

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 24, 1999

NOON

SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

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

STAFF: B. Benjamin, Deputy County Administrator; G. Hammer, Systems Administrator for Criminal Justice; T. Kessler, Criminal Justice; R. Teasley, OAR, J. Hughes, Assigned Counsel; G. King, Drug Court; K. Leinthall, Probation, J. Beach, Stop-DWI; P. Meskill, Sheriff; L. Shurtleff, J. Miller, Fire, Disaster and EMS

GUESTS: C. Nocera, M. Raffe, American Red Cross

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at Noon.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA

- Resolution No. - Creation and Change in Positions – Probation Department
- Resolution No. - Authorization To Accept An Award Of A Grant From The Park Foundation

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING SPACT STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Joseph reported the Committee has not met since his last update to the full board. He stated that the Cortland County Legislature passed a resolution indicating their interest in looking at a regional jail and has suggested it be located next to TC-3 to take advantage of educational opportunities. Mr. Joseph stated that he is not sure if two counties interest is enough to look at the feasibility, but it would be useful to look at the expenses of a regional facility versus expansion. He stated the jail would be used for sentenced prisoners and noted that Cortland County has also expressed interest in a juvenile facility as well.

STOP-DWI UPDATE

This item was deferred to later in the agenda.

ASSIGNED COUNSEL

Ms. Hughes reported that the Assigned Counsel office is being repainted and carpeted. She stated the SWAP crew has been doing the work, and noted they have been doing an excellent job. She stated that this has been a quiet month for her office and isn't sure why, but noted that Family Court cases are up 45 percent over this same time last year. Ms. Blanchard asked how many cases the Assigned Counsel office handled in 1998. Ms. Hughes stated that the office handled over 2000 cases.

OAR

Ms. Teasley distributed a brochure that will be available to visitors to the jail that talks about visiting hours at the jail, guidelines for visiting, items that may be left for inmates and answers to frequently asked questions. Mr. Evans suggested posting the visiting guidelines outside the jail as well as in the lobby. She distributed information about OAR's Transition Program and noted that this is a very small program that is funded by an unnamed foundation. The Program helped 17 youths as of mid year.

STOP-DWI UPDATE

Mr. Beach distributed the statistics through August 15, 1999. These are filed with the original minutes. He stated that arrests continue to remain up and approximately one-half come from the regular patrol and one-half from the special patrol. He stated that this indicates that the whole department is involved and this is very encouraging. He stated that arrests resulting from motor vehicle accidents remain very low.

Mr. Lane asked if there is anything that can be done to publicize the number of people who are on the roads under the influence of drugs. Mr. Meskill stated that drug detection requires specialized training and none in the Sheriff's Department has that training. He stated that he knows of only one State Trooper who has drug detection training. Mr. Beach stated that if an officer makes a stop, but cannot detect the odor of alcohol, they can make the arrest as a drug arrest and then try to secure a blood test. Mr. Lane asked if this is something that the County should consider budgeting for. Mr. Meskill stated he has interested people who would like to be trained, but in addition to the training costs, paying the employee and overtime while the training is being completed also needs to be considered.

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Benjamin stated that he has been working on reviewing budget requests. He stated that negotiations are still underway with the preferred vendor for CISNET. He stated the original timeline was to have the vendor approved in August, but this will now have to be done in September. Mr. Evans stated he will call a special meeting, if it is needed, to approve the vendor.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

ELECTRONIC MONITORING UPDATE

Ms. Leinthall stated that there are presently six individuals on electronic monitoring and they are doing fairly well. She stated that recently electronic monitoring was added as a sanction of drug court.

RESOLUTION NO. – CREATION AND CHANGE IN POSITIONS – PROBATION DEPARTMENT

It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote. Mr. Benjamin stated that this will be part of the target increase in Probation's 2000 budget. He stated the new position will be covered for two years with federal funds, and the increase in hours will be a maintenance of effort request.

WHEREAS, the Probation Department has formally been notified that Federal aid will be provided through the Ithaca Drug Treatment Court for funding of one (1) 40-hour position of Senior Probation Officer effective September 1, 1999, and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department also wishes to increase the hours of two (2) Probation Officer positions from 35 to 40 hours and no additional funding is needed, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That one position of Senior Probation Officer, labor grade P (16/597), 40 hours per week, is hereby created effective September 1, 1999,

RESOLVED, further, That the hours of two positions of Probation Officer, labor grade N (14/582) are hereby increased from 35 to 40 hours effective immediately.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

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

REVENUE:	3141.42770	Other Miscellaneous Revenues	\$14,423
	3141.42770	Other Miscellaneous Revenues	3,606
APPROPRIATION:	3141.51000	Regular Pay	\$14,423
	3141.58800	Fringes	3,606

Explanation: To properly allocate funds to be received as a result of a recently approved federal grant for Ithaca Drug Treatment Court to fully pay for 1 FTE (40 hour) Senior Probation Officer beginning September 1, 1999.

FIRE, DISASTER AND EMS UPDATE

This item was deferred until later in the meeting.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Mr. Meskill stated he is continuing to analyze his department's budget. He stated that the State did not include reimbursement of D&E Felons in the State budget and this will impact the 2000 departmental budget by approximately \$90,000. He distributed the payroll analysis of the Department and this is on file with the original minutes. He stated the purpose of the analysis was to get a synopsis of what is done with overtime to see if it is really needed. He stated the report does indicate that the overtime was needed, and noted that most of the discretionary time used was for training. Mr. Lane asked how many cars the State puts on the road during the day. Mr. Meskill stated that there are some days that they have more manpower than others and noted they are on a different schedule than in the past. He stated that he works with the State to coordinate schedules to offset when one of the departments may have short staffing.

Mr. Meskill distributed the fleet inventory for the department. He stated that the department is experiencing some major vehicle repairs and noted several of the 1998 patrol vehicles already have 70,000 miles on them. He stated that the department is in need of additional vehicles in the fleet in an attempt to reduce repair costs and provide safe vehicles. The department is considering retiring marked patrol cars with approximately 100,000 miles on them.

Mr. Meskill stated that he will be requesting the remaining \$161,000 from the contingent fund later in the year for disbursement throughout the department budget. He stated at this time the department is doing fairly well financially.

MINUTES

It was Moved by Mr. Totman, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of July 27, 1999, and August 3, 1999, as submitted.

SCHEDULE BUDGET REVIEW MEETINGS

September 1 8:00 - Noon

September 9 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
September 29 8:00 - Noon
September 30 8:00 - Noon

FIRE, DISASTER AND EMS

Mr. Shurtleff stated that the new generators are being installed and the fuel contract has been signed. He stated that 911 finished the second year of operation and he will have a summary available at the next committee meeting. He stated that the total call volume is down and this could be due to the mild winter last year and not as much testing being done.

Mr. Miller stated that Omni Point is doing a stress analysis of the tower at the public safety building and they are projecting being operational by September 15, 1999. Mr. Joseph asked for an outline on how the money will be spent with the increased 911 surcharge. Mr. Miller stated that this is outlined in the resolution approving the increase in the surcharge. It will be used for a crime control package to be added to the 911 package and new browsers.

Mr. Evans stated that in earlier discussions it was thought that when the 911 facility is consolidated more staff would be needed in the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Shurtleff stated that from the dispatch standpoint this won't be necessary, but it isn't clear how the Ithaca City Police Department will fit into the plan. He stated this will need to be looked at as well as the call volume and included in the operations plan.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DISCUSSION

Mr. Shurtleff distributed the "Summary of Tompkins County Disaster Response" and this is below.

SUMMARY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY DISASTER RESPONSE

New York State Executive Law establishes leadership roles and provides for the direction of emergency response at times of disaster. Local government and emergency service organizations provide our first line of defense, and our County Charter assigns specific responsibilities to individuals including the Board Chair and the Fire & Disaster Coordinator.

A "disaster" is the occurrence or imminent threat of "widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property" caused by natural or man-made factors. A disaster could be isolated to a particular geographical area or it could affect larger populations. A "disaster" may include a widespread, protracted power outage or telecommunications loss.

A "State of Emergency" is issued by a government chief executive (mayor, supervisor, county executive or board chair, Governor) and constitutes the declaration of a disaster. This action occurs when the Executive determines the scope of the damage exceeds the capability of local emergency responders, and a coordinated response of many agencies will be necessary to restore public safety.

In these rare instances, normal traffic and public activities may be restricted. The chief executive would do so by issuing and publicizing "emergency orders." An example might include road closings for the purpose of clearing debris, snow, or live wires. It could happen in a couple of towns, or it could be countywide.

When the Chair declares an emergency, the Coordinator assumes a coordinating role. Local fire stations serve as a prime point of contact for the public and emergency responders. An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opens at a then-determined site, communications are established with responders through the county's 911 center and radio system, and individuals representing various agencies (fire, EMS, police, health dept., utilities, executive) are summoned to the EOC.

The Coordinator would brief these representatives as to the extent of the "disaster," its anticipated duration, and would provide an assessment of immediate priorities communicated to 911. 911 would continue to send immediate life or property threatening calls to local responders.

The operations group would determine both immediate and long-term priorities and actions, and the Coordinator would implement these plans using an Incident Command structure. Requests for State and Federal assistance would originate at the EOC, and the Coordinator would establish communication with the State Emergency Management Office. The fire mutual aid network may also be activated.

If immediate life-threatening conditions exist in a given area, a local government, through its' fire department, would arrange for the temporary movement and safe sheltering of vulnerable populations. A longer term need to shelter people would be assessed by the operations group, and the Red Cross would activate its' established sheltering plan. County government would monitor local resources, including food and fuel, and would secure those necessities through established channels. Recovery efforts would also initiate at the EOC.

Our "first line of defense" includes dozens of public safety and public works agencies. In an emergency, many resources of local government - city, town, village, county, school, and regional/state facilities and employees- are at our disposal. Our network of 1,500 plus emergency responders, communicating through the county radio system, can be activated at a moment's notice to ensure the general health and safety of our vulnerable citizens. This county framework provides for the orderly long-term protection of our people.

Mr. Shurtleff stated that the role of the Fire Coordinator is to maintain communications for responders, maintain the radio communications system, obtain assessments of needs to find out the problem and duration expected and then plan the response to the situation as well as act as the liaison to state and federal agencies.

Mr. Nocera of the Red Cross stated that the Red Cross in Tompkins County is equipped to respond to level one and two disasters. Level one would be a single residence fire and level two would be a multi-family dwelling fire. He stated there is a network of volunteers that respond to level one disasters and functional teams that would respond to level two or higher. The role of the Red Cross is to obtain a damage assessment, and provide food and shelter on an emergency basis.

Mr. Nocera stated that the Tompkins County Chapter of the Red Cross would become easily overwhelmed if there was a level three or higher disaster and this is very typical. He stated that their Board recently approved the funding for the development of a disaster plan and they are seeking additional funding from outside sources. He stated in a disaster of any size approximately 10 percent of the rural population and 30 percent of the city would seek shelter. At this time the Red Cross has 18 sheltering agreements throughout the county, but they do not have the resources to operate all 18 at the same time. Based on this, the Red Cross has begun sheltering efforts with the City of Ithaca and will be training City employees to fill volunteer roles so more shelters can be staffed in the event of a disaster. He stated that the County has room for approximately 9300 individuals in the 18 shelters. All of the school districts have been contacted for use as shelters, but some do not have generators to run the facilities for

an extended period of time. The Red Cross is also currently working with the Towns of Dryden, Danby and Caroline to get agreements in place. He stated that the Red Cross does not have a large number of supplies at this time, but the vendor list is being expanded for use in times of need.

Mr. Nocera stated that the County does not have a community disaster education program, and there should be one. The Red Cross has the plans for this program, but no resources to fund it.

Mr. Lane stated that the types of disasters the County experienced in the past have been very severe and very localized. He stated that there is a real need for quick response from public works departments and that doesn't happen. He asked how to get the word out faster to make sure that the response is going to arrive in a timely manner. Ms. Blanchard stated that the County's snow notification system may be something to build upon to include other types of emergencies.

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

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

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Department 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 Committees, That the Director of Finance appropriate a total of \$76,695 to the Sheriff's budget for replacement pay encompassing the period of April 1, 1999 through July 31, 1999,

RESOLVED, further, That the money be distributed to the following accounts:

FROM:	A1990.54400	\$76,695
TO: UNIFORM DIVISION	A3113.51000	\$28,628 Regular Pay
	A3113.58800	7,157 Fringe
CORRECTIONS DIVISION	A3150.51000	\$32,728 Regular Pay
	A3150.58800	8,182 Fringe
	TOTAL	\$76,695

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AN AWARD OF A GRANT TO
SUPPORT TRAINING FOR LOCAL INVESTIGATORS AND
PROSECUTORS AT A CHILD FATALITY CONFERENCE**

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

WHEREAS, the Deputy County Administrator for Criminal Justice Services has been notified of a grant award from a local foundation that wishes to remain anonymous in the amount of \$7,500 to

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support training for local investigators and prosecutors at a conference entitled "Investigation and Prosecution of Child Fatalities and Physical Abuse" to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and

WHEREAS, there is no current or future financial or program obligation for Tompkins County to accept this grant, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County Administrator or his designee execute all contracts related to this award,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is directed to make the following budget adjustment for 1999:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

FROM: (Revenue)	A3989.42770	Other Miscellaneous Revenue	\$7,500
TO: (Appropriation)	A3989.54412	Travel/Training	\$7,500

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held September 27, 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.