

**Public Safety Committee  
February 7, 2002  
12:30 p.m.  
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: K. Luz-Herrera, B. Blanchard, L. McBean, G. Totman (arrived at 1:40 p.m.)  
Excused: N. Schuler  
Staff and agencies: K. Leinthal, D. Johnson, L. Shurtleff, J. Beach, S. Whicher, W. Skinner, P. Meskill,  
J. Hughes, O. Mack, S. Robinson, D. Neimi, B. Richmond

Ms. Blanchard called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m.

**Changes to the Agenda**

A report on grants from the Fire, Disaster, and EMS Department was added to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes of January 9 and 15, 2002**

It was MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of January 9 and 15, 2002 as corrected. MINUTES APPROVED.

**Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff Meskill reported he has been busy working on State reports. He said he met with Mrs. Schuler, Public Safety Committee Chair, and brought her up-to-date on activities at the Department.

It was MOVED by Ms. McBean, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution and submit to the Budget and Capital Committee:

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

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office had an employee, Judith Miller, retire, and  
WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for terminal pay, 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 \$21,251 to the Sheriff's budget for terminal  
pay,

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

FROM:	A1990.54440 Contingent Fund	\$21,101
TO:	A3110.51000 Reg. Pay	\$16,747
	A3110.58800 Fringe	4,354

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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**Budget Adjustment**

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

**Sheriff (#1)**

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amt</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
3113 44389	Other Public Safety	\$10,200	3113 54319	Program Supplies

**Explanation:** Monies needed to purchase the car seats for the Child Passenger Safety Program grant.  
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**Probation Department**

Ms. Leinthall reported the PINS (Persons in Need of Supervision) legislation will soon change effective July 1 and will reflect the new status age of 18. At the present time the law recognizes offenders up to the age of 16. Ms. Leinthall said this legislation was going to take effect several months ago but was delayed because of the events of September 11. She stated a study was done by the VERA Institute which estimates the cost of this change in legislation to be approximately \$46 million. She expressed serious concern over the additional youth cases the Probation Department will be required to handle and the additional costs that will result from those cases.

Ms. Blanchard said this item was the focus of a major discussion at last spring's NYSAC Conference.

Ms. Leinthall said the Education Law has not been changed. A child may still leave school at age 16. She said they are working with schools to try to identify children at an earlier age who are at risk.

There was discussion about what impact this will have on the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Meskill said there will be an increase in transportation costs. He said they already have a limited number of officers transporting so it is possible that staffing issues may arise because of this new legislation.

The Committee discussed the plan and asked that it be revised to reflect changes suggested by Ms. Herrera. *It was also requested that copies of the supplemental reports be made available.*

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Ms. Ms. McBean, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. - APPROVAL OF PINS 18, INTERDEPARTMENTAL, "PLAN" -  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, PROBATION, AND  
YOUTH BUREAU**

WHEREAS, a letter, dated November 14, 2001, was received by the Chair of the Tompkins County Board of Representatives from the Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development of the New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS), and

WHEREAS, this letter requested that a "Plan" be submitted that outlines how the County is preparing for and how it will implement the new PINS 18 jurisdiction legislation, and

WHEREAS, a multi-agency group was convened to "project the impact of the legislation and to identify services needed," and

WHEREAS, representatives from the Department of Social Services, the Probation Department, and the Youth Bureau have documented and prepared a "Plan" for the PINS 18 legislation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendations of the Health and Human Services and Public Safety Committees, That the Interdepartmental PINS 18 "PLAN" is approved for submission to the New York State Office of Children & Family Services.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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**Domestic Violence Prevention Update**

**Comment [MAS1]:** If there are too many "WHEREAS" in this format, go to "Tools" and "Unprotect document" and delete the extra "WHEREAS." Please do a "Save As" for the document before "Unprotecting."

**Comment [MAS2]:** When using more than one RESOLVED, each should be separated by a comma, and the word "further" should follow the word "RESOLVED" (ex. RESOLVED, further, That...).

Ms. Robinson distributed a written outline of activities that took place in 2001. She asked that Committee members review the document and submit written comments to her.

### **STOP-DWI**

Mr. Beach submitted 2001 DWI statistics. He noted that female DWI arrests have steadily increased during the last six years. One of the troubling statistics contained in his report was 13.46 percent of arrests are of individuals under age 21.

*Ms. McBean asked what percentage of arrests were of individuals between the ages of 21 to 25. Mr. Beach said he would provide her with this information.*

### **Assigned Counsel**

Ms. Hughes said there have been a lot of vouchers submitted at the \$50 rate; however, they have been refused by the judges. She said they may have been refused because they did not meet the criteria for being special circumstances.

Ms. Hughes reported the new Family Court Judge has now been in office for one year. She also reported there has been a substantial increase in the number of court-ordered psychiatric evaluations. Ms. Hughes stated this is a cost the County is responsible for and it has the potential for costing an astronomical amount of money. *There was a brief discussion that concluded with the Committee asking for statistical information on these cases which Ms. Hughes agreed to supply.* Ms. Leinthall suggested the Committee begin by determining the purpose of psychiatric evaluations and said there may be circumstances where other alternatives may be available.

### **Fire, Disaster, and EMS**

Mr. Shurtleff reported on grant opportunities. He said the federal government is offering a terrorism grant in the amount of \$9,000. This grant would allow Tompkins County to further develop its Comprehensive Management Plan with an emphasis on terrorism. The second grant is being offered by the Weapons of Mass Destruction Task Force. Mr. Shurtleff said the State is going to offer certain amounts of materials to localities that would assist in containing hazardous material spills, and provide uniforms, training, and equipment worth up to \$150,000. It was the consensus of the Committee to allow Mr. Shurtleff to proceed with these grant applications.

Mr. Shurtleff announced a public officials conference will be held in March for the purpose of educating public officials on emergency management in a disaster event. He said the County's final Emergency Management Plan will be presented at that conference.

### **Alternatives to Incarceration**

Ms. Robinson said she has been in contact with the inmate she spoke of at the last Public Safety Committee meeting. She said the individual has indicated he would be willing to help the County in its alternative to incarceration initiatives. Sheriff Meskill questioned what role this individual would play and suggested that more internal discussions take place before moving forward with this.

### **Appointment(s)**

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

Sue Robinson to the Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board as an at-large representative;

Patricia M. Karr-Segal to the Family Court Advisory Council representing Family and Children's Services, for a term expiring December 31, 2004;

Louise Miller to the Family Court Advisory Council as an at-large representative, for a term expiring December 31, 2004; and

Marie-Lucille Maubossin to the Family Court Advisory Council representing schools, for a term expiring December 31, 2004.

### **OAR**

Mr. Mack submitted the following report:

"OAR is looking forward to another productive year of service to the residents of Tompkins County and the Tompkins County Jail. OAR is coming off a very challenging 2001 but looks to 2002 to be a prosperous, productive, and positive year. OAR stays committed to serving the Tompkins County Jail population and their families with OAR's services.

"OAR is in the process of hiring a new Bail Fund Coordinator. The process should be complete in mid-March. Until that time OAR direct service staff (Volunteer Coordinator) is handling the duties of Bail coordinator. OAR will be conducting its latest Volunteer training beginning February 26, 2002. OAR's immediate assistance program continues to press on in its service to clients.

"There was a very productive meeting held between OAR and the Sheriff/Jail administration on January 22, 2002. In attendance were the Sheriff and his Jail administration staff (Chief Neimi and Lt. Bunce), OAR Director, all direct service staff and three OAR Board members. The meeting discussed various issues including the sharing of information in relation to all medical issues, which arise, and not just medical emergencies. Both parties left with a better understanding/appreciation of each other and tangible ways of better communication on the issues."

### **Liaison Reports**

Ms. Blanchard reported she attended her first OAR meeting and found it very interesting. She announced a training for volunteers will be held on February 26 and urged any interested Board member to attend.

Ms. Herrera reported the Advisory Board on Indigent Representation will meet on February 13.

Ms. Herrera reported the Family Court Advisory Council will meet on March 6.

Mr. Totman reported he attended a meeting of the Fire, Disaster, and EMS Advisory Board. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the new Communications Director position.

Mr. Totman reported the Magistrates Association will meet on February 10.

Mr. Totman reported on the E911 Operations Committee and said everyone is working hard to get the new system up and running.

### **Announcements**

Sheriff Meskill made the following announcements:

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- An incident command course will be held at the Ramada Inn at 9 a.m. on February 13.
- The Week of February 11 is National Child Passenger Safety Week; a press conference will be held on February 15 to award six local businesses their certificates for partnering in these initiatives.
- A safety seat inspection will be held on February 16 at the Cayuga Heights Fire Station.
- The Officer of the Month luncheon will take place on February 18 at Kendall at Ithaca. This month Dawn Caulkins of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department will be honored.

**Drug Court**

Ms. Johnson distributed a information on staff changes at the Ithaca Drug Treatment Court and the Felony Drug Treatment Court.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, Deputy Clerk, Board of Representatives.