

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 24, 2008

Meeting called to order at 4:45 pm.

Present Legislators Dart, Ronk, Briggs, Hansut, Zimet
Absent: Parete, Aiello

Minutes from May 27th Meeting

Motion to accept: Ronk
Seconded: Briggs
All in favor.
Carried

Van

Blarcum:

Resolutions:

Homeland Security Grant (as amended) (\$132,000)

Grants manager Sgt. Perry Soule explained the need for the resolution. It has to do with a change in the purpose of the grant: to purchase SUVs instead of a dive van (which is being acquired by other means).

Motion: Briggs
Seconded: Ronk
All in favor
Carried

Transfer of funds from Asset Forfeiture to Overtime

Motion: Briggs
Seconded: Ronk
All in favor.
Carried

Sudlow:

Resolution: to enter into agreement with Correctional Services alternatives program (\$131,000)

Motion: Briggs
Seconded: Zimet
All in favor.
Carried.

Resolution: to accept \$20,000

Motion: Briggs
Seconded: Ronk
All in favor.
Carried

Snyder:

Salary Review for 911

Brenda Bartholomew presented possible measures developed by the Personnel Committee, to address the problem with high turnover.

- Option 1 is a reallocation of grades – each position would be given one higher grade.
- Option 2 is to evaluate jobs with a view towards reclassifying them which may result in a higher grade and salary (\$56,000).

- Option 3 would be to pay them for 8 hrs at the 7 hour rate.

Brenda recommended pursuing option 2, and union representatives (who were present) agreed.

Art and Brenda will draw up a resolution for reclassifying the dispatcher position for the next Criminal Justice Committee meeting, which will then go before the Personnel Committee.

Grant for Emergency Operations Center.

Art reported moving forward on the application for a \$14 million grant: it involves a 25% County match. The LaBerge Group is writing the application – in view of an immediate submission deadline, they are making the application generic and broad stroke.

Personnel

Conflict Defender Proposal

Brenda requested committee members to look at the proposal and give feedback. Discussion centered on salary levels for this position compared to that of the DA and Public Defender (which is officially part-time although current Public Defender works lengthy hours).

Zimet: Expressed concern about current inequities – recommended that a study of these jobs be completed so that a comprehensive solution can be developed with regards to salary and qualifications.

Dart: Recommended a subcommittee be created to hire for this job.

Brenda will prepare a resolution to create the position for the next meeting.

Chief Joe Sinagra of the Town of Ulster Police made a presentation on a proposed amended law concerning the purchase and sale of second hand merchandise by pawnbrokers. Changes are designed to impede the movement of stolen goods through pawnbrokers. They include an increase in the licensing fee to \$100; allowing only 1 license per establishment; requiring items to be retained a minimum of 15 days and prohibiting defacement or alteration and stiff financial and sentencing penalties for violations. Also the amended law puts in place procedures for the shops establishing the ID of sellers, via thumbprints, and photo or video recording of both seller and merchandise. Susan Zimet asked whether all UC police agencies had seen the draft law and Chief Sinagra confirmed that they had. He requested committee members to review both the current and the amended versions of the law and let him know their comments, saying that passing this law will send a message that the County Legislature takes seriously its role in enforcing the laws. A copy is also being sent to Bea Havranek for review.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion: Briggs

Seconded: Hansut

All in favor

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Maureen Nagy, substituting for Barbara O'Brien.