

**Public Safety Committee
December 5, 2002
12:30 p.m.
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: N. Schuler, K. Herrera, L. McBean, G. Totman

Excused: B. Blanchard

Staff: S. Whicher, J. Hughes, P. Meskill, S. Robinson, K. Leinthall, G. Dentes, L. Shurtleff, J. Beach,
L. Shurtleff

Guests: Newscenter 7

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of November 7, 2002

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of November 7, 2002 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Changes to the Agenda

Mrs. Schuler said she would like to defer action on items that were not included with the agenda until the next meeting. She urged staff to submit agenda items one week prior to the meeting for inclusion on the Committee's agenda.

The following resolution, which was not included on the agenda, but distributed prior to this meeting was added to the agenda due to its urgency:

Authorization for Early Retirement - Probation Department

Report from the Probation Department

Ms. Robinson, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator, reported the County has received a STOP Grant award in the amount of \$44,500. Although this is \$15,000 less than the amount applied for, it is the same amount as last year and is what she had anticipated. She also updated the Committee on grant applications she is working on with the Task Force for Battered Women.

Ms. Robinson presented and reviewed with the Committee with a list of duties and schedule for completion in 2003. Ms. Leinthall was asked if her Department could assist in the completion of some the work. She responded that she informed the Board during the budget process that she did not believe that it would be possible to assume any of these responsibilities and had to maintain that position. *Mrs. Schuler asked that the full Board receive a copy of this document.*

With regret, the following resolution was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Ms. McBean, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present.

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION FOR EARLY RETIRMENT - PROBATION
PROBATION**

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Board of Representatives authorized participation in the 2002 Early Retirement Incentive program, and

WHEREAS, the following employee is eligible and has voluntarily chosen to retire during the open period:

Susan Robinson, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator - Probation Department - 1.0 FTE
, and

WHEREAS, this incentive may be used on behalf of any eligible employee who so chooses, provided that there is a plan in place that results in a financial savings equal to fifty percent of the base salary of the retiring employee over a two-year period following the retirement, and

WHEREAS, a savings plan as required by the New York State Retirement System has been submitted showing the required savings will be achieved by abolishing this position, and

WHEREAS, such plan has been reviewed and recommended by the County Administrator, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That Susan Robinson be authorized to retire under the terms of the 2002 Early Retirement Incentive Program,

RESOLVED, further, That the fiscal target adjustments will be made in one blanket resolution later this year for all those approved for the Early Retirement option.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Sheriff's Office

Mr. Meskill had no report. He distributed copies of Jail statistics for the month of November, 2002.

MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present. Mr. Meskill said this grant is will focus on a combination of aggressive driving problems and DWI efforts; these are monies above what the County's STOP-DWI program current provides.

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE
STATE OF NEW YORK GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE FOR THE SELECTIVE TRAFFIC
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)**

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office applied for grant monies from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for participation in the "SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)" campaign for October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2003, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office has been awarded the grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in the amount of \$21,950, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County accept the Grant for the "SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)" to be used for the purpose of the aforementioned traffic safety program,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee execute all contracts related to this award.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present. Mr. Meskill noted this is the same grant that was approved last year.

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE STATE
OF NEW YORK GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY**

COMMITTEE FOR THE “MULTI-AGENCY ENFORCEMENT SATURATION PATROL”

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 \$12,000 for participation in the “MULTI-AGENCY ENFORCEMENT SATURATION PATROL” campaign for October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2003, 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 \$12,000 for participating in the “MULTI-AGENCY ENFORCEMENT SATURATION PATROL” campaign, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County accept the grant of \$12,000 to be used for the purpose of the aforementioned campaign,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee execute all contracts related to this award.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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

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

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 and Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance appropriate a total of \$68,320 to the Sheriff’s budget for replacement pay encompassing the period of July 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002,

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

FROM:	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$68,320
TO: Uniform Division	A3113.51000	Regular Pay	\$19,830
	A3113.58800	Fringe Pay	\$ 5,156
Corrections	A3150.51000	Regular Pay	\$34,392
	A3150.51800	Fringe Pay	<u>\$ 8,942</u>
	TOTAL		\$68,320

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Budget Adjustment

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

Revenue:	3113-44389	Other Public Safety	\$23,000
Appropriation:	3113-52231	Vehicles	\$23,000

Assigned Counsel

Ms. Hughes reported in 2002 the mandate side of the Program's budget is \$650,000; as of the end of November that budget has been spent. She is anticipating an overrun that she hopes will be below \$50,000. She reported last week there was some criminal activity in the County that involve the

Rockefeller Drug Laws and will said this will greatly impact the 2003 Budget. Mr. Whicher said a shortfall was anticipated in this area and monies will be shifted to cover this during the year-end process.

Mrs. Schuler asked that Ms. Hughes prepare a brief explanation about this shortfall so that she can distribute to all Board members.

Mr. Dentes said when Drug Court was established there was discussion about having individual attorneys for each defendant versus having one attorney in the courtroom who would handle all of the defendants. He said the idea behind the way things are currently handled is this was that having a couple of assigned attorney would save expenses and likely still holds true today. He said recently Assigned Counsel attorneys have been attending a lot of out-of-court proceedings related to Drug Court, such as orientation sessions at the Community Justice Center and other activities. Mr. Dentes questioned whether anyone is watching whether these attorneys are doing what they need to go or whether they are expanding their role.

Ms. Hughes said there has been a definite change in Drug Court lately and there has been an increase. She disagreed with Mr. Dentes' opinion, and said she attributes this to instructions that attorneys have received from a Judge. Mrs. Schuler said she will look into setting up a meeting between the County (Steve, Tim, and herself) and the Judge to discuss this matter further.

Review of Charter Article

The Committee briefly reviewed the Charter article pertaining to the Assigned Counsel Program. *Ms. Hughes was asked to make sure the Advisory Board on Indigent Representation receives a copy of this before its meeting next week.*

STOP-DWI

Sheriff Meskill said he proposed the following resolution to the STOP-DWI Advisory Board and it was unanimously adopted by that Board on November 21, 2002:

"Whereas, the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Advisory Board is aware that the Board of Representatives is currently considering the future configuration of the STOP-DWI Program, and

Whereas, the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Advisory Board is aware that the position of Coordinator will be reclassified to a half-time position with the retirement of the current Coordinator, and

Whereas, we recognize, and support, the fact that with a half-time Coordinator there will be more STOP-DWI funds available for the traditional STOP-DWI program initiatives, in addition to providing seed money for new initiatives in all program areas, and

Whereas, the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Advisory Board strongly feels that the STOP-DWI Program has benefited from, and should retain its long held independence and autonomy, and

Whereas, the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Advisory Board feels that this independence and autonomy can be best achieved by remaining as a Program within County Administration, and

Whereas, the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Advisory Board feels that the current Coordinator, were he to continue in this newly created half-time position, would provide a seamless transition for the program from that of full-time to one of half-time given the breadth of experience which is currently available, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Advisory Board recommends to the Public Safety Committee and the full Board of Representatives to reduce the STOP-DWI Program to a half-time status, and to maintain its location within County Administration. In addition, the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Advisory Board recommends that the current Coordinator be allowed to continue in the newly configured position to provide continued experience, knowledge and leadership, and be it further

Resolved, that the STOP-DWI Advisory Board not be paired with any other program."

Mr. Meskill said he feels this resolution seems to address every concern this Committee has had about that program. He said everyone on the Committee felt it met the needs and concerns of all involved parties. He said it was the desire of the group to keep the position as autonomous as possible and felt the resolution presented is a solution to everyone's concerns because it provides the County with a very knowledgeable person to perform the duties at half the price. Mr. Meskill said it also allows for other money to be spent for other contractual issues within the contract and will save money for other projects.

Ms. Herrera disagreed that the resolution satisfied everyone's concerns, and said she would like to compare and evaluate this along with all of the other proposals.

The Committee briefly discussed a timeline for making this decision. It was felt that more time is needed to evaluate this proposal as well as others. A special meeting was scheduled for December 17 at 4 p.m. to address this issue as well as other items that were not included on the Committee's agenda.

Mr. Beach briefly reported to the Committee on proposed State legislation that will lower the reducing the legal limit to be charged with DWI from .10 to .08. He said this law is expected to pass and will likely take effect mid-year 2003. Mr. Dentes was asked what impact this would have on the number of cases in his Office. He said he expects to have a few more cases, however, he believes that his office will see the greatest change in the type of charges. He said since the level is being lowered he would expect to see more DWI charges rather than misdemeanors. Mr. Beach said he expects the State will conduct a public information campaign prior to this law going into effect.

Appointment(s)

It was MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following appointment(s) and submit to the full Board:

Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board

Louise Miller - At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2005

Susan Robinson - At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2005

Family Court Advisory Council

Abigail DeLeache - At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2005

Stuart Grinnell - Mental Health representative; term expires December 31, 2005

Advisory Board On Indigent Representation

Gino Bush - term expires December 31, 2005

E911 Operations Committee

Kenneth W. Lansing - term expires December 31, 2005

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Public Safety Committee
December 5, 2002

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, Board of Representatives Office