

**Public Safety Committee
April 6, 2006
3 p.m.
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: R. Booth, M. Koplinka-Loehr, M. Hattery, M. Robertson
Excused: L. McBean-Clairborne
Legislators: D. Kiefer, G. Stevenson, T. Joseph
Staff: S. Whicher, County Administration; A. Cole, Health Department; K. Leinthall, Department of Probation and Community Justice; P. Meskill, Sheriff; P. Carey, DSS, J. Hughes, Assigned Counsel; J. Wood, County Attorney

1. Called to Order

Mr. Booth called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

2. Privilege of the Floor by the Public

No member of the public was present.

3. Approval of Minutes of March 2 and 7, 2006

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 March 2, 2006 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of March 7, 2006 with the changes suggested. MINUTES APPROVED.

4. Changes to the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

Resolution No. - Authorization to Accept an Award of a Grant for the Benefit of the Drug Courts of Tompkins County

Discussion - Ithaca Journal article regarding the deportation of local a resident

Resolution No. - Authorizing the County Administrator to Acquire Parcels of Land by Lease or Purchase for the Operation of the Digital Trunked Communication System

5. Health Department - Avian Flu Update

Ms. Cole, Public Health Director, distributed information from the local and State levels. She said at the present time there is a multitude of laws and guidance documents that pertain to local emergencies. One area where she believes there is a need for improvement is in the area of communication and collaboration among the many players so that all involved parties can become active participants. There is also a need for increased participation by the County Legislature in the drills and exercises that take place throughout the community. *Mr. Whicher asked to receive notifications at least three weeks in advance of these exercises for planning purposes.*

Ms. Cole said there is also a need for the Personnel Department to begin working with the unions to start educating employees about different roles they may be asked to perform in the event of an emergency. For example, it may be decided that Assessment is a non-essential service and those employees could be used for other purposes such as traffic control, clinic needs, or other areas where needed. She noted that no one would be asked to do something they were not trained to do. She said she is presently working with Anita Fitzpatrick, Commissioner of Personnel, to include information with paychecks that will provide employees with general information, such as what the Avian Flu is and what precautions can be taken.

Ms. Cole said every County department needs to develop its own business continuity plan, to decide whether they are an essential service, to decide whether they need to continue running in the event of an emergency, and to determine the department's plans in case of such an event. This also includes the discussion that was started last week with the County Administrator about what County buildings need generators. Ms. Cole said it is very important to maintain the Public Health infrastructure and they cannot continue to do the job they need to do if there is an erosion of the Department's staffing and resources.

She updated the Committee on the status of current planning efforts and said town hall-types of meetings that will target various groups are being planned for May and June. The first session will be with business operators.

Ms. Cole concluded her comments by stating work continues on the local Flu Pandemic Plan that is presently in draft stages. Although the Plan is due on September 15th it will always be a work in progress because the State is providing information on a daily basis. Tompkins County is part of a consortium of surrounding counties that is working with individual public information officers to craft regional messages for the various target groups so that everyone is receiving the same message.

Mr. Shurtleff commented that this is an enormous task that has been placed on the Health Department and he relies on Ms. Cole for a great amount of information. Ms. Leinthall raised the issue of the large number of employees that reside outside Tompkins County; Ms. Cole said this question, along with the issue of the number of employees that have dual roles (e.g. employees who are also firefighters or emergency medical services personnel) is one of many that need to be discussed.

Ms. Robertson asked if there is planning being done for elderly and disabled individuals. Ms. Cole responded that another new responsibility for the Public Health Department is staffing shelters for individuals with special care needs. Mr. Booth asked who is responsible for determining what the critical workforce for Tompkins County would be in the case of an emergency. Mr. Whicher said this will be discussed at the department head meeting; however, it would be a decision of the Legislature that he would like made in the next couple of months. Mr. Booth asked how much about the nature and scale of the Avian Flu threat is unknown at this time. Ms. Cole responded that virtually everything is currently unknown, that is why making preparations is so important.

Mr. Whicher noted the Building C emergency generator will be installed no later than June.

6. Assigned Counsel Program

Ms. Hughes reported the Department received \$284,000 last week for reimbursement of Assigned Counsel Fees. The budgeted amount was \$273,000. She also reported on first quarter statistics for 2006, said there has been a large increase in the number of cases, and highlighted the areas where increases are occurring and said they are cases of misdemeanors, custody, and appeals.

Ms. Robertson reported she attended the annual meeting of the Community Dispute Resolution Center where it was reported they are going to be doing mediation in custody cases. Ms. Hughes said there is going to be a full-time social worker in Family Court who will be looking at custody cases and making recommendations. She will be meeting with Judge Rowley about this. Ms. Carey also spoke of this and said a funding source for the position has been identified. There is also going to be a Child Support worker assigned to the Court with a goal to try to divert cases from litigation. Ms. Hughes said the Office of Court Administration is looking for some counties to begin this initiative and Tompkins County is strongly in contention for funding because of its outstanding record of being a leader in many areas.

7. Department of Probation and Community Justice

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

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

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 \$26,700 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 2006:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Revenue:	A3998.43389	State Aid	\$26,700
Appropriation:	A3998.51000754	Administrative Services Coordinator	\$ 3,000
	A3998.58800	Fringes	\$ 1,170
	A3998.54442	Professional Services	\$22,530

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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8. RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AN AWARD OF A GRANT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DRUG COURTS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

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

WHEREAS, the Probation Director has been notified of a grant award in the amount of \$40,000 from a local foundation that has requested no publicity for the grant, to provide support for the Drug Treatment Courts of Tompkins County, 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 budget adjustment for 2006:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Revenue: A3989.42705	Gifts and Donations	\$40,000
Appropriation: A3989.51000049	Project Assistant	\$ 5,000
A3989.58800	Fringes	\$ 500
A3989.54491	Sub-Contracts	\$26,000
A3989.52220	Department Equipment	\$ 1,000
A3989.54333	Education and Promotion	\$ 7,500

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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9. Communications Capital Project

Mr. Shurtleff reported three companies submitted bids for the site development work on the Public Safety Communications system. Included are towers, tower modifications, shelters (including generators), site work (roadways, utility extension, etc.), antenna placements, and ancillary costs for project management and miscellaneous items. He said although certain questions have been sent to clarify some portions of their response, he has received assurance that the bid is fully compliant with what was requested. A meeting with Motorola will be held next week. Construction work will begin approximately June 15th with towers and shelters up by the end of September and then will proceed to the implementation phase of the radio system. Meetings are also being held with the Town of Ithaca, Town of Danby, and Ithaca College to finalize leases and zoning and planning reviews.

Mr. Booth requested that documentation be provided to the Committee in the agenda packet prior to the meeting.

A question was raised as to what role SSI will play in this project. Mr. Whicher said they will make sure the system is built to specifications and will act in a role similar to a construction manager.

Mr. Whicher said the issue of who will be paying for equipment will need to be addressed.

The Committee reviewed a memorandum distributed by Mr. Whicher dated April 4, 2006. Information contained in the document is as follows:

Public Safety Communications Project – Capital Budget as of 3/1/2006

(Including Emergency Response Center)

I. Expenditures:

a. Link to legacy equipment (phase I)	\$ 99,410
b. Emergency Response Center	2,468,128
c. <u>IC Tower Electric(50% reimbursed)</u>	<u>144,200</u>
Total	\$ 2,711,738

II. Anticipated Expenditures:

a. Motorola, Phase 2	\$11,222,158
b. Site Development	4,100,000
c. Paging	350,000

d. Construction Management	280,000
e. Subscriber Equipment	1,977,604
f. <u>Mobile Data</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total	\$18,929,762
Grand Total	<u>\$21,641,500</u>

III. Funding Sources:

a. Tobacco Bonds and General Fund	\$ 2,944,252
b. Member Items	988,061
c. New York State Grant	322,833
d. Interest Earned	280,533
e. General Fund (unspent 2005 levy)	450,000
f. Bonds (Authority for \$16,000,000)	8,000,000
g. <u>Lease Financing</u>	<u>8,000,000</u>
Total	\$20,985,679
Potential Shortfall	\$ (655,821)

Funding sources include additional member items, grants and local municipalities and/or fire companies.

IV. Annual Payments:	Annual Cost
a. Debt Structure:	
i. Lease Purchase: \$8,000,000 @3.75%	
Semi-annual payments of \$492,268, Expires 2014	\$ 984,536
ii. <u>Bonds \$8,000,000 @3.56 Expire 2012</u>	<u>1,020,000</u>
Total	\$2,014,536
b. Funding:	
i. General Fund - Currently in levy	\$1,500,000
ii. <u>SWN - 20 year lease of County infrastructure</u>	<u>500,000</u>
Total	\$2,000,000

V. Annual Maintenance	
a. Anticipated between \$450,000 and \$500,000	\$ (500,000)
b. Site Leases -	(40,000)
c. <u>In Department budget</u>	<u>150,000</u>
Shortfall	\$ (390,000)

Funding sources include any additional SWN funding, Cell co-locators, business partners schools, municipalities, transportation enterprises, private sector (antennas etc).

10. Discussion: Potential County Ordinance Regarding Activities that Interfere with the County's Communication System

Mr. Wood said there are some municipalities that have ordinances that prohibit construction of structures that interfere with communications systems; however, in Tompkins County almost all cases he can think of would involve land use planning and could be enforced by permit granting authorities (i.e. local municipalities). He said he is not aware of any municipality or county that has such a law or regulations which does not also grant the permits. While Tompkins County might be able to pass a local

law under its police powers to prohibit such a structure, enforcement would be another issue. He suggested working with the municipalities who grant permits to get them to include this in their permitting rules. Mr. Wood said the FCC would prevent another communications system from being constructed that would interfere with the system.

Mr. Joseph feels it makes sense to have a local law on the books because it would give the County more of an ability to work with towns and the City to see that developments don't violate the ordinance. Mr. Wood said the threat of a lawsuit may discourage builders from constructing a building that would interfere with the signal. He said although this type of interference could happen anywhere in the County, it is more likely to happen in urban areas. Mr. Joseph said the reason the Legislature has concerns about this is because the construction of Seneca Place blocked a signal and antennas had to be moved.

Mr. Wood will look into the issues that have been raised and will also draft a local law for consideration by the Committee.

Ms. Kiefer said it might be worthwhile to pursue State legislation to allow counties to do this. Mr. Booth said State Legislation already exists - It is the State's Freshwater Wetlands Act and he does not believe any county has ever utilized the authority due to political ramifications.

11. RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACQUIRE PARCELS OF LAND BY LEASE OR PURCHASE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE DIGITAL TRUNKED COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Booth, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature. *Mr. Whicher and Mr. Wood will report to the Committee at a later date about the details of leases versus purchases.*

WHEREAS, after compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act the County entered into a contract with Motorola, Inc., to develop an 800 MHz digital trunked communication system, and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature has authorized the County Administrator to enter into a contract for site work including the placement of towers and shelters at sites identified in the Motorola contract and the environmental impact statement, and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature has authorized the County Administrator to enter into various options to secure rights to parcels necessary for implementation of the digital trunked communication system, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the County Administrator is authorized to acquire by lease or purchase any and all sites that may be used in connection with the digital communication system.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE I

(This action was contemplated in the environmental impact statement and the associated findings statement already adopted.)

12. RESOLUTION NO. - ADOPTION OF BYLAWS – EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Ms. Robertson. Mr. Booth asked if there was any discussion about what would happen if a member did not come to meetings for an extended period of time. Mr. Shurtleff does not recall any discussions taking place about that and said this group generally has a good attendance record. Mr. Booth referred to Article VI-C and asked what would constitute "a simple majority of the total membership"; Mr. Shurtleff responded eleven members. The Committee agreed to an amendment offered by Mr. Booth in Article VIII – Amendment of Bylaws: B. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws can be passed by a majority of the members or their official designee(s). A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 4, Noes - 0, Excused - 1 (McBean-Clairborne). MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, County Policy 01-19, adopted June 28, 1983, and amended June 18, 2000, created an Emergency Planning Committee (Committee) to assist the Director of the Department of Emergency Response (then Fire & Disaster Coordinator) in coordinating relief efforts and assisting with emergency planning, and

WHEREAS, the Committee assisted the Department of Emergency Response in the creation and development of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), adopted by the County Legislature on December 16, 2003, and

WHEREAS, the work of the Committee is on-going and dynamic, and said CEMP requires continual review, and modification, and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Planning Committee drafted and adopted Bylaws unanimously at the March 21, 2006 meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That these Bylaws be adopted and filed with the Clerk of the Legislature.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

**Bylaws
Tompkins County Emergency Planning Committee**

Article I – Name

The official designation of the Committee shall be the Tompkins County Emergency Planning Committee (TCEPC), herein referred to as the “Committee” as established by Resolution 168 of the Tompkins County Legislature, July 18, 2000

Article II – Purpose

A. The purpose of the Committee is to:

- Identify appropriate local measures and resources to prevent disasters.
- Develop mechanisms to coordinate the use of local resources and human resources for service during and after disasters.
- Deliver services to aid citizens and reduce human suffering resulting from a disaster.
- Provide for recovery, redevelopment, and mitigation after disasters.
- Prepare and annually update a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan by using existing response plans, mutual aid agreements, hazardous materials plans, and other plans, resources, and information as appropriate and available.
- Discuss after-actions of emergency situations in order to continually improve administrative, procedural, and action items.

Article III – Membership

A. Tompkins County Administrative Policy 01-19, amended July 2000, created an Emergency Planning Committee comprised of twenty-one (21) individuals and organization representatives to assist the Director of Emergency Response to develop a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and other items identified in the Purpose statement above. Membership is as follows:

- An Elected County Official designated by the Public Safety Committee Chair
- An Elected City of Ithaca Official designated by the Mayor
- A Municipal Official designated by the Tompkins County Municipal Officials Assoc.
- County Administrator or designee
- A City of Ithaca Administrator designated by the Mayor
- A Cornell University Representative designated by the University Emergency Planning Committee
- An Ithaca College Representative designated by the Director of Public Safety and Security
- County Director of Department of Emergency Response
- A Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Responder designated by Fire/EMS/Disaster Advisory Board
- A Deputy/Ass't Fire/EMS Director as designated by the Director of Emergency Response
- City of Ithaca Fire Chief or designee
- City of Ithaca Emergency Management Officer
- Cayuga Medical Center Representative designated by CEO
- The Manager of a commercial ambulance service or designee, as recommended by the Committee from an ambulance service providing the majority of services within Tompkins County
- County Sheriff or designee
- Public Health Director or designee
- City of Ithaca Police Chief or designee
- County Public Works Administrator
- City of Ithaca Public Works Official designated by the Mayor
- American Red Cross Executive Director or designee
- Tompkins County Social Services Administrator, designated by the Commissioner of Social Services

B. Term of Membership – no limit

C. Appointments and resignations – All applying for membership or submitting a resignation shall complete the appropriate County Legislative form and return it to the Department of Emergency Response for proper routing and approval by the County Legislature.

D. Additional representation – Representation from new or additional entities would be required to be submitted to, and approved by the County Legislature after approval and recommendation by the Committee.

E. Additional Sub-Committee resources – Individuals with expertise in related areas may be enlisted to serve as resources to the various sub-committees.

F. Designee – A member listed in Article III, allowed a designee, may appoint a representative of that member's agency to serve as the official committee member.

Article IV – Officers

A. The Committee will annually elect a Chair and Vice Chair by a majority vote. The Chair, Vice Chair, and the Director of Emergency Response will serve as the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will meet as needed to conduct appropriate business and to foster and facilitate the Purpose of the Committee. The Executive Committee will be responsible to annually review the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to assign standing or additional sub-committees that shall address deficiencies or modifications to the plan. The Executive Committee will develop annual goals for the

Committee, which may be accomplished by the Committee, standing sub-committees, or special sub-committees.

Article V – Sub-Committees

A. The Committee shall have standing sub-committees as follows. (additional sub-committees shall be established as needed):

- Health Care and Public Health
- Finance and Administration
- Law Enforcement
- Public Information and Emergency Alerting
- Human Needs and Transportation
- Fire and EMS
- Public Works
- Training and Development

The Committees may work in cooperation with other county advisory bodies established for similar operational purposes. Each sub-committee shall present annual reports on their activities, goals, outcomes, resources available, resources needed, etc. These annual reports will be presented to the Committee for information and action as necessary.

Functional annexes will be assigned to the appropriate sub-committees for purposes of annual review, further expansion, and for the development of operating procedures and guidelines for use in implementing the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Article VI – Meetings

A. The Committee shall meet monthly. The meetings will allow the sub-committees to report on activities, events, drills, and etc. on which they are working. The meetings will also be used as time for the standing sub-committees or special sub-committees to work on activities in order to reduce the need for additional meetings above and beyond the monthly meeting. Monthly meetings can alternate between regular business meetings and sub-committee working sessions.

B. The Chair will be responsible to develop the meeting agenda. The agenda shall be distributed at least one week prior to the meeting date. The agenda shall be distributed by the Department of Emergency Response. Meeting minutes shall be taken and distributed by staff of the Department of Emergency Response.

C. A meeting and voting quorum shall be a simple majority of the total membership (21 members) or their officially designated alternate. An alternate may be designated to act in the place of an appointed member, and in order for an alternate to vote for a sitting member, the officially appointed member must notify the Chair of the Committee prior to the start of the meeting.

D. Meetings shall be governed under Roberts Rules of Order.

Article VII – Adoption

A. These bylaws shall become effective upon ratification of the Committee and approval of the County Legislature.

Article VIII – Amendment of Bylaws

A. All proposed changes to the Bylaws must be presented in writing a week before the scheduled Committee meeting, and sent out with the meeting agenda in order to be considered and voted upon at the meeting. All submissions shall be provided to the Chair and the Director of the Department of Emergency Response.

- B. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws can be passed by a majority of the members or their official designee(s).
- C. Amendments to the Bylaws, approved by the Committee shall then be submitted to the County Legislature and become effective upon approval of the County Legislature.

Article IX – Saving Clause

A. In the event that any part of the Bylaws conflict with any provision of Federal, State, or County Law, the provision of law shall control and the other provisions of these Bylaws shall not become invalid by such conflict.

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**13. RESOLUTION NO. – STANDARDIZATION OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT –
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE – VOICE
LOGGING RECORDER – RADIO AND TELEPHONE**

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature. Mr. Shurtleff said this resolution is necessary as it replaces the requirement to go through a bid process. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 4, Noes - 0, Excused - 1 (McBean-Clairborne). MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Response has recommended that Digital Voice Logging Recording equipment be standardized to ensure full compatibility in the Public Safety Communications System, and

WHEREAS, such equipment records 911 Emergency Calls and radio traffic, and is archived for evidentiary and quality assurance purposes, and

WHEREAS, the back-up site at Ithaca Central Fire Station must be equipped and maintained with compatible recording equipment to meet New York State Wireless 911 Standards, and

WHEREAS, the District Attorney’s Office is further specially equipped to retrieve said recordings from the logging system, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Department of Emergency Response standardize, for reasons of economy and efficiency, digital voice logging recorded equipment with NICE-Wordnet Series III hardware and software, and standardize systems at the Emergency Response Center, District Attorney’s Office, and back-up communication sites.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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**14. RESOLUTION NO. - BUDGET ADJUSTMENT AND APPROPRIATION OF
UNSPENT GENERAL FUNDS FROM 2005 TO VARIOUS
ACCOUNTS – DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

MOVED by Mr. Hattery, 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.

WHEREAS, the Department of Emergency Response received an award from the New York State Expedited Wireless 911 Grant Fund in 2005 to assist the County in achieving “Phase 2” capability for the 911 emergency call system, and

WHEREAS, procurement processes for the funded equipment will be completed in 2006, creating a mismatched grant period and budget year, and

WHEREAS, unspent department appropriations and excess revenues from this grant total \$208,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee and Budget and Capital Committee, that the following transactions are approved:

FROM: General Fund Balance	Account A599	\$208,000
TO: Department of Emergency Response		
	Communications Equipment Account 3410.52222	52,000
	Communications Software Account 3410.52230	<u>156,000</u>
	Total	\$208,000

15. Sheriff

Sheriff Meskill asked Patricia Carey, DSS Commissioner, to report on a new initiative involving Jail discharge planning.

Ms. Carey recalled a meeting last year involving both the Public Safety and Health and Human Services Committees where the subject was discharge planning at the Jail. At that time she reported on a small number of individuals who were meeting to compare and gather information. In the last two months that group has developed a small subcommittee that has come up with a plan to address what discharge services might be needed in the Jail and how to do discharge from the Jail in a planned way.

Ms. Carey said as part of a three-month pilot program beginning in July, DSS staff will do intake assessments and discharge planning before an individual is released from the Jail. It is the subcommittee's hope to get data and identify key points to assess. They will meet and assess the data and develop a report. At the present time they are working to develop a list of questions that will be asked during the intake and discharge planning process. The discharge planning will begin at the time the individual is admitted into the Jail. The Department of Probation and Community Justice employee will continue to visit the Jail as well. Ms. Carey said there are still many details that need to be worked out but the ultimate goal is to look at what supports need to be in place to make sure an individual has placed a safe and stable place to go to upon release. It was noted no additional funding is needed for this pilot project.

Mr. Joseph thanked the Sheriff and Ms. Carey for this effort and said this is something he has wanted to see done for a long time.

15(a). Jail Statistics

The Committee briefly reviewed Jail statistics. *Ms. Robertson asked the Sheriff to provide a format that would allow Committee members to compare statistics on a month-to-month basis.*

15(b). Commission of Correction

The Committee briefly discussed the authority granted to the Commission of Correction by Law and through its own guidelines. The Committee took no action.

15(c). Road Patrol Services

The Committee briefly began discussion of the level of road patrol services in rural parts of the County. Sheriff Meskill said if this issue is going to be discussed further by the Committee he would like some basic questions answered such as: what is expected in terms of the level of service (e.g. response time); and what services are expected that the Sheriff's Department would be involved in. He said he

would like to hear the issue separated into two parts: whether it is agreed a service is needed and whether there is the ability to fund the service.

Ms. Robertson said she has concerns about the methodology used in the report produced by the Division of Criminal Justice Services. She also stated she is very interested in finding a way to document the need so that everyone can agree with the measurement tools and then address the need.

Mr. Joseph agreed with Mr. Meskill's comments. He said first the level of police protection that is wanted needs to be identified and then a decision can be made as to whether or not the County can fund it.

Mr. Hattery said there needs to be a clear understanding of what coverage can be provided with the resources that the Sheriff's Office now has.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed that the Committee would be provided with the following information:

- A map showing patrol zones in Tompkins County*
- A copy of the Staffing Analysis Report by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services*
- Staff (Deputy) assignments of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office*

The Sheriff will provide the Committee with a memo outlining some of the bigger questions he has spoken about and Committee members will develop a list of what information they would like to see before this discussion proceeds.

16. RESOLUTION NO. – ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STATE LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR A CREDIT AGAINST PERSONAL INCOME TAX FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND MEMBERS OF VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

Mr. Stevenson presented a draft resolution to the Committee. He noted that the fiscal support for this would be provided by the State and not the County. Mr. Joseph spoke in support of this and said it is becoming increasingly difficult to get people to become volunteer firefighters and said the personal commitment has increased significantly over the years. It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Hattery, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to authorize Mr. Stevenson to proceed with drafting a resolution to be considered by the Committee prior to the April 18 Legislature meeting.

17. Deportation of Local Resident

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr distributed copies of an Ithaca Journal article about the case of a local resident being deported to Jamaica and said he would like this Committee and the full Legislature to adopt a resolution or make a statement opposing the deportation of this resident. Mr. Wood, County Attorney, was asked to look into this, and the Committee will discuss this at a special meeting prior to the April 18 Legislature meeting.

18. Appointments

It was MOVED by Mr. Hattery, seconded by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present to approve the following appointments:

Public Safety Committee
April 6, 2006

Advisory Board on Indigent Representation
Seth Peacock - term expires December 31, 2008

Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives-to-Incarceration Board
John P. Beach - At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2007

19. Committee Goals

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

20. Liaison Reports

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

21. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff