

**MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 22, 1999**

**NOON**

**SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PRESENT:** C. Evans (arrived at 12:06 p.m.), M. Lane, G. Totman, B. Blanchard, T. Joseph (arrived at 12:10 p.m.)

**STAFF:** J. Wood, Deputy County Attorney; R. Teasley, OAR Director; D. Niemi, Interim Jail Administrator; P. Meskill, Sheriff; S. Robinson, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator; U. Mukherjee, County Administration; B. Benjamin, Deputy County Administrator for Criminal Justice; J. Beach, Stop-DWI Coordinator; W. Skinner, Public Information Coordinator; L. Shurtleff, J. Miller, Fire, Disaster and EMS; J. Hughes, Assigned Counsel Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting opened at 12:06 p.m.

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- Update – Reimbursement from State for State-ready Inmates
- Juris Monitor Liability Issue

**UPDATE – REIMBURSEMENT FROM STATE FOR STATE-READY INMATES**

Mr. Wood stated that the County sued the state three years ago because they did not collect state-ready inmates over the ten-day limit from the jail in a timely manner. He stated he contacted the State seeking reimbursement in the amount of \$131,000 to cover the period from October 1996 through the first quarter of 1999. Mr. Wood stated the State has indicated they will pay \$115,496.16 to cover these costs and a check should be received by the end of the month. Mr. Meskill stated that some of the money (\$7,947.78) will cover 1999 costs and that portion will be returned to his budget as revenue. Mr. Lane stated this money should be applied to offset any contingent fund requests. Mr. Meskill stated that the money will be added as revenue and rollover will be eliminated at year-end.

**JURIS MONITOR UPDATE**

Ms. Robinson stated that she distributed to all committee members a brief memo and article about the Juris Monitor System. She stated these give a general idea on how many individuals have completed the program both successfully and unsuccessfully. She stated she was not able to find any statistics relating to the program, but she did speak with supervisors in Texas and Ohio where the program is run. She stated that Ohio has discerned that the liability issue is no greater than electronic monitoring, and noted that person indicated that the rate of burnout is higher for the probation officers assigned to that program. Ms. Robinson stated that the supervisor in Texas indicated that they have in excess of 20 people on the program at a time and they also supervisor violent offenders. Ms. Robinson stated that she met with Mr. Wood and he has indicated that the liability is small, but he suggested clear changes to the agreement the victim will have to sign to reduce liability.

Ms. Robinson stated that there are currently no cases in the program, there is one that been pending in City Court for several months now. She noted the program can only be run by court order and agreement of both parties.

**PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING SPACE STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Joseph stated the committee has not met since his report to the full Board last week. He stated the Committee will meet again June 24, 1999 at 8 a.m. at the Public Safety Building. He stated the policing chapter of the Crime Prevention Committee Report was omitted and distributed this to Committee members.

**STOP-DWI UPDATE**

Mr. Beach distributed the statistics, these are on file with the original minutes. He reported the Sheriff's Departments arrests are up 41 percent over this time last year and the special patrol is responsible for about 50 percent of those arrests.

**ASSIGNED COUNSEL UPDATE**

Ms. Hughes reported that four attorneys have left the program in the last month and this is of great concern to her. She stated that one Family Court Attorney has also left the program. The pool of attorneys at this time is approximately 40. Ms. Hughes reported that her office saw 50 Family Court cases last month and the number is up by 200 from this time last year. She also reported that her office has been seeing higher-level crimes in the past few weeks, noting two A-felony crimes as well as B and C felony crimes. She stated she is also concerned by the high number of Criminal Contempt 2<sup>nd</sup> cases her office has been receiving. She stated that these are taking a lot of time and noted that one individual had eight prior Criminal Contempt charges against him.

Ms. Hughes reported that she is busy working on the 2000 budget and to meet the target figure her office would have to reduce office hours.

**OAR**

Ms. Teasley distributed a report on the Volunteer Program, which shows the 1999 goal of 650 hours of one-on-one support. She stated to date this number is almost to 500. She stated her office is trying to generate volunteers for the summer, and noted that a number of the volunteers were students and left the area. She stated she is trying to get more community based people involved who are here year-round. Ms. Teasley stated that her office is also beginning a program where they are in the jail during visiting hours to offer a information center. She stated the purpose is to assist families in making connections with other agencies and also provide them with a sense of what is available through OAR.

**FIRE, DISASTER AND EMS**

Mr. Shurtleff stated that the telephone switch has been completed, and the records package will be completed shortly. He stated that there was some concern that the increase in the 911 surcharge would not pass through the Assembly, but this has happened and the bill is waiting for the Governor's signature. Mr. Shurtleff asked that the resolution on the agenda "Standardization of Mobile Data Computer Equipment in Vehicles for Sheriff, Police, Fire and EMS" be tabled. He noted that Purchasing is still working on the process and the resolution will need to be placed on a future agenda. Mr. Joseph expressed concern that the resolution be a meaningful action and asked what will be accomplished by passing this resolution. Mr. Miller stated that by standardizing the computers, a bid will not have to be done and it will allow for the County and other agencies to purchase in the future the computer that is presently being installed in vehicles.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS – INFORMATION ONLY**

<b>FROM:</b>	A3411.54429	Equipment Rental	\$24,000
<b>TO:</b>	S3411.54425	Service Contracts	\$24,000

Explanation: Item put in wrong account at beginning of budget year. Funds needed to cover Motorola Radio Maintenance Contract.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

### **ELECTRONIC MONITORING UPDATE**

Ms. Leinthall was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Benjamin reported that there are five electronic monitoring cases at present.

### **RESOLUTION NO. - CHANGES IN POSITIONS - PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote. Mr. Benjamin stated that due to a vacancy, no additional money is needed in 1999.

WHEREAS the Probation Department has functioned with a vacancy since January 1, 1999, and the workload of the department has shown a steady increase, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Representatives, That the following positions be changed as follows effective July 5, 1999:

- .14 Two (2) positions of Senior Probation Officer, (16/597), labor grade P(16), competitive class, increase from 35 to 40 hours
- .14 Nine (9) positions of Probation Officer, (14/585), labor grade N(14), competitive class, increase from 35 to 40 hours

**No additional monies are needed to support this resolution.**

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

## **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

### **JAIL STATISTICS**

Mr. Meskill distributed the jail statistics and a memo from the County Attorney's office relating to the reimbursement from the state for state-ready inmates. These are on file with the original minutes.

Mr. Meskill introduced Debra Niemi, Sergeant and Acting Jail Administrator. He stated that Mr. Stevens has filed for retirement effective July 31, 1999. He reported that things are good at the jail and there are currently no board-outs.

Mr. Meskill stated that the medical money in the budget has been used. This is the result of a couple of inmates requiring intensive care treatment and guarding 24 hours a day. He stated he has been working with the District Attorney, and the judge to get one individual released from the Sheriff's custody. If this happens, guards will no longer be needed and Medicaid will pay part of the patient's hospital bill and the person will be placed on probation supervision. He stated that if this doesn't take place, it will be very costly to the County. Mr. Meskill stated the Board may wish to consider making medical costs in the jail an A Mandate. He stated that there is no good way to budget for these costs and it really does not provide incentive to become more efficient in some areas, see a deficit in other areas and in the end the department sees a loss. Mr. Joseph stated that he believes this case is an exception and would justify a contingent fund request. He noted that there may be parts of the medical costs that could be designated an A Mandate, but this will need to be sorted through.

Mr. Meskill stated he spoke with the State Police and they have indicated that with the seat belt campaign compliance rose from 74 to 83 percent. He stated two additional ten-day checks will take place before year-end. Mr. Meskill stated that a recent case increased over-time by approximately \$5,000. He stated that he is working with an intern to sort through the department's timecards to provide a breakdown of shift time, overtime, transports, holdovers, special details, etc.

Mr. Meskill stated that the Criminal Contempt charges seen by Assigned Counsel is the result of the County's initiative to stop domestic violence. Ms. Hughes stated that this may be something to be discussed with the Domestic Violence Coordinator. Ms. Robinson stated Juris Monitor may be appropriate for this situation.

Mr. Lane asked if there have been any problems since the double bunks were installed. Mr. Meskill indicated there have been no problems and he recently provided a report to the Commission of Correction and a letter was received back that indicated the county has another year variance on double bunking and an additional six months on the double beds. Mr. Meskill stated that the double beds are being used more than the double bunks at this time.

Mr. Evans asked the status of the contract with the Social Security Administration. Mr. Meskill indicated that the Administration has been asked to return the contract and more should be known about this shortly.

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

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

WHEREAS, The Tompkins County Sheriff's Department has been awarded a donation from the Fraternal Order of Eagles in the amount of \$1,000 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 \$1,000 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	\$1,000
Appropriation	A3113-54484	D.A.R.E. Program	\$1,000

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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

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

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

## **OTHER**

Ms. Hughes stated that the drug court legislation has been passed and is waiting for the Governor's signature that allows for the transfer of jurisdiction to drug court. Mr. Lane asked if the magistrates know about this change and stated work may be needed to get them involved. Mr. Benjamin stated that early discussions were initiated by the justices, but the level of interest will need to be determined. Ms. Blanchard asked if drug court will become ineffective if it is overloaded with cases. Mr. Benjamin stated that this will need to be watched and the resources will have to be considered carefully.

## **JULY AGENDA ITEMS**

- Upgrade to Microwave System

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mr. Lane and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of May 25, and June 1, 1999, as submitted.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m. The next meeting will be held July 27, 1999 at Noon in the Scott Heyman Conference Room.

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