

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MAY 25, 1999

NOON

SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

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

EXCUSED: G. Totman

STAFF: B. Nicholas, Airport Manager; P. Meskill, Sheriff; K. Leinthall, Probation Director; W. Skinner, Public Information Coordinator; R. Teasley, OAR Director; K. West, Deputy County Administrator; J. Beach, Stop-DWI Coordinator; J. Miller, Fire, Disaster and EMS Coordinator; B. Benjamin, Deputy County Administrator; L. Shurtleff, Assistant Fire, Disaster and EMS Coordinator; G. Hammer, Criminal Justice Systems Administrator; J. Hughes, Assigned Counsel Coordinator; S. Robinson, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator; T. Northrup, Probation Supervisor; Ujal Mukherji, Administrative Service Coordinator, County Administration

GUESTS: K. McDonald, R. Schweiger, Ithaca Police Department with Canine Officer Odin; P. Penniman, Board of Representatives

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at Noon.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Add:

K-9 Officer Presentation
Communications/Tower Benchmark Propagation Study Update
Juris Monitor Program
Resolution – Contingent Fund Request – Boarding of Prisoners

Withdraw:

OAR Report
Groton Police Department Stop-DWI Concern
Resolution: Authorizing the Tompkins County Airport, Already Established as a Member of the County Fire Mutual Aid Plan, to accept Liability for Outside Aid per the Requirements of Section 209 of the General Municipal Law of 1993 (**Subcommittee established**)

CANINE PRESENTATION

Ms. McDonald stated that she has been working with Officer Schweiger and Officer Odin for nearly a year now to secure funding from local and state funding sources to provide a canine unit in the Ithaca Police Department. She stated that she is confident that the State funding through Senator Seward will be obtained, but noted that a 30 percent local match is required to receive that money. She stated that the amount needed from the community is \$65,000 and she would like to ask the County for a contribution of \$20,000.

Officer Schweiger reported that Officer Odin is from Czechoslovakia and has been trained in narcotics detection, searches and tracking. He stated that he has done presentation in the schools and he and Officer Odin are currently funded through private sources. He stated that Officer Odin is the only working K-9 in the area. Mr. Evans asked if school searches have been conducted. Officer Schweiger reported that it is necessary for requests to come from the school administration in order for searches to be legal and there have been no requests.

Mr. Evans stated that this item will be placed on a future committee agenda for consideration.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING SPACE STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Joseph stated that he gave an extensive report at the last Board meeting and had nothing new to report at this time.

STOP-DWI UPDATE

Mr. Beach distributed a comparison report of the Selective Enforcement Patrol for the first four months of 1999. This is on file with the original minutes. He stated that arrests have increased by 13 on regular patrols since this time last year and the Selective Enforcement Patrol remains the same. He stated a contributing factor may be that Sheriff Meskill is rotating officers into the patrol and the level of traffic stops remains high with good results. Mr. Sheriff stated that his staff is conscious of the goal he has set for 1999. Ms Blanchard asked if there are repercussions for bars that serve the individuals getting arrested. Mr. Beach stated that he files reports to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board. He stated that some establishments are seen repeatedly and these are reported to the local tavern association and those that aren't seen often are contacted and notified that an arrest occurred so they can tighten server controls.

ASSIGNED COUNSEL UPDATE

Ms. Hughes distributed the projected impact of the state's proposed increase in reimbursement rates for assigned attorneys, this is on file with the original minutes. This is a projection that will increase or decrease depending on crime trends. She stated that her office currently has three A felonies and the County hasn't had any high-level crimes recently and this will increase costs for her office.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Ms. Leinthall stated that there is currently only one client on electronic monitoring and the program at this point is losing money. She stated that her Department has offered the program to Ithaca Drug Court for one of their graduated sanctions. She stated her department screens everyone and she is unsure why so few are sentenced to the program.

Ms. Leinthall stated other department activities include a job reclassification for supervisors. She stated that this is a result of the pay equity study placing both senior probation officers and supervisors on the same pay scale and supervisors starting pay being lower than the working rate of the senior probation officers.

The assembly has passed legislation to pass for Tompkins County to transfer local cases to drug court. She stated that this has been referred to the Rules Committee in the Assembly. Judge Rowley believes we will be able to expand Drug Court by September. It is expected that federal funding will support the program for two-years. Mr. Benjamin stated that the Board may see requests for additional resources in the 2001 budget process.

JURIS MONITOR PROGRAM

Ms. Robinson and Ms. Northrup gave a presentation on the Juris Monitor Program. The units worn by the perpetrators, victim, and used in the home were displayed. Ms. Robinson stated that a grant was obtained to fund four units. She stated no additional staffing is needed at this time. The contract for the program was signed in March, training has been held for law enforcement personnel, dispatcher and other pertinent personnel. No one is currently enrolled in the program. A meeting will be held with the State Police, Sheriff's Department, Ithaca Police Department and village police agencies to demonstrate the units. Northrup stated that the grant funding also allows for the purchase of phones and beepers for use by the victims.

Mr. Lane stated he appreciated the demonstration, the technology is fine, but he believes it gives a false expectation to the victim and places a greater liability on the County. Ms. Robinson stated that these are valid issues, and stated that everything is being done to explain to the victim that the program is a tool to provide more safety, but that

the program is not foolproof. Ms. West asked what happens with power outages and down phone lines. Ms. Northrup stated the system has a 12 hour battery back-up for power outages to record and once the power is back on it reports to the agency in Indiana.

Mr. Benjamin stated that all parties need to realize that this is not a security system. Education plays a very large part in making the victim understand the program is only a tool. He stated he will discuss the liability issues with the County Attorney and put together background information.

It was Moved by Mr. Lane to Direct Tompkins County Probation not to Participate in the Juris Monitor Program. FAILED DUE TO LACK OF SECOND.

Mr. Evans stated that he will have a monthly report given on the program. Ms. Blanchard asked for more information on the County's liability. This will be placed on the June agenda.

BUDGET TRANSFER – INFORMATION ONLY

From:	3141.51000	Salary	\$938
	3141.58800	Fringes	82
	3141.58800	Fringes	80
	3141.58800	Fringes	72
	3141.51000	Salary	3,750
	3141.58800	Fringes	330
	3141.58800	Fringes	320
	3142.58800	Fringes	288
To:	3141.52206	Comp. Equip.	\$938
	3141.52206	Comp. Equip.	82
	3141.5223	Comp. Soft.	80
	3141.52214	Office Furn.	72
	3141.52206	Comp. Equip.	3,750
	3141.52206	Comp. Equip.	330
	3141.55223	Comp. Soft.	320
	3142.52214	Office Furn.	288

Explanation: To purchase necessary equipment and office furnishings.

**RESOLUTION NO. - BUDGET ADJUSTMENT AND APPROPRIATION OF UNSPENT
GENERAL FUNDS FROM 1998 TO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS**

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard. Ms. Hughes stated that her request for \$1,649 will be used to provide new paint and carpet in their offices. She stated that this has not been done in ten years. Mr. Joseph asked if the landlord has a responsibility to make these repairs and stated he would like to know that it is the County's responsibility before the money is spent. Ms. Leinthall offered the support of the SWAP crew to make the necessary repairs with the materials being purchased by Assigned Counsel.

Ms. Leinthall stated her requests for \$16,000 will be used to create a Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation Officer position. She stated that once the money is spent the position will be placed in her budget as a maintenance of effort. She noted that her department has seen an increasing need for this position in the last two years with many schools making requests. She stated the position may allow for more kids to remain in the community with the supervision of this officer. It was Moved by Mr. Lane to delete this request. FAILED DUE TO LACK OF SECOND. He noted that he does not like to see roll-over funds being used towards positions because it makes it difficult at budget time when faced with

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the possibility of lay-offs. Mr. Joseph stated using roll-over for positions allows the program to show a solid record before making it a permanent county program and if this isn't happening then the answer will be no at budget time.

Mr. Meskill stated that \$5,000 of his request will be used to update office computers; \$5,000 will be used to provide an evidence collection system similar to those used in other counties; and \$28,000 will be used to provide uniforms for road patrol. He stated that he would like to get away from the current uniform allowance and replace items as they are needed by the department. He noted that this will be an image enhancer and a morale booster within the department. Mr. Lane stated that the current allowance is a negotiated item. Mr. Joseph stated that this should either be a negotiated item or the department should go to the quarter master system, not both. It was Moved by Mr. Joseph to remove the \$28,000 uniform request. FAILED DUE TO LACK OF SECOND.

Mr. Meskill stated that the \$11,952 will be used to provide computers for cars, \$2,150 will provide a new locator and light bar system, \$8,500 will be used to purchase new shotguns for patrol cars, \$17,440 will be used to purchase new bullet proof vests for all road patrol officers and \$32,000 will purchase a new 4-wheel vehicle for the department. Mr. Lane asked why new shotguns need to be purchased. Mr. Meskill stated it is not known if all of the existing guns work and noted that they are very old. Mr. Joseph asked if the guns are currently in cars. Mr. Meskill stated that they are presently in the armory because of their age and the fact that there are officers who haven't been trained in their use. He stated that the locks also need to be purchased to be installed in the cars and he hopes to do this with the sale of the old guns. Mr. Joseph asked how many four-wheel drive vehicles are currently in the department and how often they are used. Mr. Meskill stated at present there are two including the new vehicle. He stated once vehicle is used for the civil sergeant and the new vehicle will be unmarked with magnetic signs and used by the Undersheriff. Mr. Meskill stated that the new vests being purchased are going to be lighter and more flexible, provide a higher level of protection and he will require the use of them once the deputies become accustomed to wearing them.

Mr. Miller stated that his request for \$7,454 will be used for training/radio installation equipment.

A voice vote on the appropriations noted below resulted as follows: Ayes - 4 (Representatives Evans, Joseph, Lane, and Blanchard, Noes - 0, Excused - 1 (Representative Totman). CARRIED. This resolution will be forwarded to the Budget and Quality Planning Committee for approval.

Assigned Counsel --	Building Repairs	1170.54470	1,649
Fire/EMS --	Dept. Equip.	3411.52220	7,454
Probation (ATI) --	Regular Pay	3141.51000	10,238
Probation (ATI) --	Fringes	3141.58800	2,560
Probation (Intake/Investig) --	Regular Pay	3142.51000	2,561
Probation (Intake/Investig) --	Fringes	3142.58800	641
Sheriff (Uniform Division) --	Computer Equip.	3113.52206	5,000
Sheriff (Uniform Division) --	Dept. Equip.	3113.52220	45,042
Sheriff (Uniform Division) --	Clothing	3113.54340	28,000
Sheriff (Uniform Division) --	Navigation	3113.54346	350
Sheriff (Uniform Division) --	Vehicles	3113.52231	32,000

FIRE AND DISASTER

Mr. Miller distributed the department update, this is on file with the original minutes. Mr. Miller also presented a resolution on standardization for heavy duty computer systems to be used by fire departments, etc. Mr. Lane asked if volunteer fire departments support this. Mr. Miller stated he is in the process of meeting with the volunteer departments to discuss this issue. This was deferred to the June meeting.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the following budget adjustments:

REVENUE:	A3410.42680	Insurance Recovery	\$2,872.50
APPROPRIATION:	A3410.52206	Computer Equipment	\$2,872.50

Explanation: Check from Sheriff's insurance claim to deposit in computer equipment to cover expenses related to new laptop purchases and associated equipment.

REVENUE:	A3410.44960	Emergency Disaster Assistance	\$3,436
APPROPRIATION:	A3410.54400	Program Expense	\$3,436

Explanation: Expenses related to Storm '98 Federal Aid.

COMMUNICATION PROPAGATION STUDY

The Request for Proposals was issued and three responses were received. Two of the respondents will be interviewed and the contract awarded shortly.

JAIL STATISTICS - DISTRIBUTED

Mr. Meskill distributed the jail statistics, these are on file with the original minutes. He also distributed the Substance Abuse Study findings to all board members. Mr. Meskill stated that the County Attorney has requested \$133,000 from the state for state-ready inmates and parole violators who were housed in the jail over the ten day limit. Approximately \$10,000 of that figure is for 1999.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM THE TOMPKINS COUNTY D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

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

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department has been awarded an anonymous donation in the amount of \$1,250 to be used for the Tompkins County D.A.R.E. Program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County accept the donation of \$1,250 to be used for the purpose of the aforementioned items,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is directed to make the following adjustments to his books for 1999:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

REVENUE:	A3113.42706	D.A.R.E. Donations	\$1,250
APPROPRIATION:	A3113.54484	D.A.R.E. Program	\$1,250

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

BUDGET TRANSFER – INFORMATION ONLY

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A3150-58800 Fringe

7,574

2,063

TOTAL

37,871

10,313

Department Total

74,843

35,009

NET AMOUNT NEEDED FROM CONTINGENT MONEY

\$39,834

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

RESOLUTION NO. - REQUEST FOR CONTINGENT FUNDS FROM MONIES SET ASIDE FOR BOARD-OUT COST

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard. Mr. Evans asked if Mr. Meskill anticipates needing more than \$54,000 for board-outs for the remainder of 1999. Mr. Meskill stated that with the current trends it is not anticipated that any additional money will need to be used. Mr. Lane asked about the use of 9 mm. weapons being used in the department in an effort to standardize. He asked why the Glocks are being requested along with training to qualify each person. He stated that the money being requested is contingent funds, and it was placed in the account in the hopes of not having to spend it. He stated that the money used by the road side of the department for uniforms was rollover funds. Mr. Meskill stated that the revolver corrections officers currently use is harder to shoot and it is difficult for some to qualify with them. Ms. Blanchard stated that she would support the purchase of the new uniforms, and requested that Mr. Meskill come back to the Committee in the fall with the gun request after it is seen what the board-out situation at the jail is later in the year. She stated she would like the County to pursue the potential of obtaining the Glocks through grant funding. Mr. Lane stated he would like to have continuity in the department by providing the uniforms. It was Moved by Mr. Lane, seconded by Ms. Blanchard to amend the resolution to include \$3,000 for the purchase of six .357 magnum revolvers replacing the request for new Glock handguns and training. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 3 (Representatives Blanchard, Evans and Lane), Noes - 1 (Representative Joseph). MOTION CARRIED. This resolution will be forwarded to the Budget and Quality Planning Committee for approval.

WHEREAS, \$150,000 was budgeted for the boarding out of prisoners to other counties, and

WHEREAS, as of May 24, 1999, the County has spent only \$7,269 leaving a balance of \$142,731, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to replace correction officers handguns due to the age and condition of the current model, and

WHEREAS, officer safety will be enhanced, and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and cost effective to replace and update jail uniforms at the same time the road uniforms are modernized and updated, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Quality Planning Committees, That the Tompkins County Board of Representatives hereby authorize the expenditure of \$27,000 for purchasing new uniforms and six new handguns.

TOTAL CONTINGENCY FUNDS

\$150,000

Uniforms for 36 officers:

3 short and 3 long sleeve shirts \$350.00

3 pants 235.00

2 ties 40.00

Collar Brass 50.00

TOTAL PER OFFICER:

\$675.00

=

24,000

Six 357 Magnum Revolver

TOTAL: \$500x6

3,000

TOTAL REQUESTED:

27,000

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TOTAL SPENT AS OF 5/24/99 **7,269**

BALANCE OF MONIES AVAILABLE FOR BOARDOUTS: **\$115,731**

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OTHER

Mr. Meskill stated that he was not contacted about the possibility of a canine unit in the County and stated he believes this should be a State police function. He stated they may have an officer who is a dog handler. He stated that should the County consider funding such a program, he does have employees within his department who have expressed interest in learning more about this. It was his intent to bring discussion of this program forward at budget time. Mr. Joseph stated that a canine unit is very expensive to operate and they are limited in what they can do.

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION FOR PROGRAM RECONFIGURATION –
2000 BUDGET – SHERIFF AND FIRE COORDINATOR**

Mr. Joseph stated that he would like board-outs made an A mandate stating it is not eligible for roll-over and cannot be used for other purposes, but the County is obligated to replenish the account. It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the resolution with the amendment as suggested by Mr. Joseph. MOTION CARRIED. This resolution will be forwarded to the Budget and Quality Planning Committee for approval.

WHEREAS, the services of the Civil Division and those of the administrative staff (Planning and Coordination) considerably overlap within the Sheriff's Department, and

WHEREAS, Program 4410, Transport is no longer discernable as a separate program within the Jail Division, and

WHEREAS, Program 3500 Fire Coordinator Coordination and Planning is directly related to the activities in Program 3502 Emergency Communications and should not be considered a separate program area, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Quality Planning Committees, That Program 4380 Planning & Coordination be combined with Program 4000 Civil Division and that Mandate Status 'B' remain unchanged, and

RESOLVED, further, That Program 4410, Transport be combined with Program 4400 Corrections, and

RESOLVED, further, That Program 4415, Boarding of Prisoners be created and classified as an 'A' Mandate, and

RESOLVED, further, That Program 3500, Planning & Coordination Fire Coordinator be combined with Program 3502 Emergency Communications.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mr. Lane and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of April 27, 1999, as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the following appointments:

Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board

Joni Brandon - At-large Representative - Term expiration December 31, 2001

Susan Cook - County Attorney Representative - Term expiration December 31, 2001

George Dentes - District Attorney - Term expiration December 31, 2000

Susan Hatch - Law Guardian - Term expiration December 31, 2001

Nell Mondy - Crime Victims - Term expiration December 31, 2001

John Beach - At-large Representative - Term expiration December 31, 2001

Linda Riley - Mental Health Professional - Term expiration December 31, 2001

Judith Saul - Not-for-Profit Juvenile Services - Term expiration December 31, 2001

Tim Joseph - County Representative - Term expiration December 31, 2001

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E911 Operations Committee

Clayton Bronson - Volunteer Fire Chief (West) - Term expiration December 31, 2001

ADJOURNMENT

On motion the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m. The next meeting will be held June 22, 1999, at Noon in the Scott Heyman Conference Room.

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