

**Public Safety Committee
August 1, 2002
12:30 p.m.
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: N. Schuler, G. Totman, B. Blanchard, K. Herrera

Excused: L. McBean

Staff: K. Leinthall, D. Rogers, J. Hughes, R. Richmond, P. Meskill, S. Robinson

Guests: Judge Marjorie Olds, O. Mack

Called to Order

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

Changes to the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

Resolution - Appropriation from Contingent Fund for Terminal Pay at the Sheriff's Office

Report from the Community Justice Center

Report from Offender Aid and Restoration

Report from the Ithaca Drug Treatment Court

Approval of Minutes of June 4 and July 2, 2002

It was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of June 4, 2002 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Totman, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of July 2, 2002 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Chair's Report

Mrs. Schuler sadly reported that Sheriff's Deputy Scott Odell passed away over the past weekend. She thanked the Sheriff and Undersheriff for the kind words they offered during services for Mr. Odell.

Mrs. Schuler reported last night she attended a victims panel in the Main Courthouse with 58 probationers present. She said it was moving to hear stories from three victims who shared their experiences with those in attendance.

Mrs. Schuler asked to be updated on the status of the air conditioning system at the Community Justice Center. Ms. Leinthall reported there were problems with the pace at which the lowest bidder was working and there were also problems with asbestos in the building. She said several fans have been obtained; however, they have been sited by Frank Croteau, Health and Safety Coordinator, on several violations. She said it has been very difficult on both staff and clients. Ms. Leinthall said if a situation arises in the future where County programs are placed in a building that has uncertain future, it is important that the County be committed to make conditions suitable for staff and clients until a decision is made on the future of the building. She also noted that this problem was in no way caused by the Facilities Division.

Sheriff's Department

Mr. Meskill distributed monthly Jail statistics and the Department's Canine Report. He reported the population of inmates at the Jail are down at the present time. Mr. Meskill said there have been some misleading statements made by the press in the last couple of weeks about programs that are provided in the Jail. He briefly reviewed those programs that the Sheriff's Department is actively involved in:

- Mental Health - anger management, casework, transition management, and evaluation
- Probation - PSI, Pre-trial release, RICS, conditional release
- Alcoholism Council continues to interview inmates
- AIDS Work
- OAR Services
- Task Force for Battered Women
- Car Seat Safety Program
- Meetings for Alcoholics Anonymous
- Jail Transition program

Sheriff Meskill reported a number of maintenance items have been accomplished at the Department. He said there continues to be a lot of work that needs to be done and he will be working with Chris Parker and Tom Cannon of the Facilities Division on this.

Mr. Meskill reported the Department is currently has two vacant Deputy positions. These openings are the result of one Deputy's untimely death and one Deputy returned the County he previously resided in. He spoke of the workload being carried by the other deputies and asked that this Committee recommend to the Fiscal Management Committee that those positions be approved for hiring. He announced National Night Out will be held in the Town of Newfield On August 6.

RESOLUTION NO. 210 – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND FOR TERMINAL PAY AT THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE

MOVED by Mrs. Schuler, seconded by Mr. Booth, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present.

WHEREAS, due to the death of Deputy Charles “Scott” Odell, there will be a payment of contractual applicable fringe benefit balances at a cost of \$6,326, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for terminal pay from the Contingent fund, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance appropriates a total of \$6,326 to the Sheriff’s budget for terminal pay,

RESOLVED, further, That the money be distributed to the following accounts:

FROM:	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$6,326
TO:	A3113.51000419	Regular Pay	\$5,021
	A3113.58800	Fringe	\$1,305

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Probation

Ms. Leinthall said at a previous meeting she asked that changes to the County Charter be made to reflect the work the Department is assigned to do. She had requested that the title of the Department be changed from "Probation" to the "Department of Probation and Community Justice". She stated some people have questioned why she is not recommending that it mirror the name of the State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. She said she does not believe that accurately reflects everything

the Tompkins County Department of Probation is doing, and offered the area of domestic violence prevention as an example.

Ms. Blanchard said she has sensed some confusion about the community justice component. She said there may be a concern that by placing that in the Department's title it could be interpreted as the Board's intention to permanently fund the Community Justice Center and other alternative to incarceration programs.

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the Charter name change of the Probation Department to the "Department of Probation and Community Justice."

At this time Ms. Leinthall provided the Committee with an update on activities taking place at the Department and staffing matters.

Section 19.01 - Charter Article

Ms. Leinthall referred to discussion that took place at the last meeting at which time she recommended that the wording be amended to add list the mandatory functions of the Department followed by "and other programs as directed by the Board". She said she had previously recommended that the optional programs the Department oversees be listed; however, has since decided this brief addition would not obligate the Board to any specific program.

It was MOVED by Ms. Blanchard, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote to add the wording "and other programs as directed by the Board" to the end of the third paragraph in Section 19.02 **Director of Probation and Alternatives; Powers and Duties.** MOTION CARRIED.

Announcements from the Domestic Violence Coordinator

Sue Robinson announced the new STOP Request for Proposals has arrived. A meeting will be held tomorrow to discuss what is going to be included in that; they will probably be asking for \$55,000 to fund two programs. She will distribute copies to the Committee once it is complete.

Community Justice Center

Ms. Richmond distributed monthly statistics; she noted monthly referrals were slightly lower in July. She said at this time they are averaging 20-25 participants enrolled on a daily basis; however, actual attendance is approximately 18 per day.

Emergency Response

Mr. Shurtleff reported bids for the Request for Proposals for the radio system are due on August 19th. He believes they will soon have the answers to work with after that date. He said the Communications Center project is moving forward. They are working with T.G. Miller on topographical issues and the Airport on FAA and land matters. Mr. Shurtleff said most of his time during the coming months will be dominated by trying to establish a transition plan for moving into the building. He said this is a very complicated matter because they will need to address tapping into the existing microwave network in anticipation of a new radio system in the future.

Mr. Shurtleff reported the Committee will be presented with the Fire, EMS, and Mutual Aid Plan in approximately one month. The Advisory Board met last week and incorporated more changes into the plan and will forward it to the Board once that is completed.

Assigned Counsel

Ms. Jughes reported the staff person who had been on a medical leave has returned to work and the Office is returning to its normal function. She also reported on litigation that is currently taking place in which the State is being taken to court over the assigned counsel rates. She said this case will last approximately 2 1/2 weeks and she will keep the Committee informed about what happens.

Drug Courts

Ms. Rogers distributed a monthly status report for the Ithaca Drug Treatment Court and the Felony Drug Treatment Court. She reported referrals continue to be submitted for both programs. Ms. Rogers also distributed copies of a Sobriety Tracking Table. She announced the next graduation ceremony will take place on August 27 at 3 p.m. at the Community Justice Center.

OAR

Mr. Mack read and submitted the following report:

"OAR continues to serve its client base at the Tompkins County Jail. The Tompkins County Jail population is currently lower than it has been in some time. Although low, the services of OAR are still in demand. As tradition holds, the Volunteer program slows, as there are a lot of volunteers that leave the summer months. The Volunteer Coordinator has been active through providing Medicaid, DSS, and housing applications to clients. The Bail program has once again been active in providing interest free bail loans to eligible clients. The Clients Services program continues to strive to serve all clients of the Tompkins County Jail. Client Services also distributed the programs quarterly survey. Once again the survey provides OAR with feedback as to its service delivery. 93 percent of clients surveyed expressed the opinion that OAR helps them keep in touch with family and loved ones.

"OAR met with the Sheriff several times during the month of July. First there was a meeting to discuss OAR once again being allowed access to the halls of the Tompkins County Jail. There was a second meeting with the Sheriff along with other service providers to discuss program models and services for the anticipated Tompkins County Jail Transition Program. On the issues discussed at the first meeting, the Sheriff has asked that we revisit the topic within the next month, pending his work on budgets and contract negotiations. He did elaborate that he would have to bring the Jail Administration into the discussion to discuss the feasibility of re-entry into the halls for OAR. Another issue raised at the first meeting were the access to the Sgt. Office by the OAR Bail Coordinator. After the Sheriff looked into the issue, access has been granted to the Sgt. Office for the Bail Coordinator every day except a few.

"The second meeting to discuss the Tompkins County Jail Transition Program was very energetic and engaging. OAR is to submit a proposal to the Sheriff of services OAR is able to offer to the clients of this program. The services in the proposal will include, OAR's current services which inherently focus on clients transitioning back into the community as well as several other components including client assessments, developing client post-release plans, education of clients as to available resources through various human service agencies/programs, assisting clients in accessing those resources, potentially some training on communication skills, and some assistance after release via transportation and assistance realizing post-release plan."

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, Board of Representatives Office