

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 1999**

**NOON**

**SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

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

**STAFF:** John Beach, Stop-DWI; Julia Hughes, Assigned Counsel; Jack Miller, Fire, Disaster and EMS; Peter Meskill, Sheriff; Kathy Leinthall, Probation; Bill Benjamin, Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Putney, OAR

**GUESTS:** Georgette King, Ithaca Drug Court; Lou Withiam, E911 Operations Committee

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chaiman Evans called the meeting to order at Noon.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Resolution - Appropriation from Contingent Fund for Health Care Costs and Overtime Payroll  
Budget Transfer  
E911 Request

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND – TERMINAL PAY – DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

It was Moved by Mr. Lane, seconded by Mr. Totman and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present.

WEHREAS, an Assistant District Attorney has ended employment with Tompkins County as of August 25, 1999, and

WHEREAS, the County Fiscal Policy allows for the appropriation of contingency funds for reimbursement to a department for payment of terminal benefits, and

WHEREAS, the cost of terminal benefits in the amount of \$2,322.12 plus 25 percent fringe has been incurred by the District Attorney’s office, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Quality Planning Committees, That the following budget adjustment be made:

FROM:	A1990.54400	Contingency Fund	\$2,902.65
TO:	A1165.10000	Terminal Pay	\$2,322.12
	A1165.80000	Fringes	580.00

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

**BUDGET TRANSFERS – INFORMATION ONLY**

<b>FROM:</b>	A1165.54412	Travel/Training	\$800
<b>TO:</b>	A1165.54303	Office Supplies	\$800

Explanation: Office supply prices have risen, but have been offset by no-cost or low-cost training opportunities.

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<b>FROM:</b>	A1165.51000	Personal Services	\$ 152
	A1165.51000	Personal Services	\$1,382
<b>TO:</b>	A1165.54402	Advertising	\$ 152
	A1165.52206	Computer Equipment	\$1,382

Explanation: Unused salary from temporarily vacant Assistant District Attorney position will pay for ad to fill position and for a computer system for unsalaried assistance by an intern.

Mr. Joseph arrived at 12:03 p.m.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY SPACE BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Joseph reported that the committee has not met since his last report to the full board.

### **STOP-DWI**

Mr. Beach distributed the statistics. These are on file with the original minutes. Mr. Beach stated that the DWI patrol is conducting just below 50 percent of the arrests in the Sheriff's department. He stated that arrests for the Sheriff's Department are up 30 percent over last year at this time and the Sheriff's Department is leading in arrests among the big three (the Sheriff's Department, Ithaca Police Department and the New York State Police). He stated that the number of arrests resulting from a crash remain low.

### **ASSIGNED COUNSEL**

Ms. Hughes stated that number of cases in Family Court are increasing and those in criminal court are going down. She stated there have been 166 misdemeanor cases this year compared to 243 last year. Mr. Evans asked what the status is at the state level concerning fees for assigned attorneys being increased. Ms. Hughes stated that this has been assigned to an Administrative Law Judge and Ms. Hughes has asked that Tompkins County be kept apprised of the situation.

### **OAR**

Ms. Putney reported that OAR has bailed 43 individuals and the goal for the year is 62. She stated that the agency has needed to use their line of credit for the first time, but this should be taken care of by the end of the week. She stated that this was used to enable the agency to continue doing bails even though they have a lot of bails out.

### **DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINSITRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Benjamin stated that he has been busy with the budget process. He reminded Committee members that Judge Rowley will be attending the October meeting to discuss the Drug Court evaluation. Mr. Benjamin reported that the CISNET wiring is underway, and the City of Ithaca wiring will be completed by next week. He stated that he met with police agencies and dispatchers about independent number generation. He stated that this will be a function of CISNET, but he does not know if the capability will be up and running by January 1, 2000.

Mr. Benjamin asked if any notice has been received from the Governor's office regarding the Governor signing the .20 surcharge bill for the 911 system. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Shurtleff is in Albany today and will be checking on the status of the bill while he is there.

Mr. Benjamin expressed concern over the paint fumes in the Assigned Counsel office since their recent repainting. He stated that the fumes are overwhelming and this could be a health hazard. Mr. Evans asked Mr. Benjamin to notify the Employee Health and Safety Coordinator about this situation.

**PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

**ELECTRONIC MONITORING UPDATE**

Ms. Leinthall reported that there are currently seven individuals on electronic monitoring. She stated that one individual who was on electronic monitoring was sentenced to jail time as a sanction of drug court and fled the area instead of reporting to the jail.

Ms. Leinthall stated that there have been no clients on the Juris Monitor Program. She stated it is difficult to get all parties to agree to participate.

**FIRE, DISASTER AND EMS**

Mr. Miller asked that the E911 report be deferred until Mr. Withiam, Chair of the E911 Operations Committee is in attendance later in the meeting.

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

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

**REVENUE:**    A3401.41140                      911                      \$10,000

**APPROPRIATION:**    A3411.54425                      Service Contracts                      \$10,000

Explanation:    Funds previously expensed out of 911 and now come from the Fire and EMS operating budget to cover the service contracts on 911 equipment.

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

**JAIL STATISTICS**

Sheriff Meskill distributed the jail statistics and medical report and these are on file with the original minutes. Mr. Meskill stated that the variance in the jail was recently changed from 117 to 103 and allows some flexibility for emergencies. He stated that Chief Niemi recently attended leadership training in Syracuse. The training was made available by the DCJS, the New York State Sheriff's Association and the New York State Commission of Corrections. He stated the new jail policy is approximately 40 percent complete and he hopes to implement it by year-end. He stated a new jail rulebook is being designed by jail staff for inmates and he anticipates this being implemented by December 31, 1999.

Sheriff Meskill stated that the department is also designing an in-house corrections training program, and a correction officer will serve as Training Coordinator. He stated this should be helpful in gaining consistency and will help staff understand policies, rules and regulations, and promote professional staff development. Sheriff Meskill stated that the second round of gun qualifying is being done for road deputies and investigators and jail staff will have training in mid-October. He stated that the Ithaca Police Department has allowed the Sheriff's Department to use their training facility.

Sheriff Meskill stated that one road sergeant will be attending a three-week supervisor's school hosted by Onondaga County Sheriff's Office in November and another road sergeant will be scheduled for the same training next year as the budget and scheduling allows. He stated two deputies will be attending School Resource Officer training the second week of November and noted Deputy Jordan is finishing the second week of DARE officer training. Both of these trainings are free from registration and course material costs. The Department also recently joined the NYS Juvenile Officers Association. He stated this group is an excellent resource for low cost professional training and networking and

he hopes to devise a new program over the next ten months that will encompass many issues that students should be aware of.

Sheriff Meskill reported that the department has been very proactive in drug arrests this year. He stated that in excess of \$250,000 worth of marijuana has been confiscated and there have also been other arrests to date that have included the seizure of paraphernalia and over \$50,000 worth of hallucinogenic mushrooms. He stated the Sheriff's Department has worked very effectively with the Ithaca Police Department Special Unit, the New York State Police and their aviation unit, the Onondaga Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and local village agencies to maximize results and minimize costs.

Ms. Blanchard stated that the training program in the department is more intensive than in the past and asked if officers are more encouraged or resentful in attending. Mr. Meskill stated that they seem happy to attend and appreciative of the knowledge they are gaining.

Mr. Evans asked how the seatbelt enforcement is working. Sheriff Meskill stated the department did not have the volume of tickets during the fall checkpoints like they did in the spring. He stated that more stops were made, but there was higher compliance. He stated the next check period will take place between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Mr. Joseph asked about the jail physicians follow-up with inmates who enter the jail and are on prescription medication. He asked what the policy is for prescription medications that may be urgent. Sheriff Meskill stated he spoke with the jail physician and nurse and the general policy is when a person is brought in on medication the doctor is contacted and a prescription is put together and the doctor does a follow-up within 72 hours. Mr. Joseph asked if the jail physician is in contact with the inmate's physician. Sheriff Meskill stated that this was not made clear to him and he will pursue this with the jail medical staff.

Mr. Meskill asked that the resolution to appropriate funds from the Contingent Fund for Outstanding 1997 Telephone Bills at the Sheriff's Department be withdrawn. He stated that the department received a credit to the phone bill and more research is needed.

**RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND FOR HEALTH CARE COSTS AND OVERTIME PAYROLL**

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

WHEREAS, in June of this year the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department incurred medical costs for two inmates that exceeded normal budgetary funds, and

WHEREAS, overtime costs incurred to guard inmates while at the hospital amounted to thirty shifts of duty during this same period for the same inmates, and

WHEREAS, the Jail medical budget does not provide for long-term, intensive hospital care and its associated costs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee and Budget and Quality Planning Committee, That the Director of Finance appropriate \$31,929 to the Jail medical budget 3151.54467 for costs incurred,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance appropriate \$7,070 to the Corrections budgeting unit 3150.51200 for overtime labor associated with posting a 24/7 guard for said inmates.

FROM:	CONTINGENT FUND	A1990.54400	\$38,999
TO:	CORRECTIONS DIVISION	A3151.54467	31,929
		A3150.51200	7,070
		TOTAL	\$38,999

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

**BUDGET TRANSFER – INFORMATION ONLY**

<b>FROM:</b>	A3151.51000	Regular Pay	\$60,545
	A3151.51200	Overtime Pay	32,966
	A3151.51300	Shift Pay	547
	A3151.58800	Fringes	23,514
<b>TO:</b>	A3150.51000	Regular Pay	\$60,545
	A3150.51200	Overtime Pay	32,966
	A3150.51300	Shift Pay	547
	A3150.58800	Fringes	23,514

Explanation: No employees assigned to this budgeting unit.

**APPOINTMENTS**

It was Moved by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the appointment of Mary Burtless to the Family Court Advisory Council for a three year term to expire December 31, 2001.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by Mr. Totman, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of August 24, 1999, with the changes offered by Mr. Benjamin.

The Committee took a recess at 1:03 p.m. The committee reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

**E911 DISCUSSION**

Mr. Withiam presented a concept that the E911 Operations Committee discussed at their last meeting to have cell phone calls come into the County's dispatch center rather than through the NYS Police. He stated that the Operations Committee believes that by having the calls come through the dispatch center this will allow calls to be handled more efficiently because the State Police has to transfer the calls into the dispatch center and this would also prevent calls from being lost while transferred. He stated that the County dispatchers are also more familiar with the area than the State Police. He stated that if the Committee approves the resolution, the cell phone companies will need to be approached and paperwork completed before the change occurs.

Mr. Totman asked if there is a cost for this change and how dispatchers know where the call is originating. Mr. Miller stated that the switch on the tower is programmed to determine where calls originate from and the calls go into the closest tower. He stated there is no increase in cost because the calls are already coming into the dispatch center, the process would eliminate the transfer from the state police. He stated this will provide better service and public safety in the community.

**RESOLUTION NO. - SUPPORTING WIRELESS PHONE/CELL PHONE TRANSFER FROM NEW YORK STATE POLICE TO TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT**

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

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has an established E-911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), and  
WHEREAS, this single answering point provides (2) full-time call takers around the clock, and  
WHEREAS, this PSAP is interconnected to New York State Police, Ithaca Police Department, and Tompkins County Sheriff's Department, and

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WHEREAS, this location dispatches all fire, rescue and ambulance services, and  
WHEREAS, each police car is further interconnected by a mobile data and GPS network to the PSAP and to each other, and

WHEREAS, this mobile data provides the PSAP the ability to send the closest car to incidents, and

WHEREAS, wireless PCS and cell phone calls are not part of this PSAP answering system, and

WHEREAS, the residents of Tompkins County would be better served through direct access to Tompkins County E-911 PSAP, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Police have for the past eight to ten years answered these calls and their outstanding service has seen an increase of calls within Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, these services were in place before Tompkins County had an E-911 answering system, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That Tompkins County request New York State Police to allow all wireless/PCS cell phone calls to be answered at the Tompkins County E-911 PSAP,

RESOLVED, further, That any and all providers of wireless/PCS cell phone service with operating equipment within Tompkins County will program their switches to forward any and all calls for E-911 service to Tompkins County E-911 PSAP,

RESOLVED, further, That each provider of wireless PCS cell phone service is requested to complete this change on request of the New York State Police.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m. The next meeting will be held October 26, 1999 at Noon in the Scott Heyman Conference Room.

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