

**Public Safety Committee
October 2, 2003
Scott Heyman Conference Room
2 p.m.**

Present: B. Blanchard, M. Robertson, K. Herrera, G. Totman
Excused: L. McBean
Staff: S. Cook, S. Robinson, K. Leinthall, S. Whicher, P. Meskill
Guests: O. Mack

Call to Order

Ms. Blanchard called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

Discussion: Dispatch agreement with the City of Ithaca
Discussion: Sheriff's Department budget

Report: STOP Grant

Ms. Robinson distributed the complete STOP Grant budget and reported on the status of the grant application to the Division of Criminal Justice Services. She expects to receive information on the grant funding in late November. She stated the grant application requests the same level of programs that currently exist (\$60,376) and noted only a very small portion of the grant comes directly to the County. The majority of the funding goes to the Advocacy Center and Cayuga Medical Center.

Report: Integrated Domestic Violence Court

Ms. Robinson reported on the status of the Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDVC) and said a meeting will be held this evening where she will learn more details about the Court. She reported the judges attended training in September and expect the Court to begin in Tompkins County in December. Ms. Robinson said there are seven other courts opening in New York State. In response to a question about whether the State would be funding the Resource Coordinator position, Ms. Robinson said the Center for Court Innovation has applied for a grant on behalf of Tompkins County that would fund this position. It was suggested that Legislature adopt a resolution that urges funding be provided to assist with funding vital positions for the court including positions of Resource Coordinator, Advocate, and support. Ms. Blanchard suggested that a letter be written from the Chair of the Legislature instead of a resolution. That letter would explain the fiscal constraints the County is in and how the position of Resource Coordinator is very important to Tompkins County, Robinson will draft a resolution for the Legislature to consider.

Discussion: Domestic Violence Prevention

Ms. Herrera said she still feels strongly that Tompkins County would be missing some opportunities to address some ongoing suffering if the County's domestic violence prevention efforts are abandoned. She referred to the list provided by Ms. Robinson of items that are ongoing and said it is very important that some of these efforts continue. Ms. Robinson agreed with Ms. Herrera's comments

and said although she recognizes this is a difficult budget year she hopes the County will not drop the its domestic violence prevention efforts altogether.

Ms. Robinson said there are a few programs that need continued attention and monitoring:

Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program: VAWA grant applied for on behalf of the County in February, 2003. Ms. Robinson expects the County will hear this Fall about the status of funding. If funding is granted, administration and coordination are the responsibility of the County.

Domestic Violence Database: The domestic violence database needs to continue to be kept up for the County to have accurate data about domestic violence arrests, convictions and dispositions as well as recidivism statistics and probation violations. A new person would have to be designated to receive the Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) form the last enforcement agencies. By agreement with all of the County law enforcement agencies, DIs are currently being sent to Ms. Robinson for input into the database created.

Domestic Violence Innovation Project: Ms. Robinson said someone from the Probation Department would have to be appointed to represent Tompkins County.

Ms. Herrera referred to information presented by Ms. Robinson and noted the connection between domestic violence, child abuse, and the increased risk of arrest as a juvenile (53%) and increased risk of arrest for a violent crime as an adult (38%). She stated violence decreases as a result of an individual being involved in a domestic violence prevention program. Ms. Herrera said the area of domestic violence prevention is very important to her and that she will work very hard to restore the Over Target Request in the 2004 budget.

Sheriff's Department

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature:

RESOLUTION NO. - APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND FOR SALARY AND FRINGES AS AUTHORIZED IN THE MARCH 1, 2001 – FEBRUARY 28, 2004 SHERIFF’S UNION CONTRACT - SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the 2003 Tompkins County Budget includes \$127,929 of Contingent Funds identified specifically for the Sheriffs’ Union contract negotiation settlement, and

WHEREAS, the funding approved was fully offset by December 31, 2001, Certified Surplus within the Sheriff’s budget and did not result in any increase in the 2003 Property Tax Levy, and

WHEREAS, these funds are now required to satisfy a portion of the retroactive settlement authorized by the March 1, 2001 – February 28, 2004, Employees' Union of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department as ratified by the bargaining unit and approved by the Tompkins County Legislature via Resolution No. 176 on August 19, 2003, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Capital Committees, That \$127,929 be appropriated from the 2003 Contingent Fund for the Sheriff’s Department personnel and fringe accounts affected by the contract settlement.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Report on Salaries at the Sheriff's Department

Mr. Whicher distributed information on Sheriff's Department salaries for 2003 and 2004. He noted that an adjustment for \$80,000 which is the result of the recently negotiated contract, will have to be made during the budget process.

Dispatch Agreement with the City of Ithaca

Mr. Whicher provided the Committee with a brief history of dispatch negotiations that have taken place with the City with regard to the Dispatch Center. The Committee discussed the status of the negotiations and made suggestions to Mr. Whicher of areas they would like to see further negotiation.

Approval of Minutes of July 31 and September 2, 2003

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, Legislature Office