

**Public Safety Committee**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
**Monday, May 3, 2010 3:30 PM**  
Scott Heyman Conference Room

*Approved*

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Nathan Shinagawa	Chair	Present
James Dennis	Member	Present
Leslyn McBean-Clairborne	Member	Excused
Brian Robison	Member	Present
Peter Stein	Member	Present

Staff: C. Covert, Clerk of the Legislature; M. Lynch, Public Information Officer; P. Meskill, Sheriff; A. LeMaro, Facilities Manager; S. Cook, Chair of Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board; J. Mareane, County Administrator

Legislators: M. Robertson, Chair

Guests: S. Shackford, Ithaca Journal Reporter

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Changes to Agenda**

Mr. Shinagawa said there were no changes to the agenda. However, he requested the Sheriff's resolution be moved up on the agenda for action prior to a Committee member needing to leave the meeting.

**Chair's Report**

Mr. Shinagawa said he is hoping next month to have the individual he spoke about at the last meeting attend and report on gas drilling as it relates to medical and social issues.

**Sheriff's Office**

**Resolution (DOC ID: 1963): Authorization for the Sheriff to Enter into an Agreement with GTL for Inmate Telephone Calls**

Following a brief overview by Mr. Meskill, Mr. Stein said he is uncomfortable with the rates as he believes they are exorbitant and he does not agree with receiving any commission from them. He would prefer to refund it to the inmates, but is not clear how that could be done. Mr. Meskill said this is a service that needs to be provided and said that Tompkins County is one of the few counties that offer to inmates at no charge calls to local attorneys for indigent defense, OAR, and the Human Rights Commission. Mr. Stein requested that the issue and other options concerning the commission received from calls made be looked into further.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James Dennis, Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peter Stein, Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Nathan Shinagawa, James Dennis, Brian Robison, Peter Stein
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Leslyn McBean-Clairborne

Whereas, for last past ten years, GTL (Global Tel Link) has kept the calling rates on inmate telephone calls at a level that is 10% below the Verizon rate on public coin phones at the Jail, and

Whereas, the current rate for local calls is \$1.58 plus \$.09/minute, and the rate for intra-lata calls

is \$1.58 plus \$.18/minute, and

Whereas, this rate is based on a request of the New York State Sheriff's Association and is contained in a contract between the Association and GTL, and

Whereas, Verizon left the inmate telephone market several years ago and the dynamics of inmate telephone service has changed considerably in recent years, and

Whereas, the Sheriff's Association has granted permission to GTL to use calling rates which are the equivalent to Verizon rates on local and intra-lata calls rates on inmate telephone calls, and

Whereas, the GTL has been granted permission by the Association to use calling rates which are equivalent to Verizon rates on local and intra-lata calls.

Whereas, this change will not affect the actual commission percentage given to counties but will increase the county commissions by 3-5% each month, and

Whereas, GTL will not change rates in a county without an agreement to do so, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Sheriff is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with GTL for the following rate for inmate telephone calls:

Local Calls: \$1.75 plus \$.10/minute (currently \$1.58 plus \$.09//minute)

Intra-lata Calls: \$1.75 plus \$.20minute (currently \$1.58 plus \$.18/minute)

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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### **Report from the Sheriff**

In late March Mr. Meskill said he attended a Jacksonville Community Association meeting about speeding and noise from heavy trucks. Enforcement was increased in that area and he believes based on the reduced number of calls that police presence has made a difference. Mr. Meskill commented that he still has not heard any more about the NYSERDA grant he applied for and reported on at the last meeting. However, he is exploring other options.

#### Jail Statistics - March, 2010 (DOC ID: 1966) and Jail Utilization Report (DOC ID: 1962)

Mr. Meskill reported that jail is currently full and seven inmates are boarded out.

Mr. Dennis was excused at this time (3:42 p.m.)

Mr. Meskill provided a brief overview of the State Annual report done by his Department as required by the State Commission of Corrections. It provides the number of inmates and sentencing and conviction information. It also includes information on recurrence but only during that calendar year.

#### COPS Grant

Mr. Meskill reported that he received an e-mail from the State Department of Justice indicating that anyone who applied for the COPS grant last year and was not accepted has the ability to keep their application in process and update the information for a second review in June. He said that not all the funds for the grant were released last year and now there is an opportunity for a second round. He asked permission from the Committee to continue with pursuing the grant. He reported on the reduction of overtime costs this year as a result of some operational changes made.

Mr. Mareane said the COPS (Community Oriented Policing Service) grant is a Federal grant that pays for additional uniformed officers. In the grant proposal a request was made for three deputies in which the Federal government would pay for the salary and fringe benefits for the first three years, the County would have to be responsible for the fourth year and in the fifth year the County would make the decision of whether or not to continue the funding. The Sheriff showed in 2010 a reduction in overtime and that the County could pay for the net four-year cost of those officers.

Mr. Stein asked what three new deputies would do. Mr. Meskill referenced a study done in 2003 that recommended eight new deputies and two supervisors. He said nothing has changed since that time and call volumes have gone up. The amount of time it takes to answer calls has increased and have now the Sheriff has taken over the Village of Freeville area as they have canceled their contract. If three new deputies were hired he believes they would do more community involvement policing.

Following further discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to authorize the Sheriff to update the grant application and resubmit it in the second round of funding.

#### Report on Public Safety Building Needs

Mr. LeMaro distributed an outline highlighting the short-term, mid-term, and long-term needs for the Public Safety Building. The Building is 24 years old.

#### Short-Term

- Generator upgrade  
Cost is \$30,000 to replace transfer switch.
- Replace fire alarm system  
Design is complete and will go out to bid this year. The current system is obsolete and the new system will be upgraded and comply with ADA standards.
- Roof repairs  
The original proposal was to replace the roof; however, the cost for that is \$250,000. He now recommends doing repairs and said they are being done once a month and believes that can be managed for the next ten years.
- HVAC system replacements
- Control panel repairs  
This system is the original system and is now obsolete. The system is used to secure the doors. (Cost to replace system is approximately \$500,000 minimum)
- Parking lot resurfacing  
Some work was done approximately two years ago. This year the hope is to resurface the deputies parking area.
- Ceiling replacements  
The ceiling is original and will be looking at replacing the metal ceiling in the kitchen area which is a secure ceiling.
- Exterior door replacements
- Replacements are ongoing
- Masonry repairs
- Security and detention
- Hardware systems repairs

#### Mid-Term

- Replace VCT Flooring
- HVAC system replacements  
Replacing them as they fail.
- Window repairs

#### Long-Term

- Roof replacement
- Generator replacement
- Boiler replacement

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- Replace carpeting
- Window replacements

#### ATI Update – Recidivism

Mr. Shinagawa spoke briefly about an e-mail he received from Deanna Bodnar as a follow-up to the report given on the ATI report at a recent Public Safety Committee meeting. Ms. Bodnar and Ms. Buechel have been putting together a request for recidivism data for Drug Court participants. There is a cost of approximately \$4,000 and they are requesting a waiver of those costs. Ms. Bodnar stated there is not a good control group to make direct comparisons and therefore will need to be made with a more general data on recidivism. The State has initiated a project to examine the recidivism rates in drug courts across the State, however, there is little information available at this time.

Mr. Stein said he would oppose doing this if a control group is not available. He agrees recidivism is legitimate question and putting resources into it to study it is appropriate, but only if there is a program to enable a conclusion.

Ms. Cook said she is working with a unit at the Department of Criminal Justice Services and said they are beginning an extensive study county by county of all the drug courts in the State and doing comparisons. However, it will be at least a couple of years before tracking information will be available.

**Mr. Shinagawa agrees a comparison is helpful but also believes that having basic information of the County’s community would be useful even without an accurate control group.**

**Mr. Robison said there have been requests made to have more information and agrees with Mr. Shinagawa that any information and would be a starting point. He said he would also like to know how Tompkins County compares to other counties around the State.**

#### **Report from Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives-to-Incarceration Board**

**Ms. Cook spoke about the AIT report and said it will be a very useful document in the work the advisory board is doing.**

#### **Report on Juvenile Justice**

**Ms. Cook said the County Attorney’s office is basically the prosecutorial office for kids. One of the major differences with juvenile court is the Judge looks at the whole situation and circumstances and will craft the most appropriate sentence. A great majority of kids are sentenced to probation. The State is pushing to keep kids in their community as it is very effective with proper programs and services. She spoke of the excellent juvenile intake program offered by the County and said it has been very successful. Ms. Cook commented that they are seeing a higher number of cases involving violence and mental health issues.**

**In response to Mr. Robison, Ms. Cook said she is looking in to a database that would begin tracking the kids she is involved with and see if there are any future arrests to help identify what worked and what didn’t work.**

#### **Appointment(s)**

Emergency Community Response and Oversight Committee

**It was MOVED by Mr. Robison, seconded by Mr. Stein, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to appoint Brian Wilbur to the Emergency Community Response and**

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**Oversight Committee as the Countywide EMS representative for a term that expires December 31, 2010.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**It was MOVED by Mr. Stein, seconded by Mr. Robison, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2010, meeting as submitted.**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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**Traffic Safety Committee  
 May 3, 2010  
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 2:30 p.m.**

Present: P. Meskill, F. deAragon, J. Dennis, B. Robison, N. Shinagawa, M. Coles, W. Sczesny  
 Excused: L. Jackmin, P. Stein, T. Ferretti, L. McBean-Clairborne  
 Staff: M. Pottorff, Legislature Office  
 Guests: M. Ryan, Dryden Village Police; C. Whitten, NYS Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee; M. Robertson, Chair of the Legislature

**Call to Order**

Mr. Shinagawa, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

It was MOVED by Mr. Meskill, seconded by Ms. Chock, to endorse the following traffic safety grant applications and submit to the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee.

AGENCY	PROJECT TITLE	2011 Request	2010 Request	2010 Approved
Ithaca Police Department	Buckle up NY - Click it or Ticket	\$ 7,440	\$ 8,550	\$ 6,795
Ithaca Police Department	Selective Traffic Enforcement Program	\$ 13,471	\$ 12,324	\$ 11,649
Village of Dryden Police	Selective Traffic Enforcement Program	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,600	\$ 2,800
Village of Dryden Police	Buckle up NY - Click it or Ticket	\$ 2,604	\$ 3,920	\$ 2,380
Sheriff’s Office	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$ 10,500	\$ 8,800	\$ 8,800
Sheriff’s Office	Buckle up NY - Click it or Ticket	\$ 7,920	\$ 5,280	\$ 1,760
Sheriff’s Office	Selective Traffic Enforcement Program	\$ 17,600	\$ 17,600	\$ 14,960
Ithaca City Fire Department	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$ 1,375	\$ 6,375	\$ 1,375
Cornell University Police	Buckle up NY - Click it or Ticket	\$ 9,300	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,000
Cornell University Police	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,055	\$ 3,055
Cornell University Police	Selective Traffic Enforcement Program	\$ 10,804	\$ 8,198	\$ 7,698
Cornell University Police	New Datamaster DMT Funding	\$ 5,000	-	-
Varna Volunteer Fire Department	Increasing Visibility of Emergency Service Personnel	\$ -	\$ 1,260	-
		<b>\$ 94,014</b>	<b>\$ 89,962</b>	<b>\$ 69,272</b>

A voice vote on submitting the grant applications to the State resulted as follows: Ayes – 7, Noes - 0. MOTION CARRIED.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.