

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 10, 2000

NOON

SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

PRESENT: G. Totman, B. Blanchard, T. Joseph, N. Schuler

EXCUSED: C. Evans

STAFF: K. Leinthall, Probation Director; J. Hughes, Assigned Counsel; O Mack, OAR; W. Skinner, Public Information; K. Smithers, Deputy County Administrator; B. Benjamin, Deputy County Administrator; J. Beach, Stop-DWI; J. Miller, L. Shurtleff, Fire, Disaster and EMS; P. Meskill, Sheriff's Department; D. Johnson, Ithaca City Drug Court; S. Robinson, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 12:05 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- COMCAP Report
- Facilities and Infrastructure Committee Discussion – Clarification about Releasing County Equipment in Emergency Situations

Ms. Blanchard asked if Mr. Totman would like her to give a report from the COMCAP meeting or distribute the minutes to those individuals who are not on the Committee. Mr. Totman asked that the minutes be distributed.

MINUTES

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mrs. Schuler and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of July 13, 2000, as written.

PURCHASING

Mr. Meskill stated that his office would like to seek bids for a jail transport van and will be using rollover funds for the purchase. He asked the Committee what level of involvement they would like in the bidding process. It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the bidding process with the Committee awarding the bid.

OAR UPDATE

Mr. Mack reported the year-to-date volunteer hours at the end of June total 615 with the department goal being 900 for the year. He stated traditionally volunteer hours go down over the summer with volunteers out of town, but this year there have been more volunteers so the number of hours has remained steady. He stated volunteer training begins September 7 and hopes more people will volunteer. Mr. Mack reported that five additional bails were done in July bringing the number to 31 for the year. He stated 34 assigned counsel affidavits and 92 individuals were provided immediate assistance in July. Mr. Mack stated OAR has submitted two Over-Target Requests for the 2001 budget; one is for the Defender Based Advocacy Program (DBA) and one for Project Connect. He stated meetings have been held with two commissioners on the Local Conditional Release Commission (LCRC) about working as advocates for individuals going before the LCRC and helping individuals released by the LCRC adhere to their treatment plan. Ms. Leinthall explained that the LCRC is a group of three individuals who act as a local parole board for individuals sentenced over 90 days. She stated that approximately seven years ago the State passed the responsibility to municipalities to screen inmates eligible for local parole. She stated there are currently two commissioners and the requirements to be a commissioner are very stringent. She stated this might be an area where the Board considers appointing an out-of-county resident to serve on the Commission. Mr. Joseph stated that the Commission very rarely releases individuals. Ms. Leinthall stated this is

due to some criticism from the public about individuals not serving their entire sentences even though the system says they are eligible for parole along as well as strict guidelines for release.

STOP-DWI UPDATE

Mr. Beach distributed the July statistics and stated the arrest levels for 2000 are similar to those in 1999. He noted there were a couple of arrests made in July where the individuals Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) was .30 (three times the legal limit). The arrests did not follow an accident and is cause for concern.

Mrs. Schuler asked if it is known where people are drinking prior to arrest. Mr. Beach stated the information is available only if the individual discloses it.

Mrs. Schuler commented on the decline in DWI arrests compared with this same time in previous years. She asked in response to Mr. Meskill's statement that he had employees out on vacation, disability, etc., if there was a similar number of deputies out during the same time in past years. Mr. Meskill did not reply.

Mr. Joseph asked if the Selective Enforcement Patrol is being run over the summer. Sheriff Meskill stated it is, but he has several employees on vacation and does not have the manpower available to run the patrol as often.

Mr. Beach stated that the Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board (CJA/ATI) has been reviewing ATI proposals and prioritizing them for the 2001 budget. He stated the next meeting of that group will August 21, 2000, at Noon in the Scott Heyman Conference Room and invited Committee members to attend.

Ms. Smithers wished Sheriff Meskill a happy belated birthday and noted he is the same age and has the same birthday as the County Administrator. She asked the Committee to schedule their budget review meetings for September and stated ATI programs will be the biggest initiative and will need a significant amount of review because they total over \$3 million dollars.

DISTRICT COURT DISCUSSION

Mr. Joseph stated the issue of a district court was brought up at the last Public Safety Building Space Study Committee meeting and that group thought it needed more discussion. At the last CJA/ATI meeting a subcommittee was appointed to explore the feasibility of such a court. He stated at this point it may not be necessary for this committee to do anything, but they could charge the CJA/ATI to look at the issue. Ms. Blanchard stated she believes this is an important issue to look at. Ms. Leinthall stated this issue might be difficult politically because it will turn local towns and villages against the services of the County. She stated that justice courts are not currently working with the rest of the system it could make them aware that alternatives are being explored and may possibly get a better system underway. Ms. Robinson stated she also believes this is a good idea because if things improve in the justice courts this helps the entire system.

Mr. Benjamin stated that it is only proper that the Public Safety Committee charge the CJA/ATI with looking at this issue. He stated two things that need to be reviewed are the mechanics of the system and is this good for Tompkins County. He stated there are other states that have these courts that can be contacted for input.

Mrs. Schuler asked what the timeframe would be. It was the consensus of the Committee to charge the CJA/ATI with looking at the issue of a district court in Tompkins County and ask that group how they will proceed and how long the process will take.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Ms. Leinthall stated that the number of individuals on electronic monitoring is down slightly with seven people currently in the program. She noted this is a normal fluctuation and stated drug courts are using electronic monitoring as a sanction and this is reducing the jail population.

Ms. Leinthall stated that one of her probation officers will be out of the office for at least six weeks as the result of a fall at a client's home that broke the officer's ankle, tore ligaments, and required surgery.

RESOLUTION NO. - INCREASING THE HOURS OF VARIOUS PROBATION DEPARTMENT POSITIONS

It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mrs. Schuler. Ms. Leinthall stated that she was going to make this part of her 2001 budget request, but the department has funds available and she would like to implement it now. She stated there has been reorganization within her department and some employees have received promotions, but their pay has decreased because they are going from a 40-hour work week to a 35-hour work week. If this is approved there will only be one person in the department with the exception of clerical staff working 35 hours per week and that is the choice of the employee. She stated the workload in the department is also a factor, noting caseloads keep increasing. She stated she met with Mr. Erb and Mr. Benjamin to review caseloads and there has been a steady increase over the years and will continue to increase when additional ATI programs are implemented.

Mr. Joseph stated he has concerns with moving employees to 40 hours stating the County has steadily shifted employees from 35 to 40 hours. He asked if additional funding would be needed in 2001. Ms. Leinthall stated that it will cost more and additional funds will be requested, but noted it will not cost as much as it would if additional positions were requested. She stated the maintenance of effort request in the 2001 budget includes these positions.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 4 (Representatives Totman, Blanchard, and Schuler), Noes - 1 (Representative Joseph), Excused - 1 (Representative Evans). MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, the Probation Department has a need to increase the hours of five positions from 35 to 40 hours per week due to an increase in workload, decrease in the number of staff available to perform the work and the need to equalize workload from an administrative perspective, and

WHEREAS, staff resignations and prudent fiscal management have resulted in sufficient monies to increase the hours of these positions without requiring additional funding, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety committee that the hours of two 35 hour per week Probation Officer positions (14-585), two 35 hour per week Senior Probation Officer positions (16-597) and one 35 hour per week Probation Supervisor position (88-211) be increased to 40 hours per week effective September 1, 2000. No new monies are required.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

OTHER

An article that will be published in the *Lansing Ledger* highlighting probation programs was distributed to Committee members.

FIRE, DISASTER AND EMS

RESOLUTION NO. - APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND - TERMINAL PAY - FIRE/DISASTER OFFICE

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

WHEREAS, a staff member of the Fire, Disaster and EMS Office resigned and has received terminal pay at a total of \$5,055, and

WHEREAS, Section 5.03(B) of the County Fiscal Policy describes Departmental Entitlements, including contingent fund requests for the unbudgeted costs of terminal pay for employees, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Fiscal Policy Committees, That the following budget appropriation be made:

FROM:	A1990.44000	Contingency Fund	\$5,055
TO:	A3410.51000	Regular Pay	\$4,044
	A3410.58800	Fringe Benefits	\$1,011

RESOLVED, further, That this adjustment is for 2000 and does not affect the Fiscal Target for 2001.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

BUDGET TRANSFER

FROM: A3410.54311 Maintenance \$1,500

TO: Auto Maintenance \$1,500

Explanation: Repair of major engine oil leak in Coordinator's vehicle.

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS

Mr. Shurtleff distributed the departmental goals, these are on file in the board office. It was the consensus of the Committee to postpone review to the next committee meeting.

APPOINTMENT

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mrs. Schuler and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the appointment of Leslie Gifford to the E911 Operations Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2001.

ASSIGNED COUNSEL

Ms. Hughes reported as of July 31, 2000, \$350,000 of the budgeted \$695,000 has been spent on the defense of indigents. She stated Kelly Corbett is a new attorney working with the agency and will focus on Family Court cases.

COMMUNICATIONS CAPITAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Ms. Blanchard stated at the last Board meeting the EMS Planning Advisory Board was created and there was a discussion about who authorizes the County Public Works Department to release equipment for use in emergencies. At the last Facilities and Infrastructure (F&I) meeting this was discussed and the County Administrator or his designee will be authorized to release the equipment, but it was thought a mutual aid approach might be useful instead of relying on one entity. The F&I Committee asked that language should be added to the policy that addresses this. Ms. Blanchard distributed an excerpt from the System Safety Program Plan used by TCAT that discusses disasters. She requested that transit operations be included in the planning process and suggested TCAT be given a seat on the Board. Mr. Shurtleff will follow-up on this recommendation.

ITHACA CITY DRUG COURT UPDATE

Ms. Johnson reported that are currently 70 individuals in the program and it is running smoothly.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO. - APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND FOR REPLACEMENT PAY AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mrs. Schuler and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present. Sheriff Meskill stated that the figures have been audited by the County Administrator's office. He stated he currently has eight employees out on disability.

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has employees who were disabled or injured and unable to perform their duty, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for such replacement pay for employees who have been out longer than two months, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee and Budget and Quality Planning Committee, That the Director of Finance appropriate a total of \$88,321 to the Sheriff's budget for replacement pay encompassing the period of 1/1/00 through 7/31/00, and further

RESOLVED, that the money be distributed to the following accounts:

FROM:	A1990.54440	\$88,321
TO: Criminal Investigations	A3112.51000 Reg. Pay	5,909
	A3112.58800 Fringe	1,477
Uniform Division	A3113.51000 Reg. Pay	1,688
	A3113.58800 Fringe	422
Corrections	A3150.51000 Reg. Pay	63,060
	A3150.58800 Fringe	<u>15,765</u>
	TOTAL	\$88,321

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

BUDGET TRANSFER - INFORMATION ONLY

FROM:	A3112.52206	Computer Equipment	\$2,500
	A3112.52206	Computer Equipment	\$ 876
	A3150.54342	Food	\$6,000
TO:	A3112.52222	Communications Equip.	\$2,500
	A3112.52206	Computer Software	\$ 876
	A3150.54342	Vehicles	\$6,000

Explanation: Monies needed to purchase communications equipment, balance the software account, and cover the balance of the transport van.

JAIL STATISTICS

Mr. Meskill distributed the jail statistics. They are on file with the original minutes. Mr. Meskill noted his office is making more transports, but they are covering fewer miles. He stated that both straight time and overtime are up because of individuals being out on vacation and disability.

Mrs. Schuler noted that the number of mental health consultations have risen. Mr. Meskill stated there is a high number of mental health issues in the jail at this time. Ms. Hughes stated that Tompkins County is second only to New York City with the number of applicants for Kendra's Law and has one of the highest number of mental health cases in New York State.

Mr. Meskill stated that the Commission of Corrections has completed their annual inspection and there were no outstanding issues following that inspection.

Mr. Meskill stated his department will be doing car seat inspections at Cooke Chevrolet Oldsmobile Cadillac, Inc., in September and will have assistance from surrounding counties and the State Police for the event

Ms. Hughes thanked Sheriff Meskill for the work his department has done out of the satellite station in Newfield. She stated there have been some serious crimes issues in the past and the Sheriff's Department's presence in the community has been a tremendous help. Mr. Meskill stated his department is also going to be working in the Dryden area to resolve crime issues in the near future and will be establishing the D.A.R.E. Program in the school in the fall.

Mrs. Schuler noted she recently attended a luncheon for the interns working in the County and stated they have done a lot of impressive work for the County. She stated she hopes the County will positively fund this program in the future.

BUDGET REVIEW SCHEDULE

The Committee set the following budget review schedule:

September 5, 2000	8:15-Noon
September 6, 2000	8:15-Noon
September 14, 2000	11-2 p.m.
September 25, 2000	8:15-Noon

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held September 14, 2000 at 11 a.m. in the Scott Heyman Conference Room.