this will provide money to replace outdated equipment.

Mr. Meskill stated that he has been busy hiring people to fill existing vacancies in the department.

MINUTES

It was Moved by Mr. Totman, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of March 23, 1999, as submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held May 25, 1999, at Noon in the Scott Heyman Conference Room.

Public Safety Committee
April 27, 1999

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Luu, Administrative Assistant, Board of Representative's office.