

APPROVED 4-7-05

**Public Safety Committee**  
**March 3, 2005**  
**2 p.m.**  
**Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: L. McBean-Clairborne, M. Robertson, G. Totman, M. Koplinka-Loehr  
Excused: P. Penniman  
Legislators: N. Schuler  
Staff: P. Meskill, W. Skinner, L. Shurtleff, J. Jurkowich, S. Whicher, S. Cook, D. Wolf, M. Shakarjian, J. Wood  
Guests: D. Buck, Groton Police Department, A. Tutino, Ithaca Journal

**Called to Order**

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

**Changes to the Agenda**

It was MOVED by Mr. Totman, seconded by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to add to the agenda the resolution entitled Authorization to Accept an Award of a Grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr announced that OAR and the Integrated Domestic Violence Court have invited Judge Kruger from New York State to attend OAR's Annual Meeting on April 11th. He said this is an important occasion, given Judge Kruger's role in the criminal justice system in New York State.

**Approval of Minutes of February 3, 2005**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of February 3, 2005 as corrected. MINUTES APPROVED.

**STOP-DWI**

**RESOLUTION NO. - IN RECOGNITION OF KIRK MUDGE AND MONRO  
MUFFLER/BRAKE & SERVICE**

It was MOVED Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature with appreciation being extended by the Public Safety Committee to Kirk Mudge for providing this community service.

WHEREAS, Kirk Mudge, Store Manager for Monro Muffler/Brake & Service, supports efforts to curb drinking and driving, and

WHEREAS, Kirk Mudge and Monro Muffler/Brake & Service donated coupon booklets, valued at over \$250 in savings, and sold these coupons at store locations in Ithaca, Lansing, and Cortland, and

WHEREAS, one hundred percent of the proceeds of the sales of the coupon booklets benefited the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Program, and

WHEREAS, this fundraising program resulted in \$600 in donations to the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Program, and

WHEREAS, the STOP-DWI Advisory Board adopted a similar resolution of recognition, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That Tompkins County commends Kirk Mudge and Monro Muffler/Brake & Service for their support of the STOP-DWI Program.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II -20

\* \* \* \* \*

**Proposed Equipment Purchase – Traffic Safety Message Board**

Mr. Buck said in the past there have been opportunities provided by the State Police to use a traffic message board; however, recently a request was denied with no explanation. He said several local law enforcement agencies started looking around and found one to purchase at a cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 and it will be paid for through STOP-DWI monies and by unused Homeland Security and DWI enforcement monies. He said this self-contained, solar-powered board will be utilized for many different purposes and noted it can also be used for the Amber Alert.

This is being brought for information only and they will come back to the Committee with a request once this moves further along and is at the stage where action by this Committee is needed.

**Department of Probation and Community Justice**

**STOP GRANT**

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AN AWARD OF A GRANT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES**

It was MVOED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present to approve the resolution and submit to the full Legislature. Mr. Wolf said Kathy Schlather will be coordinating this grant. Ms. Robertson asked about the membership section of the Plan and Mr. Wolf said the membership would be updated.

WHEREAS, the Probation Director has been notified of a grant award from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$35,600 and referred to as the STOP grant, and

WHEREAS, the STOP grant, represents a collaborative effort between Tompkins County, Cayuga Medical Center, The Advocacy Center of Tompkins County and Cornell University Police Department, and will fund the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, Self-Defense Training, and a lock change program for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County Administrator or his designee execute all contracts related to this award,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is directed to make the following adjustments to his books for 2005:

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

Public Safety Committee  
March 3, 2005

Revenue	A3994.43389	State Aid	\$35,600
Appropriation	A3994.51000754	Admin Svc Coord	\$ 4,000
	A3994.58800	Fringes	\$ 1,560
	A3994.54442	Professional Services	\$30,040

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

\* \* \* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. - ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL ALTERNATIVES TO  
INCARCERATION CONSOLIDATED SERVICE PLAN**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Totman. Mr. Wolf said since 2002 the Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives has required legislative approval; previously it only had to go to the Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board which approved this Plan on February 15, 2005. Since 1985, the Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives has provided funding for Alternative to Incarceration programs consistent with Article 13A of the Executive Law. Since 1999, those monies were used to assist with paying for a Senior Probation Officer in the Ithaca Community Treatment Court. Prior to that, those monies had been used for the Service Work Alternatives Program. In 2005, the funding level is set at \$26,800, which is subject to change based on the final State Budget. In recent years the funding from the State has been cut every year. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 4, Noes - 0; Excused - 1 (Penniman). MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board at its February 15, 2005, meeting approved the Annual Alternatives to Incarceration Consolidated Service Plan, and

WHEREAS, a new requirement calls for the legislative/governing body approval to accompany the Plan upon submission to the New York State Department of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature approves the 2005 Alternatives to Incarceration Consolidated Service Plan for Tompkins County.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

\* \* \* \* \*

Staffing Update

Mr. Wolf provided the Committee with the following update on staffing for the Department of Probation and Community Justice:

Tina Northrup, Probation Supervisor, is leaving County employment; that position has been filled by Patricia Buechel, Senior Probation Officer for the Day Reporting Program; Susan Jones, Senior Probation Officer for the ISP Program, will fill Ms. Buechel's position for the Day Reporting Program; Robin Chernow will fill the ISP Officer Program position and Ms. Chernow's position will be filled by Karen Burns.

Communications Capital Project

Mr. Shurtleff reported specifications on the proposed system have been completed, reviewed by SSI, and have been resubmitted to Motorola with a number of clarifications. They have also submitted a list of alternative sites that the County wishes to have considered, if needed, to meet the minimum numbers in the specifications. They are beginning to resubmit that information and he expects that information to come back with a recommendation to this Committee in the next month. Mr. Shurtleff reported they have also been working with Greg Potter, Director of Information Technology Services, to make sure that everything that comes in is compatible with the County's GIS system. Mr. Potter will also

be providing data that is needed to do the environmental review. Mr. Shurtleff said they have begun to engage the user group as part of this review process. Members of the Emergency Communications Review and Oversight Committee will be meeting with them, in alternating weeks with the Public Safety Committee's Communications Subcommittee members.

Mr. Shurtleff said the following issues that have been identified where the users' assistance is needed: review of coverage projections, putting together plans for the use of tactical frequencies, mutual aid channels, interoperability and training, as well as laying out steps for implementation.

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR NEGOTIATIONS TRAINING AND SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM CAPITAL PROJECT**

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County will negotiate and implement a contract for the Public Safety Communications System capital project (PSCS), and

WHEREAS, the PSCS project represents the largest capital project ever undertaken by the County in both scope and cost, and

WHEREAS, the County will seek negotiation training and services to support the PSCS project, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County Administrator be authorized to enter into a contract with Cornell University, Labor and Industrial Relations School, for a total amount not to exceed \$20,000, and

RESOLVED, further, That the funds for the services are available in the current capital project, (Project No. 34.12) Account No. HI3412-59239.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-21**

\* \* \* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW COMPLIANCE SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM CAPITAL PROJECT**

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature.

Ms. Robertson said she feels \$30,000 is a high figure. Ms. Shakarjian said this fee is based on looking at each site and they will be doing all the work that is required for the County to get to the final scope over a period of six months. She also said there are a wide range of variables that have to be assessed for the potential impacts.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County will negotiate and implement a contract for the Public Safety Communications System capital project (PSCS), and

WHEREAS, the County has issued a positive declaration of environmental significance under State Environmental Quality Review Compliance (SEQR) for this action, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared, and

WHEREAS, the County has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for SEQR Compliance and EIS Services to support the PSCS project, and

WHEREAS, two responses to the RFP were received and both respondents were interviewed, and  
WHEREAS, the review process has been completed and ENSR, Intl., with an office located in Rochester, New York, has been selected to prepare materials necessary under SEQOR to complete the review process, and

WHEREAS, a final scope of services will be negotiated with the preferred vendor, ENSR, Intl., and

WHEREAS, outside legal assistance is also necessary and the County Attorney will recommend and contract for this service separately, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County Administrator be authorized to enter into a contract with ENSR, Intl, of Rochester, New York, for a total amount not to exceed \$300,000 for preparation of the EIS,

RESOLVED, further, That an additional \$30,000 is authorized for legal services associated with the development and review of the EIS and process supporting the implementation of the Public Safety Communications System,

RESOLVED, further, That the funds for the legal and SEQOR compliance services are available in the current capital project, (Project No. 34.12) Account No. HI3412-59239.

**SEQOR ACTION: TYPE II-21**

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Sheriff's Office/Public Safety Building**

Ms. Robertson asked if there were any updated figures available other than those that were distributed at the last meeting. Mr. Meskill said there are no updated figures at this time as the month of February just ended and January figures haven't been finalized. Mrs. McBean-Clairborne said all data submitted to the Committee by the Sheriff pertaining to the Jail will be one month behind because of the time it takes for information to be collected and finalized.

Mr. Whicher said in a recent Department Head meeting there was a discussion about timeliness of submitting items for Legislative committees. He noted that Legislature Rules state that information must be submitted in time for the agenda; however because this committee meets the first week of the month it is not possible for the Sheriff to submit items in time for the agenda; therefore, material will be coming to the Committee the following month.

Ms. Robertson asked what jail is being used to board prisoners out to. Mr. Meskill stated for the most part the Department is using Tioga County at a rate of \$80 per day. Right now he said he has 4 to 6 people who are doing weekend time; he noted that figure is low and that the figure fluctuates. She asked if there are people who are moved out for a longer period of time than just for weekends. Mr. Meskill said there is one inmate who has been in Tioga County for over a month because of a classification issue. He stated there is no way to predict when these situations will arise.

Mr. Totman said the jail population figures listed in the Ithaca Journal are confusing and he does not believe they reflect accurate information. Mr. Meskill agreed and said he does not know where the Ithaca Journal gets its information from.

Ms. Robertson asked about the status of the proposals to do renovations on the Civil side of the Public Safety Building that were originally estimated at \$30,000 to \$40,000. Mr. Meskill said he worked with Mr. LeMaro, Director of Facilities and they determined that it was not feasible and the idea has been abandoned.

There was brief discussion about the Casey Stevens report on WHCU and comments about the Jail being unsafe. Ms. Robertson noted the Commission of Correction would not allow the County to

have people in unsafe conditions; therefore the Commission feels the Tompkins County Jail is a safe place to house inmates.

*Mr. Meskill suggested the addition of Defining Alternatives to Incarceration as a Committee goal for 2005.*

### **Chair's Report**

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne asked if the Committee would take time to think about what information would be needed to attain a better understanding of 24/7 operations. Mr. Koplinka-Loehr said often certain policies will come to the attention of legislators that department heads of 24/7 operations feel are unique to their operations. *Mr. Koplinka-Loehr suggested that departments summarize what special issues need to be discussed to help the County perform its operations.*

Mr. Totman asked what brought this up and what is it that people do not understand. Mrs. McBean-Clairborne said there are many people who are not familiar with 24/7 operations and wanted to offer an opportunity for this Committee to better educate itself on this important responsibility. Mr. Whicher said it would help if people had a clear understanding about what the restrictions are and the lack of flexibility concerning staffing. He said when you compare these operations to other operations one will note that there is more flexibility in the budget numbers and he said there is a reason for this. .

Ms. Robertson said she is interested in staffing and how shifts are handled. Mr. Meskill explained that staffing is a union issue and employees bid by seniority on which shift they want at six-month intervals.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr suggested a Committee member be present during a shift change to observe and also asked if there are any videos of 24/7 dynamics that would help educate the Committee.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne spoke of the FEMA training she attended in Emmitsburg and said it was an eye-opening experience and recommends that anyone with an opportunity attend as well.

*Ms. Robertson suggested this Committee conduct a "tower tour".*

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne spoke of a recent meeting at the City and said the County's emergency communications plan received praise. The City realized through the recent Fall Creek situation the importance of having a plan in place. The Mayor has asked City senior staff to meet on March 30th to begin working on the City's emergency management plan. She said the City may be contacting Mr. Shurtleff to hold a meeting at the Emergency Response Center as many people from the City would like to become more familiar with its location.

### **Appointment**

#### **STOP-DWI Advisory Board**

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to appoint Sonja Seamon to the STOP-DWI Advisory Board as a Restaurant, Tavern, and Hotel Owner's Association representative for a term expiring December 31, 2007.

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

Public Safety Committee  
March 3, 2005

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to appoint Ms. Robertson to the Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board as a County Legislator representative for a term expiring December 31, 2006.

*Mr. Koplinka-Loehr asked Mr. Totman to attend the March 9, 2005 Advisory Board on Indigent Representation meeting as he is not able to attend.*

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr reported Betty Poole is the contact person for the Magistrates Association. The next meeting of that group will be March 11th at 3:15 p.m. at the Ithaca Town Hall.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, TC Legislature Office