

Public Safety Committee
May 10, 2001

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Noon
Central Fire Station/South Hill Station No. 5

The Committee gathered at the Central Fire Station on West Green Street at noon for a brief tour of the dispatch center. At 12:15 p.m. everyone relocated to South Hill Fire Station No. 5 for the Committee meeting and a tour of the area where the new centralized dispatch operation will be located.

Present: G. Totman, T. Joseph, N. Schuler, B. Blanchard, T. Todd
Staff: K. Smithers, J. Miller, J. Hughes, L. Shurtleff, J. Miller, J. Beach, F. DeAragon, S. Robinson,
B. Richmond, M. Pottorff
Agencies: O. Mack, OAR; D. Johnson, Drug Court

Mr. Totman called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2001

It was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mrs. Schuler, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of April 12, 2001 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Changes to the Agenda

A resolution was added to the agenda entitled Designation of Cost Savers - 2002 Budget.
A packet of rollover requests was distributed.
Annual reports for the Sheriff's Department, Criminal Justice Center, Probation Department, and the Assigned Counsel Program were distributed at the meeting. These reports will be attached to minutes placed on file in the Board Office.

Request for Information

The Committee requested Kathy Lienthall, Probation Director, to attend the next meeting and provide a presentation on the new PINS (Persons In Need of Supervision) rules.

Report from the Drug Court

Desiree Johnson reported May is National Drug Court Month and invited Committee members to stop by either the Family or City Drug Court on Mondays at 1 p.m. or on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. at the County Courthouse. She also reported the Felony Drug Court is at capacity.

Traffic Safety Grants

Mr. Beach reported last year the Committee spent a lot of time prioritizing traffic safety grant requests; however, this year that part of the process has been eliminated. He said last year the County had submitted \$306,000 in grants that included a \$175,000 proposal from the City of Ithaca. Mr. Beach said the County received \$84,000 in grant approvals and expects the same amount this year. He noted that he has reviewed all of the requests and feels they all are well-documented and legitimate.

It was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the submission of these grant requests. MOTION CARRIED.

OAR

OAR submitted a monthly report with the agenda. Mr. Totman asked if there were any questions for Mr. Mack.

Mr. Joseph said he was informed that a planned meeting between OAR and the Jail Administrator was cancelled, and asked how often these meetings are canceled. Mr. Mack responded of the last six meetings, three have been held and three cancelled.

The following resolution was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Todd, and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

RESOLUTION NO. - DESIGNATION OF COST SAVERS - 2002 BUDGET

WHEREAS, this Board on June 6, 1995, adopted recommendations of the Budget Review Task Force of the Budget and Fiscal Policy Committee with respect to the criteria for Cost Savers and with respect to the consequences of that status, and

WHEREAS, to be designated a Cost Saver a budgeting unit or a program must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Only an entire program or budgeting unit may be designated;
2. The budgeting unit or program must provide services funded by general revenues or by the Solid Waste Annual Fee;
3. By providing those services, the budgeting unit or program must clearly reduce County spending in the County budgeting unit(s), or increase revenue to the general fund or to the Solid Waste Fund;
4. The amount of savings or increased revenues must equal or exceed the total amount of general revenues or Solid Waste Annual Fee revenues of the entire designated program or budgeting unit;
5. The savings from providing the proposed services must be achieved within the same fiscal year or within the following two (2) fiscal years;
6. A reduction in services in the designated budgeting unit or program would result in a net increase in costs to Tompkins County; and

WHEREAS, budget makers have requested Cost Saver designation for various programs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety, Economic and Workforce Development and Budget and Capital Committees, That the following programs of County government are hereby designated to be Cost Savers for the 2002 budget:

- Offender Aid & Restoration (OAR) - Bail Program
- Probation - Alternatives to Incarceration Drug Treatment Courts and Electronic Monitoring
- Tompkins County Area Development
- ATI Initiatives – Community Justice Center

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

ROLLOVER

Ms. Smithers pointed out that in lines 13 and 14 of the rollover document the Sheriff has requested to use rollover money from the Jail in the Sheriff's Department budget. She said she is calling the Committee's attention to this because the Board has never approved crossing budget lines in the past.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed since members did not receive this information prior to today's meeting, that a special committee meeting would be held at 4:30 p.m. on May 31st prior to the Board meeting to discuss this further.

Mr. Miller said this year his office provided a two-week CAD training session. For reasons unknown to him the Sheriff did not choose to take part in this training; however, he is now requesting the training and the funding for this training to come out of the Fire, Disaster, and EMS rollover funds. Mr. Miller endorsed the need for the Sheriff to having this training but feels the \$5,000 cost should come from the Sheriff's budget.

Ms. Blanchard said it is very displeasing to see departments fighting over \$5,000 or any amount when they should be working cooperatively on a system that serves everyone. She said she sees this happening not just these departments but throughout departments County-wide.

Assigned Counsel

Julia Hughes gave the Committee a brief report on her recent trip to Albany. She said a tentative agreement has been reached on the increase in assigned counsel fees - \$75/felony rate and \$60/misdemeanor rate. She said these rates will be funded by the State; however, she said they come with many strings attached.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 14th at the Criminal Justice Center.

Adjournment and Tour

At 1:27 p.m. the meeting adjourned and a tour was conducted of the South Hill Fire Station No. 5, the future home of the centralized dispatch center.