

**Public Safety Committee
July 12, 2001
Noon
Scott B. Heyman Conference Room**

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

Mr. Totman called the meeting to order at noon.

Addition to the Agenda

Mr. Whicher asked to provided the Committee with a brief update on the CISNET program.

Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2001

It was MOVED by Mr. Todd, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of June 14, 2001 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Probation Department

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mr. Todd, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following budget adjustment and submit to the full Board:

REVENUE:

3141.51000597	Sr. Probation Officer	\$20,370.52
3142.51000597	Sr. Probation Officer	19,126.19

APPROPRIATION:

3160.51000597	Sr. Probation Officer	\$20,370.52
3160.51000597	Sr. Probation Officer	19,126.19

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE GRANT KNOWN AS HE 1997 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM WITH THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT - PROBATION DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services has made available to counties a low-cost Probation automation system known as Prober Plus, and

WHEREAS, the grant requires a local cash match in the amount of \$1,667, previously approved in the 2001 budget, and

WHEREAS, the automation system has been purchased and installed in the Probation Department, and

WHEREAS, its is anticipated that Prober Plus will allow the Probation Department to avoid increased clerical costs for data entry, and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department needs to replace three computers that are not compatible with the system, and

WHEREAS, the Division of Criminal Justice Services has approved \$5,000 in Byrne Funding for the Tompkins County Probation Department, which is a 75 percent reimbursement of approved expenditure, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Probation Department be authorized to enter into a contract for the grant known as the 1997 Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program with the Division of Criminal Justice Services,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be directed to make the following budget adjustment for 2001:

REVENUE:

3141.44389	Other Public Safety Aid	\$1,000
3142.44389	Other Public Safety Aid	4,000

APPROPRIATION:

3141.52206	Computer Equipment	\$1,000
3412.52206	Computer Equipment	\$4,000

District Attorney

It was MOVED by Mr. Todd, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following budget adjustment and submit to the full Board:

REVENUE:

3141.42626	Federal forfeitures (restricted)	\$9,407.73
3141.42626	Federal forfeitures (restricted)	\$ 715.40
3142.42625	State forfeitures (restricted)	\$ 258.66

APPROPRIATION:

3141.52206	computer hardware	\$9,407.73
3141.42230	computer software	\$ 715.40
3142.42206	computer hardware	\$ 258.66

Domestic Violence Prevention

Ms. Robinson reported the 2001 STOP grant RFP has arrived and is due in Albany on August 9. She noted the outlook is not as promising as it has been in the past. She said they are not accepting applications for new programs, only for continuation of existing programs which also may be receiving cuts. She said she is also looking into other grant funding to continue the domestic violence efforts.

Assigned Counsel

Ms. Hughes reported there have been more activity in the efforts to increase assigned counsel rates. She feels this is being used as a bargaining chip in getting the New York State budget passed. The Committee briefly reviewed the client application affidavit. Ms. Hughes said there are steps a client can take to make a complaint over the service they are receiving from an attorney.

Community Justice Services

Ms. Richmond reported on the clients and said at the present time there are three who show up regularly, two who have been placed in inpatient treatment facilities, and a couple who have attendance

issues. These are the drug court-sanctioned people and their Probation Officers are aware of the situation. She said she has received very positive feedback from clients and agencies.

OAR

Mr. Mack distributed the Agency's monthly report and briefly answered questions. In addition to his report he said OAR is not going to get TANFF money it had been expecting. He also said he has been meeting with Ms. Richmond to discuss moving the DBA program out of the pool.

Drug Court

Ms. Johnson apologized for not submitting a written report this month; this is because she has been working on state and federal reports. At the present time there are 45-50 individuals in City Drug Court and approximately 27 participants in the Felony Drug Court. The Legislature approved a half-time judge. Judge Olds will be taking this position and will begin attending Public Safety Committee meetings next month. Ms. Johnson reported the evaluation has been completed and she will provide all members with a copy.

Communications Project

At this time a resolution, draft job description, and document entitled Public Safety Communications System Project Overview was distributed to the Committee. Mr. Whicher noted that the job description that has been distributed is in draft form. Mr. Whicher outlined his recommendations contained in the overview.

1. As soon as possible, recognize that we are building a communications center and system and appoint a Communications Center Director. This position should be clearly identified as having the overall responsibility for the center and the operations.
2. Begin the process of integrating Information Services Support.
3. Identify when the 911 Committee and the Communication Capital Projects Committee should moving decision making responsibility to the County Board's Public Safety Committee.

RESOLUTION NO. - CREATION OF POSITION, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER DIRECTOR

The following resolution was MOVED by Mr. Joseph and seconded by Mr. Todd. Mr. Joseph expressed concern that it is being proposed that this position be paid for out of capital funds. He said he agrees with the need for the position, but questioned the legality of paying for it in this manner. After a brief discussion the resolution was amended to read that the position would be paid for out of surplus funds in the Department of County Administration. It was noted that Administration may have to come to the Board with an Over Target Request in 2002.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes - 3 (Joseph, Todd, and Totman); Excused - 2 (Blanchard and Schuler). MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County is in the process of building a Communications Center to serve the County's Public Safety needs, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County is in the process of designing and deploying a County-wide Public Safety communications system, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to hire a project manager for the construction of the center and the communications systems, and

WHEREAS, the recent consolidations of Fire/EMS and police dispatch into a single center has proven the need for a Center Director, and

WHEREAS, funding for the position is available through the Department of County Administration, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the position of Public Safety Communications Center Director (/), grade (/), standard workweek 40.0 hours be created in the Office of County Administrator effective immediately,

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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CISNET

Mr. Whicher informed the Committee that he recently decided to slow down the CISNET program. The position held by Mr. Hammer has been abolished and a short time later the other staff person accepted a position elsewhere. The result of this is that the CISNET program now has no staff support and no means to move forward with grant applications. He said this is an issue of concern that he continues to work on and will keep the Committee informed.

Sheriff's Department

Mr. Meskill presented the Committee with a copy of the Department's monthly report, jail statistics, and document regarding FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.

Mr. Meskill highlighted the following items contained in his report:

- There have been three more car/deer accidents with patrol cars since his report last month. He reports there have been no injuries to deputies and no damage to County vehicles. At this point, the Rhino bars initial purchase price has been paid for in a short three-month span. Don't we all wish our investments would produce such results! Every car/deer accident that occurs with a patrol car, where the impact is frontal, represents a direct saving to the County insurance fund. The fund will pay little or nothing compared to what is has paid before installing the Rhino guards. Being self-insured, this represents a direct savings to County taxpayers.
- Chief Debra Niemi has finished her background and research on the topic of using pepper spray in the Jail as a use of force option, to reduce needless harm and injury to inmates and officers. She is arranging training with a certified correction instructor through the Tioga County Sheriff's Office. We are reviewing a draft policy and have purchased pepper spray. We have completed our internal process of having the appropriate health department and buildings and grounds people review our plans. Mr. Meskill anticipates pepper spray will actually deter some future trouble as well as reduce needless injury to inmates and officers.
- The Sheriff's Department has received approval for continuing its variance to extend the capacity of the Tompkins County Jail for another 12 months. The variance incorporates the two separate requests into one variance that is reviewed annually in the month of June. The Commission continues to require quarterly reports regarding the double-bunking activity and any concerns or problems that arise from any variance for additional capacity. The continue to limit the Jail maximum capacity from the original application and approval in June of 1999 of a maximum capacity of 116 down to a maximum capacity of 105-106 inmates.
- The Jail population continues to be higher than it has in the previous two summers. On Saturday, July 7 there were 100 inmates in the facility. With the exception of medical reason, they continue to keep all inmates in the facility and have not boarded any inmates since January 15, 1999. If the population continues this upward trend this be forced to change.
- The weapons storage boxes are in and they are putting the final touches on the plan to distribute the boxes and the policy change that will accompany them. The boxes are a very

inexpensive way for the county to adequately provide safe storage for a deputy's weapon when off duty. The box has distinct advantages over a trigger lock. It allows for the complete locked storage of the County weapon and it allows the weapon to remain ready to use in case of immediate need. It also does not require the unloading and loading of the weapon, an area where many accidents occur.

Recess

A recess was taken from 1:02 p.m. to 1:07 p.m.

Executive Session

It was MOVED by Mr. Todd, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to enter into an executive session at 1:07 p.m. to discuss a public safety matter. The meeting returned to open session at 1:07 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at OAR, 403 North Plain Street, on Thursday, August 9th at noon.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.