

Public Safety Committee  
December 4, 2003

**Public Safety Committee  
December 4, 2003  
2 p.m.  
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: B. Blanchard, G. Totman, L. McBean-Clairborne, M. Robertson (arrived at 2:10 p.m.)  
Excused: K. Herrera  
Staff: S. Whicher, W. Skinner, J. Hughes, R. Stolp, L. Shurtleff, P. Meskill, K. Leinthall, S. Robinson  
Guests: R. Steincamp

**Called 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:

Announcement by the Domestic Violence Coordinator  
Resolution: Appropriation from Contingent Fund for Replacement Pay at the District Attorney's Office  
Report from the Assigned Counsel Program

**Chair's Report**

Ms. Blanchard reported Congressman Hinchey has been able to secure \$500,000 for Tompkins County in a congressional appropriation to apply to the public safety communications system upgrade.

She also reported Bob Steincamp of WHCU said on the radio this morning that the City of Ithaca at its Common Council meeting last evening did not approve the City/County Dispatch Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU included the financial arrangement for how the City and County dispatch operations are going to be consolidated. She said she has spoken with Mayor Cohen and Fire Chief Wilbur and has learned all that is necessary to fix this is to include a few things in the MOU besides money. Ms. Blanchard said these items have been discussed previously and are reasonable; she believes this will all be resolved at a meeting to be held at 2 p.m. on December 10.

Ms. Robertson arrived at 2:10 p.m.

**Commission of Correction Letter**

Ms. Blanchard reported on a follow-up letter from the Commission of Correction relating to the package submitted by the County. The letter states the Commission has serious concerns relating to the County's proposal and will request a meeting in the near future with representatives of the County. The tentative meeting date is December 17, 2003.

**Report from the Domestic Violence Coordinator**

Ms. Robinson announced the County has been awarded a grant that will continue funding for the STOP Grant in the amount of \$44,500. She noted this is the same amount the County has received for the last two years.

Ms. Robinson announced one way or another she will not be working for the County as of some point in early 2004. If she receives a positive decision from the State on the Resource Coordinator for the IDV Court she will be working in that capacity. She stated someone will need to continue to monitor these grants. Ms. Blanchard said she will speak with the County Administrator about this.

**Department of Emergency Response**

Mr. Shurtleff distributed a summary of the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which provides the basic strategy functions and mechanisms through which departments and agencies can mobilize resources and conduct activities to support emergency response, particularly in disaster situations. Mr. Shurtleff provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Plan.

It was MOVED by Mr. Totman, seconded by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne. Mr. Totman expressed concern that this resolution would create a new position at a time when many other positions are being reduced or eliminated. Mr. Shurtleff said he anticipates this will be a continuing grant, providing funding for the position. It was suggested that more emphasis be placed on public information efforts in order to educate the public on actions like this. By a voice vote, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by members present.

**RESOLUTION NO. - ADOPTION OF COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT PLAN - EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

WHEREAS, Section 23 of the New York State Executive Law authorizes each county to prepare disaster preparedness plans to minimize the effect of disasters by (i) identifying appropriate local measures to prevent disasters, (ii) developing mechanisms to coordinate the use of local resources and manpower for service during and after disasters and the delivery of services to aid citizens and reduce human suffering resulting from a disaster, and (iii) providing for recovery and redevelopment after disasters, and

WHEREAS, the plans shall provide for the coordination of resources, manpower and services and shall provide for a centralized coordination and direction of requests for assistance, utilizing existing organizations and lines of authority, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Emergency Action Plan (Administrative Manual 01-19, updated June 2000) reorganized and directed the Emergency Planning Committee "to prepare a comprehensive emergency management plan, incorporating and updating existing response plans, mutual aid agreements, hazardous materials plans," and "additional plans as appropriate," and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Planning Committee and assigned teams have submitted to the County Legislature a draft Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan that meets these objectives and provides for a coordinated response to emergency situations, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature does hereby officially adopt the Tompkins County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (the "Plan"),

RESOLVED, further, That the Department of Emergency Response shall cause to publish and distribute the Plan and to provide appropriate training to the many County departments, municipalities, and organizations incorporated into the Plan.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

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**RESOLUTION NO. - ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT - SUPPLEMENTAL  
APPROPRIATION LOCAL ALL-HAZARDS COMPREHENSIVE  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM**

It was MOVED by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature:

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has been awarded \$43,402 by the New York State Emergency Management Office for participation in the 2002 Federal fiscal year (FFY02) Supplemental Appropriation All-Hazards Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning Program, and

WHEREAS, certain expenses related to the development of new Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) are eligible for reimbursement under this program, and

WHEREAS the Department of Emergency Response and other County agencies have provided staff, materials, supplies, and equipment in the development of the CEMP, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That Tompkins County does hereby accept this award of \$43,402 and directs the Director of Finance to make the following budget adjustment on his books:

REVENUE:	3410.43389	Other Public Safety	\$43,402
APPROPRIATION:	3410.54400	Program Expense	\$43,402
SEQR ACTION:	TYPE II-20		

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### Homeland Security Update

Mr. Shurtleff provided the Committee with an update on homeland security efforts. He said one of the complaints he has heard on the local levels is that for all of the billions of dollars that have been made available for homeland security funding, the local level is not seeing funds. He stated there is money being made available for exercise design and development and for various specialized training for emergency responders. Tompkins County's allocation for this will be in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range. Mr. Shurtleff will keep the Committee informed as this proceeds.

### Budget Adjustment

It was MOVED by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following budget adjustment:

REVENUE	3410.41140	E911 Revenues	\$22,000
APPROPRIATION:	3410.52206	Computer Equipment	\$22,000

Explanation: Additional 911 Surcharge Revenue to offset systems expenses at Emergency Response Center.

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

MOVED by Mr. Totman, seconded by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present.

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office had an employee, David Russell, resign effective September 3, 2003, at a cost of \$515; Michael Day, retire effective September 27, 2003, at a cost of \$10,874; Randolph Haus, vacate his position effective October 10, 2003, at a cost of \$2,669; and Mark Dresser, retire effective November 5, 2003, at a cost of \$8,743 for terminal pay,

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has employees who were on disability or worker's compensation and unable to perform their duties, and

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

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance appropriate a total of \$22,801 for terminal pay and \$55,262 for replacement pay for employees who were on disability or worker's compensation encompassing the period of July 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003, to the following accounts in the Sheriff's budget:

APPROPRIATION:

FROM:	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$78,063
TO:	A3150.51000406	Regular Pay	14,034
	A3150.58800	Fringe	3,789
	A3112.51000417	Senior Criminal	6,884
	A3112.58800	Fringe	1,859
	A3113.51000419	Regular Pay	40,549
	A3113.58800	Fringe	10,948

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR THE "CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY" CAMPAIGN**

MOVED by Mr. Totman, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office applied for grant monies from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in the amount of \$10,400 for participation in the statewide "CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY" campaign for October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a grant from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in the amount of \$10,400 for participating in the statewide "CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY" campaign, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County accept the grant of \$10,400 to be used for the purpose of the aforementioned campaign,

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director is hereby authorized to make the following budget adjustment on his books in 2004:

REVENUE:	A3113.43389	State Aid (Public Safety)	\$10,400
APPROPRIATION:	A3113.54319	Program Supplies	\$10,400

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Assigned Counsel Program

Mr. Whicher said after a careful investigation by Assigned Counsel Program staff , a conclusion has been made that although the County may be able to save money moving to a Public Defender System, the data shows that the costs of the Assigned Counsel Model and the Public Defender system are very comparable at this time. He stated there are many things unknown at this time and said it is unclear what impact the new rates will have on the data. He said he is not recommending a change be made to the

structure of the County's assigned counsel program at this time. He will meet quarterly with Julia Hughes and Robert Stolp to monitor whether any new information changes the conclusion.

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

MOVED by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present.

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office has an employee who was disabled and thus unable to perform her duties for more than two months, specifically, from Monday, May 12, 2003, through Friday, August 15, 2003, returning to work on Monday, August 18, 2003, and

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office hired a replacement employee for the period from Monday, July 14, 2003, through Friday, August 15, 2003, receiving gross pay of \$2,761.55 during that time, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County (section 5.03[B][2]) allows for replacement pay for employees who have been out of work and replaced under such circumstances, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance appropriate a total of \$2,761.55 for replacement pay encompassing the period of July 14, 2003, through August 15, 2003,

RESOLVED, further, That the funds be appropriated from and distributed to the following accounts:

FROM:	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$2,761.55
TO:	A1165.51000	Regular Pay	\$2,174.45
	A1165.58800	Fringe	<u>\$ 587.10</u>
	TOTAL		\$2,761.55

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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**Committee Goals**

The Committee reviewed the 2003 Committee goals. Members agreed that efforts were made towards accomplishing the Committee's goals and that more success was achieved in some areas more than others. Many of these efforts will continue in 2003.

**Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2003**

It was MOVED by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of November 6, 2004.

**Appointment(s)**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following appointments:

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

John P. Beach - At-Large Representative; term expires December 31, 2006

**Family Court Advisory Council**

Maureen Reedy - At-Large Representative; term expires December 31, 2006

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, Legislature Office