

**Public Safety Committee  
December 14, 2001  
Noon  
Courthouse Conference Room**

Present: G. Totman, B. Blanchard, T. Joseph, N. Schuler, T. Todd  
Staff and Agencies: P. Meskill, J. Beach, O. Mack, S. Robinson, L. Shurtleff, M. Pottorff

**Called to Order**

Mr. Totman called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of November 8, 2001**

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2001 meeting as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

**Changes to the Agenda**

A report concerning the Criminal Justice Center was added to the agenda. The Assigned Counsel Administrator was not available to attend the meeting; therefore, that Department's report was withdrawn.

**Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff Meskill reported there is an issue relating to the purchase of cameras to replace existing ones in the entire Jail that he needs direction from the Committee on. He said he has been working with the Purchasing Division on this; however, due to changes in staffing paperwork that was completed on this cannot be located. He asked the Committee's permission to allow the Purchasing Division to proceed with releasing a bid for the cameras and to also award the bid.

It was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to allow Sheriff Meskill to move forward with the bid relating to new cameras and to allow the Purchasing Division to award the bid. MOTION CARRIED.

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution and submit to the Budget and Capital Committee:

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

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has employees who were on disability, compensation and or suspended 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 the Budget and Capital Committee, That the Director of Finance appropriate a total of \$102,231 to the Sheriff's budget for replacement pay encompassing the period of July 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001,

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

FROM:	A1990.54440		\$102,231
TO: Uniform Division	A3113.51000	Regular Pay	\$ 30,964
	A3113-51800	Fringe Pay	\$ 7,741
Corrections	A3150-51000	Regular Pay	\$ 50,821
	A3150-58800	Fringe Pay	\$ 12,705

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

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The following resolution was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard:

Mr. Meskill said his intent to abolish these positions reflect the actions the Board took during the 2002 budget process. He said his Department has other unfunded positions that will remain on the books. Mr. Joseph said this is not a universal action that is being taken by departments who have unfunded positions as a result of the budget. Ms. Blanchard said she will support this because it makes sense that a resolution should come before Committees to reflect the actions the Board took in adopting a budget. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 5, Noes - 0. MOTION CARRIED.

**RESOLUTION NO. - CREATION OF, ABOLITION OF AND CHANGES IN POSITIONS  
VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the appropriate Committees of the Board of Representatives, That the following positions be abolished effective January 1, 2002:

**Sheriff's Department**

- 1.0 Account Clerk Typist, (6-513), labor grade (F), competitive class
- 1.0 Corrections Officer from Jail, (32-406), labor grade (B), competitive class
- 1.0 Deputy Sheriff, (41-419), competitive class, 40 hours per week

RESOLVED, further, That the hours of the following positions be changed as follows effective January 1, 2002:

**Assigned Counsel**

- 1.0 Administrative Assistant, (12-535), labor grade (L), competitive class, decreased from 37.5 to 35 hours

RESOLVED, further, that the following position be created effective January 1, 2002:

**Planning**

- 1.0 Environmental Planner (14-682), labor grade (N), competitive class, 40.0 hours

**SEQR ACTION:** Type II-20

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Sheriff Meskill provided the Committee with a written monthly report of activities at the Sheriff's Office and November Jail statistics. Mr. Meskill spoke concerning the mutual aid agreement with the City of Ithaca and said it is almost complete. He said agreement has taken a long time to come together but is an important step to properly insure that they are able to handle tactical situations county-wide with mutual cooperation among various governments to insure efficiency, effectiveness while reducing or eliminating redundancy.

Ms. Blanchard stated Tom Ridge, who was assigned to homeland security by President Bush, is going to be announcing new requirements being imposed on local governments. She asked Sheriff Meskill if he knew anything about this. Mr. Meskill responded that he has spent a lot of time on training relating to terrorism; however, he was not aware of any new requirements being imposed on local governments at this time. He said there has been a tremendous amount of time devoted to this issue as well as expense.

**Budget Adjustments**

It was MOVED by Mrs. Schuler, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following budget adjustments:

REVENUE:	3113.42705	Gifts and Donations	\$650
APPROPRIATION:	3113.52220	Department Equipment	\$650

Explanation: Monies donated to purchase K-9 vest.

REVENUE:	3110.54421	Automotive Maintenance	\$ 700
	3112.54412	Travel & Training	\$ 3,400
	3112.54421	Automotive Maintenance	\$ 1,453
	3113.54425	Service Contracts	\$ 2,900
	3150.54347	Ammunition	\$ 3,000
	3150.54342	Food	\$10,000
APPROPRIATION:	3110.54421	Travel & Training	\$ 700
	3112.54412	Office Furnishings	\$ 3,400
	3112.54421	Automotive Supplies	\$ 1,453
	3113.54425	Travel & Training	\$ 2,900
	3150.54347	Office Furnishings	\$ 3,000
	3150.54342	Departmental Equipment	\$10,000

Explanation: Monies to cover the cost of training, office furnishings, automotive supplies, training, and equipment.

The Committee briefly discussed the meeting scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> with the State Commission of Corrections. *A request was made by a member to have the meeting rescheduled to February 26. It was asked that Mr. Whicher, County Administrator, contact the Commission to negotiate changing this date. Mr. Meskill asked that the County's existing variance be discussed and a request be made to provide the Jail with an extension if this meeting is delayed.*

### **Fire and Disaster**

It was MOVED by Mrs. Schuler, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Board. Mr. Shurtleff noted that this resolution has been endorsed by the Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire, Disaster, and EMS Advisory Board. Common Council of the City of Ithaca will also be reviewing and adopting a similar resolution.

### **RESOLUTION NO.                    DESIGNATION OF TOMPKINS COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM**

WHEREAS, the current national situation involving the threat of weapons of mass destruction/mass effect has the potential for local implications, and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive and consistent hazardous materials response capability throughout Tompkins County is necessary, and

WHEREAS, Section 204-f of the New York State General Municipal Law requires each county to develop a plan for fire service response to hazardous materials incidents, and

WHEREAS, there is an exigent need for law enforcement agencies in Tompkins County to be able to rely on a hazardous materials capability, and

WHEREAS, grant and other resources related to the national effort to develop a comprehensive response capability will be channeled to designed County hazardous materials teams, and

WHEREAS, Section 209-y of the New York State General Municipal Law authorizes Tompkins County to establish a County hazardous materials team, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Board of Representatives hereby designates the Ithaca Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit as the Tompkins County Hazardous Materials Team operating through the County Mutual Aid System, as authorized by Section 209-j of the New York State General Municipal Law,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Hazardous Materials Response Plan is to be revised to incorporate this designation, while still recognizing the authority and responsibility of local fire departments.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE**

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It was MOVED by Mrs. Schuler, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to accept a grant in the amount of \$3,500. A resolution was not available at this time; however, *Ms. Robinson said she will submit it to the Board Office prior to the December 18 Board meeting.* MOTION CARRIED.

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to allow these judges who are not County employees, to travel with funds that are not County funds, but funneled through the County. MOTION CARRIED.

### **STOP GRANT**

Ms. Robinson said she learned a couple of weeks ago that the County has been awarded a STOP grant in the amount of \$45,500 which is slightly a cut of 20 percent over last year. She said some things contained in the program will be taken out, and she will speak with the County Administrator about the shortfall in a staff member's salary line.

### **VAWA Grant**

Ms. Robinson said a request for proposals has gone out. She has spoken to several people in the Coalition about this grant and they have decided that this no longer meets the guidelines of what they originally set out to do; therefore, they will not be applying for this grant again. She stated right now they are trying to do more collaborative education and outreach and this grant does not serve that purpose.

### **OAR**

Olin Mack distributed the following monthly report from the Agency.

"OAR is pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with the Sheriff on December 6, 2001. This meeting was challenging, yet positive. Several topics were discussed including interagency communication and options for tweaking the OAR service delivery. Although no definitive change was made in the current service delivery model, the foundation was laid for future discussions on the subject. Although the agencies agreed that there might be some philosophical differences, both agencies are committed to improving communication on a professional level.

The Immediate Assistance Program was able to service over 100 clients for the month of November. This number is encouraging, as OAR was able to generate these numbers with only the Coordinator and intern staffing the program. OAR continues to strive to service the maximum number of clients. OAR is also trying to educate new clients to the Tompkins County Jail as to OAR, its services, and how to access OAR.

OAR's Bail program is close to meeting the entire service level objective for the year. OAR's Bail program has changed its reporting title of you crisis counseling to your crisis interventions. This change should facilitate less confusion among professional counselors as to the interventions of OAR.

OAR's Volunteer program is functional, although very slow right now. The Volunteer Coordinator has been cleared to re-enter the facility pending attendance at a Jail orientation. The initial orientation scheduled for the second week of November had to be re-scheduled. The next orientation should/did occur on December 13, 2001. The Coordinator should re-enter the facility as of the first of the year. The Volunteer Program traditionally slows during this time of the year as volunteers leave town for the holidays.

There has not been a monthly meeting between OAR and Jail Administration although at the December 6 meeting the option of open lines of communication was discussed. OAR has in the past and anticipates being able to contact the Sheriff and Jail administration to discuss issues".

*Mr. Joseph asked Mr. Mack if the monthly statistics he prepares could include a comparison to show targets or last year's figures. Mr. Mack said he would include this information in the document he submits to the Committee each month.*

### **Appointments**

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the following appointments and submit to the full Board:

#### Advisory Board on Indigent Representation

M. Alan Hays – term to expire December 31, 2004

Lucy Gold – term to expire December 31, 2004

#### Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board

Linda Riley – Mental Health – December 31, 2004

Judith A. Saul – Juvenile Services; Not for Profit – term to expire December 24, 2004

Suzi Cook – term to expire December 31, 2004

#### Local Emergency Planning Committee

Peter Meskill – Sheriff/Police Agency – no set terms

#### Personal Emergency Response Services

Peter Meskill – Sheriff/Police Agency – term to expire December 31, 2003

Joan E. Murphy – Visiting Nurse – term to expire December 31, 2003

#### STOP DWI Advisory Board

Stu Bergman – Mental Health Board – term to expire December 31, 2004

Martha F. Ferger – At Large – term to expire December 31, 2004

#### E911 Operations Committee

George Taber – Director Cornell University Public Safety – term to expire December 31, 2004

Edward K. Abruzzo – NYS Police Commander or Designee – term to expire December 31, 2004

Ronald B. Clark – Director of Ithaca College Safety or Designee – term to expire December 31, 2004

Leslie P. Gifford III – Volunteer Rescue Squad Leader (East) – term to expire December 31, 2004

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.