

**Public Safety Committee  
March 7, 2002  
2 p.m.  
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: N. Schuler, K. Herrera, B. Blanchard, G. Totman, L. McBean (arrived at 2:10 p.m.)  
Staff: S. Whicher, G. Dentes, P. Meskill, J. Beach, J. Hughes, S. Robinson, B. Richmond, W. Skinner  
Guests: T. Joseph, Chair of the Board; Representative Dooley Kiefer; J. Saul and L. Kofoid, Community Dispute Resolution Center, B. Steincamp, WHCU, O. Mack, OAR,

**Called to Order**

Mrs. Schuler called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**Changes the Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2002**

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

**Chair's Report**

Mrs. Schuler distributed copies of information pertaining to graduated licensing and stated the Committee will discuss this at the April meeting.

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

**District Attorney**

It was MOVED by Mr. Totman, seconded by Ms. McBean, and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Board:

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

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office has an employee who has been disabled and thus unable to perform her duties for more than two months, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County (section 5.02[B][2]) allows for replacement pay for employees who have been out of work 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 \$1,957.08 to the District Attorney's budget for replacement pay encompassing the period of January 1, 2002, to date,

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

FROM:	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$1,957.08
TO:	A1165.51000	Regular Pay	\$ 1,553.24
	A1165.58800	Fringe	<u>\$ 403.84</u>
			\$ 1,957.08

SEQR ACTION: Type II-20

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**Community Dispute Resolution Center - Presentation on Victim Offender Restitution and Restorative Justice**

Ms. Saul stated Tompkins County funds several pieces of work by the Community Dispute Resolution Center; however, the purpose of this presentation is provide an overview of its restorative justice work which is party of the package of alternative to incarceration initiatives that were funded last year by the Board. Ms. Saul distributed a two-page summary of how that funding is being used as well as brochures on the program. At this time Ms. Saul introduced Lori Kofoid, Program Coordinator. Ms. Kofoid explained the history and purpose of the Victim Offender Restitution and Restorative Justice Program. The Victim Offender Conferencing Process is one that provides interested victims of crime and respective offenders, the opportunity to meet face to face in a safe and structured setting. The goal is to promote direct communication between victim and offender. CDRC's VOC program acknowledges that a wrong has been done and the victim deserves the opportunity to express feelings. Offenders have accepted responsibility for the crime and are willing to hear what feelings the victim has to express. The offender receives the opportunity to truly understand the real human consequences of the offense.

VOC Programs have been working meaningful justice between victims and offenders for over 20 years as a part of Restorative Justice initiatives around the world. There are now over 300 such programs in the U.S. and Canada and about 500 in Europe. Benefits for the victims include: an opportunity to ask for/receive an apology, helps determine what restitution the offender will provide, and obtains the closure that brings peace of mind. Benefits for offenders include: an opportunity to make amends and meaningfully right the wrong, an opportunity to be seen as a person rather than a criminal, and an opportunity to offer an apology or an explanation. Benefits for the community include: it increases the experience of justice in the community and it reduces the impacts of incarceration on the community. The most common crimes addressed are auto theft, burglary, criminal mischief, criminal trespassing, fraud, forgery, harassment, property crimes, robbery, and vandalism. Of the conferencing sessions held, 95 percent resulted in a successfully negotiated restitution agreement and 79 percent of the victims who met with their offenders were more likely to be satisfied with the justice system.

Ms. Kofoid provided the Committee with examples of situations where the Victim Offender Counseling program has helped individuals. It was stated that because of this program the recidivism rate is significantly lower and they would like to eventually have this program offered in the jail.

Ms. Saul said they are working closely with the Probation Department and she thinks that as they begin to work with more juveniles they will get more referrals either through a condition of a PSI (pre-sentence investigation) or restitution orders. She announced a seminar will be held in Ithaca on April 17 with Dr. Mark Umbright, a national leader in the restorative justice movement. She stated they will be arranging for some one-on-one meetings with him and hopes the Committee can be present.

**Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff Meskill distributed Jail statistics for the months of January and February.

Mr. Meskill also distributed a K-9 incident detail summary graph for the K-9 unit for the months of January and February. He said he was very reluctant to have a K-9 unit at first; however, he believes

it has been a very worthwhile and valuable addition to the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Meskill said it is working out extremely well and is very cost effective.

Mr. Meskill reported he recently had to board two females out to the Tioga County because there were not any more female beds. Those inmates should return in the next day or so. He said criminal activity in the County seems to be quieter than normal. He said this may be attributed in part to criminals spending time elsewhere at this time.

Budget Adjustment

REVENUE:	3113-42770	Other Misc. Revenues	\$265
APPROPRIATION:	3113-52220	Department Equipment	\$265

Explanation: Monies needed to purchase equipment.

Probation Department

Sue Robinson made the following announcements:

The Human Services Coalition, Labor Coalition, and Domestic Violence Coalition is sponsoring a workshop at Cooperative Extension on April 4 on strategies for domestic violence. The morning will focus on domestic violence in the workplace; the afternoon will focus on violence in the workplace.

On May 15 at the Community Justice Center, someone from the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence will conduct a full-day workshop for mental health professionals on domestic violence. This is being co-sponsored by Family and Children's Service, the Mental Health Clinic, and the Task Force for Battered Women

Tompkins County Charitable Gift Fund: a grant in the amount of \$2,325 was applied for to provide training for all law enforcement agencies in the special needs of the elderly and people with disability experiencing domestic violence. The partners in the grant application process are the Task Force for Battered Women, Office for the Aging, Finger Lakes Independence Center, and the Department of Social Services.

A decision has been made not to apply for VAWA funding: Training Grants to Stop Abuse and Sexual Assault Against Older Individuals or Individuals with Disabilities.

The Community Foundation of Tompkins County is now writing a grant application to redo three brochures and one booklet to be user friendly to people with lower literacy levels. Partners in this are the Task Force for Battered Women and Literacy Volunteers.

Ms. Robinson said she has also been talking with corporation who are members of the Corporate Alliance Against Partner Violence about sponsoring the October Domestic Violence in the Workplace event for business owners, manager, and supervisors.

It was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote members present (Mr. Totman was temporarily out of the room). MOTION CARRIED.

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

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 \$44,500 and referred to as the STOP grant, and

WHEREAS, the STOP grant represents a collaborative effort between Tompkins County, Cayuga Medical Center, Center for Crime Victims and Sexual Assault Services and Task Force for Battered Women and will fund the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, Rape Aggression 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 2002:

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

Revenue	A3996.43389	State Aid	\$ 44,500
Appropriation	A3996.51000	Payroll	\$ 4,000
	A3996.58800	Fringes	\$ 1,040
	A3996.52210	Office Equipment	\$ 1,215
	A3996.54303	Supplies	\$ 393
	A3996.54452	Postage	\$ 300
	A3996.54472	Telephone	\$ 500
	A3996.54442	Professional Services	\$ 37,052

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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**Assigned Counsel**

Ms. Hughes reported the Department has not been extremely busy. She said last month she posed a question to the Committee whether there is a service the Mental health Department offers for evaluations as opposed to a judiciary-appointed private contractor. She said after the Committee meeting last month she went back and reviewed records and reported there has been an increase in these costs of approximately \$30,000-\$40,000. She said this is not necessarily a bad thing because there are some intense cases and a large caseload in family court right now. Robert Stolp, the Supervising Attorney, has spoken with a member of the Judiciary and posed the question of whether there is any other service the County could provide or if many could be allocated to Mental Health for a specific position. She stated Judge Rowley feels money was already allocated for a position in Mental Health. There was a brief discussion about what funding was allocated to Mental Health to fund a position to social work duties. It was decided that more discussion and dialogue needed to take place and that the question of whether the position that was already funded by the County and whether that position's caseloads are full needs to be answered. Ms. Hughes said there continues to be an open dialogue about this and she will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

**OAR**

Mr. Mack provided the Committee with the following report:

"OAR has completed its search for a new Bail Fund Coordinator. OAR is once again fully staffed. We are proud to introduce our new Bail Fund Coordinator, Valerie Sykes. Valerie started with OAR as of March 4, 2002. Her training is on schedule and she should be up to speed within a month's time. OAR's latest Volunteer training has been moved to March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002. OAR's immediate assistance program continues to press on in its service to clients. Servicing all clients continues to be challenge in light of the continued high populations and OAR staff shortages.

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"OAR is in the process of redesigning its agency brochure to better reflect its current services and service delivery model. OAR stays committed to serving the Tompkins County Jail population and their families with OAR's services.

"No new pressing issues between OAR and the Tompkins County Jail. The communication commitments made over the last few months between the two agencies seem to be working well."

### **Probation – Community Justice Center**

Ms. Richmond reported in the first two months of 2002 they seen a fifty percent increase in clients over 2001. She said local rural judges are beginning to respond and refer individuals to the Center as well.

### **Report from the County Administrator**

Mr. Whicher reported on a recent tour he took of the Public Safety Building, and stated he was very impressed by the quality of people who are employed by the County. His overall reaction from being at the Jail is that it is overcrowded. The cell portion was human and working quite well; however, he feels there needs to be work done on the dorm side.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. to a meeting with Albert Long, General Manager of Midstate, to hear a presentation on the status of the County's communications infrastructure.

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