

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 28, 1999

NOON SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

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

STAFF: W. Benjamin, Deputy County Administrator; P. Meskill, Sheriff, J. Beach, Stop-DWI; L. Shurtleff, Assistant Fire, Disaster and EMS Coordinator; K. Leinthall, Probation Director; J. Hughes, Assigned Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Mr. Lane, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of November 16 and November 23, 1999, as submitted.

STOP-DWI UPDATE

Mr. Beach did not have a monthly report. He stated he is busy finalizing his year-end report and will bring that to the January committee meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING ON RECISSION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 1968 AND ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. a OF 2000 ESTABLISHING A COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard. Ms. Blanchard stated that Mr. Stein is the Chair of the Transportation Council and he would like to see the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) involved. Mr. Beach stated that Mr. D'Aragon of the MPO has indicated that there shouldn't be mixing of the two groups and he included this information in the memo that he distributed earlier in the month. Mr. Joseph stated that making the group a subcommittee of the MPO may not be a useful direction, but it may be useful to have some of the people on the MPO on the Traffic Safety Board. He stated his concern is that the group existed before, and became defunct due to lack of interest. He stated he would like to know what will insure that the group will succeed this time. He stated that if Mr. Stein wishes to pursue this issue, this will help get the best representation. Mr. Lane stated that he would like to see a smaller membership, noting it is often difficult to get everyone at meetings and then there is a lack of quorum. Mr. Beach stated the law states that the membership of the board cannot be less than ten individuals. Mr. Joseph stated that he does not mind having the board made up of 20 people as long as those 20 want to serve. Mr. Evans stated it would be worth having Mr. Stein pursue this issue and stated this should be a priority in 2000. Mr. Beach stated that beginning January 1, 2000, individual law enforcement agencies will not be entitled to State "Buckle-up" money without a traffic safety board. Mr. Meskill stated that this contradicts the information he has received and noted the State has already made a commitment to Tompkins County for those funds. Mr. Joseph withdrew his motion at this time pending more information being received.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County used to have a functioning County Traffic Safety Board, which was authorized by Local Law No. 2 of 1968, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Traffic Safety Board has been defunct for over a decade, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has lost opportunities for funding in areas of traffic safety because of the lack of a functioning County Traffic Safety Board, and

WHEREAS, in order to take advantage of funding opportunities and to correct information that is now obsolete, it is necessary to rescind Local Law No. 2 of 1968 and establish a new local law, now therefore be it

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RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That a public hearing be held before the Board of Representatives in Board Chambers of the Tompkins County Courthouse, 320 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850, on Tuesday, January 18, 2000, at 5:30 o'clock in the evening thereof concerning Local Law No. a of 2000,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to place proper notice of such public hearing in the official newspaper of the County.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE 11-20

ASSIGNED COUNSEL

Ms. Hughes stated that she has met with the Bar Association about continuing legal education classes and they have agreed to offer three training's in 2000 in conjunction with Assigned Counsel. She stated they may also provide a three-hour training in 2000 and she will provide more information as it is received.

Ms. Hughes stated that she has totaled the Drug Court budget and at this time the attorneys have submitted vouchers for approximately \$13,500, and this is under the \$18,000 that was originally projected. She stated that at to date there have been no cases assigned from the outlying courts and noted that it is hoped that by the end of 2000 there will be some type of drug court program for family court cases. She stated that this program will be modeled after the existing drug court and Judge Sherman will be requesting two attorney's be assigned to that court. She stated she will provide her year-end statistics at the January committee meeting.

OAR

Mr. Joseph stated that interviews for the director position will begin in about two weeks. He stated that the Board of Directors has been meeting to set up the interview process and screening resumes.

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Benjamin stated he is working on his year-end report and made no report at this time.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

ELECTRONIC MONITORING UPDATE

Ms. Leinthall stated that there are currently seven clients in the Electronic Monitoring Program. She stated there is currently one individual in jail and he will be placed on the program as an alternative to a longer jail sentence. Ms. Leinthall stated that the first case is nearly assigned to the Juris Monitor Program. She stated the individual committed the act two years ago and it is not clear to her why the person is being placed in the program, but noted the victim has requested it.

Mr. Evans asked if the equipment was found for the individual who was non-compliant on electronic monitoring and removed the monitoring device and fled. Ms. Leinthall stated the individual cut the monitoring device **in** his home and the equipment has been recovered. She noted the individual has not been found. Mr. Joseph asked what percentage this would make to the program. Ms. Leinthall stated that the program has been averaging five people all of the time, sometimes a little higher. She stated that one non-compliance would be a very small percentage. Mr. Joseph asked if there have been others who have been removed from the program. Ms. Leinthall stated that there have been occasions where individuals have been late for appointments and this has been addressed with them. She noted her staff has indicated that the program is becoming more difficult because more individuals with higher level offenses are being screened.

Ms. Leinthall stated that she will be meeting with Ms. Dolan of DSS to draft a proposal on what the Family Court Drug Treatment Program will look like. She stated initially the program will address abuse and neglect cases and will hopefully expand to include juvenile delinquents and Person in Need of Supervision (PINS) petitions.

FIRE, DISASTER, AND EMS

Mr. Shurtleff stated that he met with state health department officials and they are completing training for level one responders. He stated only two departments haven't completed the training and those departments do not have advance life support personnel. He stated the state regional council has published new protocols for advanced life support and over 100 people have had to have training within 45 days for first of the year certifications. He stated paramedic training is going to a two-year program and this could become a critical issue to volunteer squads due to the time needed for certification and training.

Mr. Shurtleff stated that Mr. Miller has sent a memo to all departments about y2k preparedness. All of the necessary upgrades are complete. The generators have been installed and are running and all of the radios have been inventoried. Mr. Miller has been in contact with the Public Service Committee and no disruptions are anticipated. He stated key personnel have been identified in the County and there will be a lot of people on standby. Mr. Shurtleff stated the workstation upgrades should be taken care of by a variety of funding sources, and noted this was not known a few months ago. He stated that phone companies will begin charging the increased E911 surcharge in the next few months, and stated they wanted to wait until after the new year. Mr. Shurtleff stated that cell companies are working to move calls to the County's PSA.P

Ms. Blanchard stated that the signing of the E911 legislation allowed for the surcharge to be increased for a 12 month period and asked if there will be any problems by delaying the collection of the money. Mr. Shurtleff stated that the 12-month period actually begins when the collection is started. Mr. Lane asked what will be done once the 12 months runs out. Mr. Shurtleff stated that the E91 I Operations Committee will be discussing this at the beginning of the year. Mr. Evans stated that the legislation was very restrictive about the use of the funds and if an extension is needed the legislation will need to be rewritten. Mr. Shurtleff stated that in order for the surcharge to continue, the State would be looking for a project to fund and will look at specific use proposals.

Mr. Joseph asked what it means for the state to fund 91 1. Mr. Shurtleff stated that they are looking at a better way to distribute the wireless surcharge. It will mean a clearer picture regarding 91 1, but will not mean total funding.

Ms. Blanchard stated that Mr. Benjamin is preparing a specific proposal for funding assistance for the COMCAP projects. She noted it may be useful to include the twenty-cent increase in the surcharge for a specific component of the consolidation.

OTHER

Mr. Evans asked that approval of the Advisory Board on Indigent Representation by-laws be placed on the January committee agenda.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

STATISTICS

Mr. Meskill distributed the statistics. These are on file with the original minutes. He stated that the average count is 81 and this seems to be the standard for the last 60 days.

Mr. Lane asked about the status of the bank robber who was hospitalized and in State Police custody. Mr. Meskill stated that the individual was arraigned in the hospital and sent to Jail without ball. He stated the individual has many medical issues and is being housed at the Walsh Center of the Mohawk Correctional Facility. He noted that Chief Niemi and Doctor Trabout were able to successfully negotiate a deal with the State and the County is not paying board-out costs for this individual, only medical bills. He stated he has not yet received all of the medical bills, but does anticipate a negative balance in the medical line of the budget. He stated that there should be sufficient funds in other areas of the budget to cover this shortfall.

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Mr. Meskill stated that the Sheriff's Department recently received a bus from TCAT and work is being completed to make it operational. He stated the bus will serve as a mobile command post and for an inmate work release program. He stated discussions are being held with BOCES to see how much work they can complete and once this is known a better timeline will be completed.

Mr. Meskill stated the inmate work release program will be run sporadically at first depending on staffing. He stated opportunities are being pursued so inmates having something different to do. He noted many of them want to get out and work and this helps pass the time faster. Ms. Leinthall suggested she and Mr. Meskill meet and discuss the possibility of combining the Sheriff's Department program with the existing RICS Program. Mr. Meskill stated he would be interested in pursuing this if it can be legally done.

Mr. Meskill reported that a new computer has been purchased to be used in the Jall's law library. He stated the library will have access to the most recent publications and this will also free up much needed space.

Mr. Meskill stated that his department has filed a grant for a "smart trailer", and he stated the department's vehicles are almost fully equipped with first aid, spill, and rope kits. He noted the Sheriff's Department is frequently the first responder to the scene. He stated the department is also applying for funding to purchase automatic defibrillators for the vehicles, and he has been talking with the state police about applying jointly for this funding.

Mr. Meskill stated the department has been interviewing for the new positions created in the 2000 budget and working on their year-end report.

APPOINTMENTS

It was Moved by Mr. Lane, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the following appointments.

Fire, Disaster and EMS Advisory Board

Stephen M. White - Town of Lansing Delegate - Expiring December 31, 2001
Christopher Burris - Town of Lansing Alternate - Expiring December 31, 2001
Lyman Baker - At-large Representative - Expiring December 31, 2001
Frederick Bachner - At-large Representative - Expiring December 31, 2002
David Putnam - Town of Dryden Delegate - Expiring December 31, 2002
Steven Moore - Town of Dryden Alternate - Expiring December 31, 2002

E911 Operations Committee

Jack Miller - Fire Coordinator - Expiring December 31, 2002
David Bames - Ithaca Police Department - Expiring December 31, 2002
Timothy Bangs - Manager/Bangs Ambulance - Expiring December 31, 2002
Louis Withiam - At-large Representative - Expiring December 31, 2002

Stop-DWI Advisory Board

Betty Powell - At-large Representative - Expiring December 31, 2002
Patricia Buechel - Probation Department Representative - Expiring December 31, 2002

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m. The 2000 meeting schedule will be announced.

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