

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

NOON

STATE POLICE STATION

JUNE 8, 2000

PRESENT: G. Totman, C. Evans, N. Schuler, T. Joseph

EXCUSED: B. Blanchard

STAFF: K. Leinthall, Probation Director; P. Meskill, Sheriff; O. Mack, OAR; J. Miller, L. Shurtleff, Fire, Disaster and EMS; G. Dentes, District Attorney; S. Robinson, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator; K. West, Deputy County Administrator

GUESTS: Captain Gary Shiffer, Sr. Investigator Paul Koekebacker, Sergeant Terry Sullivan, Zone Sergeant Eddie Abruzzo, New York State Police

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting opened at 12:02 p.m.

TOUR OF STATE POLICE STATION

Captain Shiffer provided a tour of the State Police Station. He stated the State Police are a resource in the Community. There are 20 troopers at the Dryden facility and the primary mission of the State Police is to assist local agencies. He noted they are also committed to large traffic initiatives. He stated there has been a high level of cooperation between the Sheriff and the State Police and they have an excellent working relationship. He stated the State police divers are excellent, and they also have a wonderful accident reconstruction team and should be utilized by local departments more often.

Sergeant Sullivan highlighted an incident where the agencies (state police, sheriff and IPD) worked cooperatively together this morning and the incident ended successfully without anyone getting hurt.

Captain Shiffer stated police agencies share information monthly and this is very positive. The State Police are committed to staying in the Ithaca area. He stated there are some counties where the sheriff's department is very small and the State Police is the primary road patrol and there are other counties where this is the opposite. The Sheriff's Department is the primary road patrol in Tompkins County and the State Police is in Ithaca to assist are in Ithaca to assist any way they can.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

- Creation of Positions - Senior Probation Officers - Probation
- Award of Bid - Snowmobiles - Sheriff's Department
- Budget Adjustment - Sheriff's Department
- Announcement - Sue Robinson
- Community Justice Coordinator Position Discussion - time permitting

MINUTES

It was Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of May 11, 2000, as submitted.

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO. - ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AND AWARD OF BID – SNOWMOBILES – SHERIFF

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mrs. Schuler and unanimously adopted by voice vote

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has been awarded with New York State Grant Funds from the Department of Parks and Recreation for the purchase of snowmobiles, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance - Division of Purchasing has duly advertised for bids for snowmobiles for the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office, and

WHEREAS, three (3) bids were received and publicly opened on May 12, 2000, now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the grant award of \$12,500 be accepted from New York State,

RESOLVED, further, That the bid be awarded to Country Classics, of Nichols, New York as the lowest responsible bidder with a contract value of \$11,484,

RESOLVED, further That the County Administrator is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Country Classics,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be authorized and directed to make the following budget adjustment:

APPROPRIATION

A3113.52231	Vehicles	\$12,500
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REVENUE

A3113.43389	Other Public Safety State Aid	\$12,500
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SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-25

OAR

Mr. Mack stated in recent months OAR has been down two staff people. Recently Marie Bower was hired as the new Bail Fund Coordinator and a long-term intern has filled the Client Service Coordinator position. He stated the office's administrative assistant has also been given additional hours through September to help out and at this time the office is fully staffed and operations are running smoothly. He stated in the past there have been some problems with accessing interview space in the jail and this may be experienced again now that the office is at full staff. He stated OAR participated in the Ithaca Festival selling ice cream, which the agency uses as its major fundraiser, and he does not believe the results were as positive as in the past because of inclement weather. He will provide the results from that fundraiser at a future meeting.

Mr. Mack stated two bails were done in the last month. There are currently 24 bails out and 26 have been returned for year-to-date. For the month of May, 30 Assigned Counsel affidavits were processed, and 62 volunteer sessions resulting 132 visitor hours were completed.

STOP – DWI

Mr. Beach was not in attendance.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. West had no report

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Ms. Robinson stated the New York State Office of Children and Family Services has notified the County that the grant application for the Multidisciplinary Team was not approved. She stated there will be additional funds available in the fall and the County has been informed that there is a higher possibility of receiving funding during that round if the funds are applied for under the Child Fatality Review Team portion of the Grant.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Ms. Leinthall stated there are currently 10 individuals on electronic monitoring and the program has been steadily building over the last 4-5 months. She stated Probation Supervisor Mitch Youngling will be leaving the department in August and she is in the process of interviewing to fill his position.

Ms. Leinthall stated that have been 124 alternative to incarceration screenings done for the year, which is an increase over 1999. She stated it is known that caseloads are increasing, but it isn't clear why.

PROBATION POSITIONS

RESOLUTION NO. - CREATION OF POSITIONS - SENIOR PROBATION OFFICERS -PROBATION DEPARTMENT

It was Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Joseph. Ms. Leinthall stated she would like to use rollover money that she has available and create two senior probation officer positions. She stated Judge Sherman has indicated he is ready to move forward with the felony level drug court and a probation officer is needed to cover that court. She stated the department currently has seven cases ready for that program and the program has not yet begun. The individuals placed on this program are at risk for state incarceration and it is important that probation officers are able to spend the time needed with them to prevent this. A coordinator position will also be created and this individual will cover both family and felony drug court. The second probation officer will be needed to cover Family Drug Court. The Family Drug Court is new and the initial cases will be cases that were originally handled by the Department of Social Services. The Probation Department will need to develop a teamwork plan with DSS and there will be some out-of-state training involved. At this time she would like to have both positions created, but only fill the one for felony drug court at this time. The Family Court Drug Court position will be filled once the program is created. She stated she will be requesting two additional probation officers at budget time so each program can have two officers assigned to it.

Mr. Joseph stated he recently attended the Drug Court graduation and was struck by the number of people on the drug court team who are not paid for their services but who help make the program a success. He stated one of the County's major initiatives is to do something different with criminal justice programs and in order for them to be successful each pieces needs to be adequately funded.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 5, Noes - 0. MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, the Probation Department's Drug Court caseload is rapidly expanding beyond the ability of existing staff to handle, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that by the end of the year the Drug Treatment Court caseload will increase by 40 - 50 cases due to the fact that the program will be offered to felony level clients under expanded alternative to incarceration programs, and

WHEREAS, the Family Drug Treatment Court will initially address a whole new caseload of approximately 40 - 80, Article X - Abuse, Neglect and Termination of Parental Rights cases by the end of the year that were previously handled exclusively by the Department of Social Services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That two positions of Senior Probation Officer, labor grade P (16/597), 40 hours per week, are hereby created effective July 24, 2000,

RESOLVED, further, That no additional funding is needed through December 31, 2000.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE 20

FIRE, DISASTER AND EMS

Mr. Miller stated six people completed the EMT program in Corning last month. He stated a cylinder on the generator at Ithaca College went bad and work will be done to fix it. The parts have been ordered, but he does not know

how much it will cost to fix it. He stated at budget time his office will be looking at the 20-year old software program used in the AS400 series because there is no longer support for that software.

BUDGET TRANSFER

FROM:	A3410.54311	Maintenance/Supplies	\$2,000
TO:	A3410.54303	Office Supplies	\$2,000

ASSIGNED COUNSEL

Ms. Hughes was unable to attend today's meeting.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

JAIL STATISTICS

The jail statistics were distributed. Sheriff Meskill stated that there has been a significant increase in the female population at the jail. He stated the jail is currently housing one baby and there is another female inmate that is about to give birth. The jail may also be housing that baby as well. He stated there will be overtime for the jail when the mother is in the hospital.

Mr. Joseph stated he recently read an article about the use of electronic monitoring in cases where the individual is unable to flee instead of using guards. Mr. Meskill stated this option is worth exploring. Ms. Leinthall stated individuals who are not predicate felons might also be eligible for probation.

Sheriff Meskill stated his office is handling more transports and over 60,000 miles were logged for one month. He stated the monthly gas bill has been averaging \$4,500, but has been as high as \$5,100. He stated that training has been held in Tioga County on the car seat program to train car seat technicians and the \$8,000 the County recently received will be used to purchase car seats. He stated additional funding has been requested to cover the cost of repairs.

Sheriff Meskill stated he has been working with the Personnel Department to schedule four 3-hour training sessions for every member of the department for cultural diversity training. He stated firearms training is complete and Undersheriff Haus has been holding qualifying for private gun use for those individuals who have a private weapon. He stated he is looking into getting grant funding for small electronic safes to be used at home by officers.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

It was Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Schuler and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

REVENUE:	A3113.42665	Sale of Equipment	\$6,885
	A3113.42665	Sale of Equipment	\$ 425
APPROPRIATION:	A3113.52231	Vehicles	\$6,885
	A3113.54421	Auto Maintenance	\$ 425

Explanation: 1. Additional revenue from the sale of equipment. Monies needed to purchase two used vehicles due to the age of the current fleet. 2. Monies needed to properly maintain the vehicles.

Mr. Evans was excused at 1:15 p.m.

It was Moved by Mrs. Schuler, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

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REVENUE:	A3113.42706	D.A.R.E. Donations	\$1,000
	A3113.42706	D.A.R.E. Donations	\$ 250
APPROPRIATION:	A3113.54484	D.A.R.E. Programs	\$1,000
	A3113.54484	D.A.R.E. Programs	\$ 250

Explanation: 1. Monies to be used to purchase D.A.R.E. supplies.

OTHER

Mr. Joseph stated there will be a resolution coming to the Board from the Public Safety Space Building Committee to create a Community Justice Director. He stated the position will be a department head position with a salary ranging between \$30-50,000. Mrs. Schuler stated she supports this position.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held July 13, 2000 at p.m.

Public Safety Committee
June 8, 2000

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Luu, Administrative Assistant, Board of Representatives office.