

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2001 NOON COURTHOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: G. Totman, Chairman; T. Joseph; B. Blanchard; T. Todd

Excused: N. Schuler

Staff: K. Leinthall, Probation Director; S. Robinson, Domestic Violence Coordinator; O. Mack, Offender Aid and Restoration; L. Shurtleff, Fire, Disaster and EMS, P. Meskill, Sheriff; S. Whicher, County Administrator; J. Beach, STOP-DWI Coordinator; B. Richmond, Community Justice Service; R. Haus, Undersheriff; D. Squires, Finance Director

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of the August 9th and August 21st meetings as submitted.

District Attorney

Mr. Dentes presented and briefly explained the request for a budget adjustment. He said a \$50,000 State grant was received entitled "Aid to Prosecution" and is expected to be renewed annually. The terms of the grant require the funds be used to enhance felony prosecutions. Initially, the grant was intended to fund the hire of a paralegal assistant, but due to the County's budget situation, the funds will instead be used to help pay the salary for a felony prosecutor. However, in the initial year of the grant, the funds will be used to pay for computer upgrades for the entire staff, for the creation of a new workstation that will be used by interns and volunteers, and for the acquisition of cell phones that allows more accessibility to the police and the prosecutors attending the town courts will have better means to communicate. It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mr. Todd, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to submit the following budget adjustment to the full Board for approval.

From: State Aid to Prosecution grant	\$50,000
To: Regular Pay	\$15,890
Fringe Benefits	3,973
Computer Equipment	25,495
Office Equipment	2,053
Office Supplies	99
Printing	200
Postage	120
Telephone	2,170

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-25

Probation Department

Resolution - Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant

Ms. Leinthall updated the Committee on the situation with the loss of grant funding for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). She is requesting interim money to get through the rest of the year until further discussions on the program can be held.

Ms. Robinson explained the letter received did not specify the reason the grant was no longer going to be funded. She said she has been seeking funding grants elsewhere and working with other people in the community. Ms. Leinthall commented that the Domestic Violence program is eligible for State Aid through the Probation Department if support for funding can be provided such as passing a resolution.

Ms. Robinson said domestic violence impacts everyone and has an affect on society and communities. She said the three most important areas that need to continue are law enforcement, advocacy, and training and education.

Mr. Whicher commented that additional time to review this program is also needed to look at other alternatives and the goals and objectives as well. He would like to talk to other agencies to see how they would be restructured.

Discussion followed concerning the timeframe in which to fund this program and the Committee agreed to appropriate money to cover personnel and other expenses from July 1, 2001 through October 31, 2001 to allow the time needed for making budgetary decisions.

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to submit the following resolution to the Budget and Capital Committee for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM ATI CONTINGENCY POOL - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Prevention program was transferred to the Probation Department by Resolution No. 146 of June 19, 2001 with the understanding that the program would be funded through various federal and/or state grants, and

WHEREAS, funding for the Domestic Violence Prevention Program through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) ended on June 30, 2001, and a subsequent grant application was made for 2002, and

WHEREAS, word was received on September 7, 2001, that continued future funding through a new VAWA grant has been denied, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance be authorized to appropriate \$24,579 from the ATI Contingency Pool as follows:

FROM:	A1990.54400 Contingent Fund	\$24,579
TO:	A3991.51000 Salary	\$ 3,132
	A3994.51000 Salary	16,700
	A3994.54303 Supplies	68
	A3994.54330 Printing	68
	A3994.54442 Local Mileage	136
	A3994.54452 Postage	100
	A3994.54472 Telephone	200
	<u>A3994.58000 Fringes</u>	<u>4,175</u>

TOTAL: \$24,579

RESOLVED, further, That Program Number 4550 Domestic Violence Prevention be distinguished from other Probation programs with a separate Fiscal Target,

RESOLVED, further, That this appropriation shall not impact any potential certified surplus funds for the Probation Department as of December 31, 2001.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Community Justice Center

Ms. Richmond announced the open house for the Center is October 3rd or 4th from 3-6 p.m. She said there have been outreach efforts to the District Attorneys and Magistrates rather than waiting for plea bargain process. As of the end of August, 217 program days have been completed. She said the program continues to move forward and a total of 23 people have participated.

Mr. Todd requested an accounting of the ATI money. It was stated that this information would be provided.

Advisory Board on Indigent Representation

Ms. Blanchard, Liaison, provided the Committee with an update and said a question was raised on how the day reporting center was going. She said there were also concerns raised about what was described as unintended consequences of the drug court having to do with privacy rights, new process issues, and whether or not there were people who would rather serve 30 days in jail. The Advisory Board has invited a spokes person to come to the October meeting to discuss this subject further.

Offender Aid and Restoration

Mr. Olin Mack distributed copies of his monthly report and briefly reported the numbers appear to be on target in terms of clients. He said they continue to work with the Sheriff on the new temporary policy at the Jail to implement some of the suggestions in the interim to better serve the clientele.

Mr. Joseph explained his concern about the qualitative change in the Immediate Assistance Program. The Program is about relationship building and going through the jail, seeing people, and letting them know that someone is there that cares and can help. He feels the Program now is only running errands and not building the relationships and trust it is intended to do. Mr. Meskill said the decision with the policy change has not been decided if it is permanent or not. He has asked Mr. Mack to provide in writing a description of what is being requested.

Fire, Disaster, and EMS

Mr. Shurtleff updated the Committee on the activities of the Emergency Planning Committee. There are about 30 people involved. He reported that Cingular Wireless calls formerly Cellular One are now being directed into the County's Communication Center. Between Cingular and Verizon it is estimated that about 90 percent of wireless calls that are hitting the towers in Tompkins County are coming to the Center. It is hoped to have 100 percent and will work with the smaller companies. The last 6-8 weeks has been an unusual time. There was a fire that involved an entrapment, TCAT bus accident, train tipping over on Elmira Road, double-murder suicide, and an airplane crash. He commented that the dispatchers have performed exceedingly well. All these calls resulted in a multi-agency response and commended that the efforts made, cooperation, and coordination is outstanding. He spoke about the tragedy and said the efforts being made to improve communications will go along way with improving the safety of our responders.

Sheriff's Department

Mr. Meskill distributed copies of the Jail statistics for the month of August to Committee members. He provided a brief report on the department's activities following the "Attack on America".

Minutes
Public Safety Committee
September 13, 2001

The Sheriff's Department began 12-hour shifts on Tuesday afternoon through Thursday morning and still have 8 deputies stationed at the Airport. The coverage was to reassure people's fears and that the Department was visible on a more than routine basis. The State Police Department deployed 8 troopers to New York City.

Ms. Blanchard reported that the representative from NYSTEC that has been working with the County on the communications upgrade project was also dispatched to New York City to bring a Deployable Advanced Communications Environment. It is a 24 foot, 13 ton, truck that is outfitted with all types of communications equipment. He will be providing connective communication links for areas where communications have failed.

At Mr. Meskill's request, the Committee agreed to withdraw from the agenda the resolution entitled Appropriation from Contingent Fund for In-Patient Hospital Charges.

Appointments

It was MOVED by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following appointments:

Family Court Advisory Council

Chris Ion, Probation representative - term expires December 31, 2003

Fire, Disaster, and EMS Advisory Board

Larry Stillwell, Town of Enfield (Delegate) representative - term expires December 31, 2003

Phineas Reeves, City of Ithaca (Delegate) representative - term expires December 31, 2001

David Cornelius, City of Ithaca (Delegate) representative - term expires December 31, 2002

Lyle Neigh, City of Ithaca (Delegate) representative - term expires December 31, 2002

Beth Harrington, Town of Caroline (Delegate) representative - term expires December 31, 2003

E911 Operations Committee

George Totman, Public Safety Committee representative - no set term

Communications Director Position

Mr. Whicher updated the Committee on the status of the search. He said the position is being advertised and would like one or two Board members to serve on the search committee. Following a brief discussion, Representatives Blanchard and Totman agreed to serve.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.