

**Public Safety Committee
September 4, 2003
2 p.m.
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: B. Blanchard, G. Totman, K. Herrera, L. McBean, M. Robertson

Legislators: T. Joseph

Staff: S. Whicher, P. Meskill, J. Beach, A. Fitzpatrick, J. Vitale, S. Robinson, R. Haus, W. Skinner, S. Cook, R. Korherr, K. Smithers, J. Hughes, G. Dentes, R. Stolp, E. Marx, J. Thomas

Guests: O. Mack, Offender Aid Restoration; A. Tutino, Ithaca Journal; D. Buck, Groton Police Department

Called to Order

Ms. Blanchard called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

The resolution entitled Authorizing a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. _ of 2003 - Amending Section 27 -03 of the Tompkins County Charter and Code - Special Traffic Options Program, was withdrawn from the agenda.

Tompkins County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Meskill introduced Captain Joseph Vitale and Robin Korherr, Confidential Secretary to the Sheriff. Mr. Vitale made the following Powerpoint presentation to the Committee with the assistance of Ms. Korherr:

Mission Statement

- Protect life and property through the diligent enforcement of ordinances of Tompkins County and the laws of the State of New York and of the United States...through the utilization of approved first aid and rescue techniques, specialized vehicles and special search and recovery...through Navigation Laws on navigable waterways
- Carry out the mandates orders and process of the Criminal Courts, as well as provide security to the Superior Courts of Tompkins County
- Recovery of lost or stolen property
- Mutual aid with other agencies within and outside of Tompkins County
- Investigations of traffic accidents and deaths

Demand For Services

- Monthly Volume
1,000 calls
- Service area
574 square miles
1,300 miles of County
Roads
Posts

Services Provided

Vehicle and Traffic Law

- Drunk drivers and monitoring of traffic flow (The Department uses speed trailers that have been obtained through grants from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.)
- NYS Penal Law
- Homicides, rapes, burglaries, robberies, child abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Orders of protection

Education

- DARE
- Rape Aggression and Defense
- (A partnership exists with Sue Robinson, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator, and Ithaca College)
- Safety - child seats at no cost

Community Policing

- Newfield Satellite Office

Tompkins County Critical Incident Team

- SWAT in conjunction with Ithaca Police Department
- County Hostage Negotiation Team (special training is given)

CID - Criminal Investigations Division

- Hate crimes
- Child sexual abuse, pornography and date rape (The Sheriff's Office works with local colleges)
- Internet-related crimes - stolen identities, non-physical contact
- Advanced arson investigations - IFD
- Serious motor vehicle or other accidents
- Murder (The Department partners with other agencies on many different types of investigations)

Coalitions/Partnerships

WMD - NYS Office of Public Security

- Emergency management - identify vulnerabilities
- Terrorist tracking and investigations
- Bio-terrorism - NYS Center for Disease Control - works with TC Health Department
- National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Program
- *Tourism Preservation*
- Public waterways (Sheriff has marine patrol)
- NYS Office of Parks and Historical Preservation (provides Office with some reimbursement)

Challenges

Varied demand (additional demands each year)

State and federal programs (e.g. TSA)

Opportunities

- Pooling of resources
- Synergy through partnerships and coalitions
- grants

RESOLUTION NO. - PROGRAM RECONFIGURATION - PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION – STOP DWI PROGRAM AND THE RESULTING AMENDMENT TO SECTION C-27.03 OF THE CHARTER AND CODE

MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Ms. McBean. Ms. Robertson asked if consideration had been given to placing the STOP-DWI program in the Mental Health Department. Mr. Marx responded

that consideration was given to several ideas; however, the preferred option was the Planning Department. Mr. Totman stated he believes the STOP-DWI program should be in a department that works directly with law enforcement. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - 4, Noes - 1 (Totman). MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, the appointment of a Special Traffic Options Program (Stop DWI) Coordinator is a function of the County Administrator subject to confirmation by the Tompkins County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, the Special Traffic Options Program carries a strong relationship with activities within the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (ITCTC), and

WHEREAS, the collaboration between these two programs would be greatly enhanced by assigning the Stop DWI program to the Planning Department where staff resources and the ITCTC program are present, and

WHEREAS, there was a public hearing on July 15, 2003, and all persons desiring to be heard concerning same have been heard, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Public Safety, Governmental Operations, and Budget Committees, That Effective January 1, 2004, the Special Traffic Options Program be a program within the Planning Department, and

RESOLVED, further, That the appointment of a Coordinator be a function of the Commissioner of Planning subject to confirmation by the County Administrator and County Legislature, and

RESOLVED, further, That administrative oversight be the responsibility of the Commissioner of Planning, and

RESOLVED, further, That pursuant to State Law, funds will continue to be isolated in their own program account, not to be commingled with funding for the Planning Department or ITCTC, and

RESOLVED, further, That Section C-27.03 of the Tompkins County Charter and Code be amended as follows:

§ C-27.03. Special Traffic Options Program—Driving While Intoxicated (**STOP - DWI)
Coordinator; appointment; qualifications; powers and duties.**

There shall be a Coordinator of the Special Traffic Options Program—Driving While Intoxicated (**STOP - DWI**) Program who shall be appointed by the ~~County Administrator~~ **Commissioner of Planning**, subject to confirmation by the ~~County Administrator and~~ Tompkins County Legislature. The Coordinator shall be directly responsible to the ~~County Administrator~~ **Commissioner of Planning** for the implementation of policies established by the Tompkins County Legislature.

The Coordinator **as directed by the Planning Department** shall be responsible for the development and coordination of local programs which discourage drinking and driving. The ~~Coordinator~~ **Commissioner of Planning** shall have all the powers and perform all the duties now or hereafter conferred or imposed by law upon the office.

SEQR ACTION: Type II-20

Approval of Minutes of June 19 and August 21, 2003

It was MOVED by Mr. Totman, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the minutes of June 19 and August 21, 2003 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. At this time the Committee began reviewing departmental budgets.

Public Safety Committee
September 4, 2003

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, TC Legislature Office