

**Approved 4-30-02**

**Public Safety Committee  
April 4, 2002  
12:30 p.m.  
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: N. Schuler, B. Blanchard, G. Totman, K. Herrera, L. McBean (arrived at 12:35 p.m.)  
Staff: S. Whicher, J. Hughes, J. Miller, B. Richmond, K. Leinthall, P. Meskill, J. Beach, L. Shurtleff,  
J. Vitale, A. Valenti, D. Neimi, S. Robinson  
Agencies: O. Mack,  
Guests: D. Culilgan, former Board Member

**Called to Order**

Mrs. Schuler called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

**Changes to the Agenda**

Mrs. Schuler added a resolution to the agenda entitled Resolution of Appreciation, John L. "Jack Miller".

**Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002**

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

**Chair's Report**

Mrs. Schuler reminded members the SEMO (State Emergency Management Office) dinner will be tonight at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. She also announced the Mark Umbreit will be speaking on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 1:30 p.m. in the Borg Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library. The subject of this will be "Response to Victims and Offenders: What Works".

It was MOVED by Mrs. Schuler, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Board:

**RESOLUTION NO. - RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION, JOHN L. "JACK" MILLER**

WHEREAS, John L. "Jack" Miller began his career with Tompkins County in January, 1972 as the Fire and Disaster Coordinator, and

WHEREAS, for the past thirty years, Jack has worked tirelessly for the life safety of the residents of the County of Tompkins, and

WHEREAS, Jack has dedicated his time and energy to acquiring funding to develop resources that provide training and support for firefighters and has been effective at it, and

WHEREAS, Jack initiated a non-duplicating system of house numbers and street names, creating and updating the information bank for our 911 system, and

WHEREAS, Jack knew the quirks of our communication system and has personally nurtured, climbed the towers, and maintained their parts with care and sometimes with duct tape, and

WHEREAS, Jack has always been a good procurer in his diligence to find the best price for all the equipment under his watch, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has been made safe and secure by having Jack Miller as the Fire and Disaster Coordinator, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Representatives, on behalf of Tompkins County, profoundly appreciates Jack Miller's thirty years of dedicated service to the County of Tompkins and thanks him for it and wishes him and his family a happy retirement free of emergencies.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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**STOP-DWI**

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

**RESOLUTION NO.        - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AN AWARD OF GRANT  
FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR  
VEHICLES, GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE –  
STOP-DWI ENHANCED TRAFFIC SAFETY COORDINATION  
GRANT**

WHEREAS, the STOP-DWI Coordinator has been notified of a grant award from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, in the amount of \$4,000 and referred to as the STOP-DWI Enhanced Traffic Safety Coordination Grant (Grant #CP-5500042), and

WHEREAS, the STOP-DWI Enhanced Traffic Safety Coordination Grant will allow for additional public information initiatives in relation to traffic safety concerns, including but not limited to alcohol, speed, aggressive driving, pedestrian and bicycle safety, 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	A4250.43089	Other State Aid	\$ 4,000
Appropriation	A4250.54319	Program Supplies	\$ 1,500
	A4250.54330	Printing	\$ 1,000
	A4250.54412	Travel/Training	\$ 1,500

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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

**RESOLUTION NO.        - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AN AWARD OF GRANT  
FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR  
VEHICLES, GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE –  
DWI PROGRAM ENHANCED GRANT**

WHEREAS, the STOP-DWI Coordinator has been notified of a grant award from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, in the amount of \$29,988, and referred to as the DWI Program Enhancement Grant (Grant #AL-5500091), and

WHEREAS, the DWI Program Enhancement Grant will allow for inter-municipal cooperation between law enforcement agencies to schedule and operate multi-agency saturation patrols for the purpose of removing drunk drivers from the streets and highways of Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, the DWI Program Enhancement Grant will allow for the Village of Trumansburg to schedule extra weekly DWI enforcement patrols for the purpose of adding to its existing DWI efforts in the Village of Trumansburg, and

WHEREAS, the DWI Program Enhancement Grant will provide the Tompkins County Felony Drug Treatment Court with technology to reliably monitor abstinence from alcohol by providing home alcohol detection units so that daily random alcohol screening can be conducted for high risk defendants, 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	A4250.43089	Other State Aid	\$29,988
Appropriation	A4250.54442	Professional Services	\$25,000
	A4250.52220	Departmental Equipment	\$ 4,988

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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**Report - Graduated Licensing**

Ms. Valenti, County Clerk, briefly summarized the proposed legislation. She stated the legislation is targeted towards 16 year-olds and proposes to increase the period an individual with a restricted license can drive from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. It would also prohibits them from transporting any individual under 20 years old for the first six months of their restricted license, and requires a learning permit for nine months before being able to obtain a driver's license. Individuals in this category would have the word "novice" stamped on their restricted license. Ms. Valenti said she supports this legislation because statistics have shown that accidents are at a greater risk to happen by younger drivers. Mr. Beach, STOP-DWI Coordinator, said he also supports the legislation. He also stated approximately 30 other states now have some type of legislation similar to this. He said the purpose of this legislation is to no longer allow teenagers to obtain a driver's license in a period as short as 48 hours after obtaining their driver's permit. The intent is to provide more of a training and experience opportunity for young people when they first get begin to drive. This would provide more supervised driving instruction and keep carloads of teenagers off the road.

Ms. Valenti said the legislation is currently at a standstill in the Senate. She will keep the Committee informed on the status as information becomes available.

**Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff Meskill distributed copies of the March Jail statistics and Traffic Profile reports for Ellis Hollow Road. During the discussion about the speed trailer, it was stated by Sheriff Meskill that trailer is still able to retrieve information on traffic when the lights are off on the trailer.

Mr. Vitale stated he began his career in law enforcement 29 years ago. He spoke of department's efforts towards combating terrorism and said even though the situation may appear to be quiet at this time, there are many activities taken place all the time and the situation is no where near being over. Mr. Vitale described Tompkins County as being a target-rich community because of Cornell, the Airport, and Bolton Point. He spoke of mandates and said there may be new requirements in terms of airport security. Ms. Blanchard stated the Public Works Committee discussed the possible new demands for airport security. The National Guard will be pulled out on May 30. She stated the Committee will be meeting to discuss this issue on April 14 at 9 a.m. at the TC3 Conference Room at the Airport.

### **Position Request**

There was a brief discussion about the Sheriff's request to fill to deputy sheriff positions. Mr. Whicher said there has been communication between he, the Sheriff, and the Personnel Commissioner. After reviewing the documentation presented both he and the Personnel Commissioner recommend the request be approved.

Mr. Totman asked Sheriff Meskill how many deputy positions there were in 1992. Mr. Meskill said he did not know, however, he believes the Department is probably close to the staffing level in 2002 as it was in 1992.

It was MOVED by Mr. Totman, seconded by Ms. McBean, to approve the Sheriff's request to fill to vacant Deputy Sheriff positions. Ms. McBean questioned why the County Administrator and Personnel Commissioner are supportive of this request. Mr. Whicher said he cannot go into detail without the Committee entering into an executive session, however, he could provide her with written information. Ms. McBean said she cannot support filling any position during this difficult budget time. A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes - 4, Noes - 1 (Representative McBean). MOTION CARRIED.

### **Probation Department**

Ms. Richmond reported on the Community Justice Center and said participant numbers are slightly down for the month of March, although she anticipates them going up in April. She said they are taking more steps to be proactive on outreach. They are making phone calls on court days to particular courts to remind them of the Center's services. Ms. Richmond said she is very happy with the quality of the program. She called attention to the program's newsletter and said it contains several interesting remarks by some the program's clients.

Ms. Leinthall said VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) has some grant money available for training that will be pursued. Ms. Leinthall reported to the Board that one position will be transferred from the Community Justice Center to the Probation Department front desk area. She said the front-office is desperately in need of additional assistance.

Ms. Leinthall said they will be doing some minor renovations at the Community Justice Center so that they can send the drug court staff over there. She said it is important that the staff be located there in order to run the programs effectively. She said this will be a very inexpensive project with renovations being paid for by a grant obtained by Judge Rowley and the SWAP crew doing the work.

Ms. Leinthall reported one of the Department's laptop computers was stolen out of a worker's vehicle. She has issued a memorandum to employees stressing the importance of securing this type of item. She spoke of the current budget situation and said it is placing a great deal of stress on employees.

### **Chair's Announcement**

Mrs. Schuler announced the Committee will have a special meeting on April 25 to discuss department budgets.

### **Announcement of Award**

Ms. Valenti returned to the meeting and presented the Committee with an award she received a short time ago in her office. The award read as follows:

"To Tompkins County in recognition of the protection and security the County provides to America and in gratitude for the teamwork and cooperation displayed in response to the terrorist attacks that took place on 9-11-01. He bravery and heroics by the County's public safety workers will always be remembered.

### **Assigned Counsel**

Ms. Hughes reported Judge Rowley and Judge Sherman discussed psychiatric evaluation cases. They have made a request for additional information; when that is received they will hold another meeting and continue their discussion. Ms. Hughes also reported Assemblyman Luster has introduced legislation that increases assigned counsel fees to \$75 across-the-board for felonies and family cases and \$60 for misdemeanors. The other part of the legislation is that he wants independent counsel to reorganize public defenders offices.

Ms. Hughes briefly spoke of the budget situation and said last year her budget suffered a reduction in staff hours. She said the budget scenarios that have been presented would result in the office being open only four days a week and would have a ripple effect on many departments and agencies.

### **OAR**

Mr. Mack presented the Committee with the following report for March, 2002:

"Valerie Sykes, OAR's new Bail Fund Coordinator has been on the job for nearly a month. Things seem to be working out well. Her training is progressing well and she is now able to handle most tasks of the Bail Fund Coordinator without assistance. The Volunteer program has just engaged on a new volunteer training, which commenced on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Attendance is well and the new volunteers should complete the 22-hour training on or about mid-month. Immediate Assistance and Office assistance continue to service a high population of the Tompkins County Jail (TCJ) and their families.

"OAR has completed redesigning its agency brochure to better reflect it's current services and service delivery model. OAR stays committed to serving the TCJ population and their families with OAR's services.

"No new pressing issues between OAR and the TCJ. The communication commitments made over the last few months between the two agencies seem to be working well. At the Sheriff's request OAR met with the Sheriff in early February. The meeting was to discuss both agencies continued commitment to practice open lines of communication, and to do so in a pre-emptive manner before a crisis arouse. There were also some discussions about what the future holds for each agency. OAR reiterated its desire to return to a service delivery model, which included access to hallways. OAR's desire was respectfully noted."

Mr. Mack also distributed agency statistics and a agency brochure describing the programs and services OAR provides.

### **Appointment(s)**

It was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following appointment(s):

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

Sonja Seamon - Restaurant/Tavern representative; term expires December 31, 2004

#### **Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Advisory Board of Rep's**

Public Safety Committee  
April 4, 2002

Becky Richmond - At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2004

**Adjournment**

On motion the meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

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