

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 27, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Legislators Frank Dart, Don Gregorius, Leonard Distel, Susan Zimet, Richard Parete, Robert Aiello.

Williams: Request to Fill
Operation Impact Assistant – no cost to County.
Motion: Zimet.
Seconded: Gregorius
Carried.

Discussion: Sex Offender / Governor's progress / Civil Confinement

Dart to Williams: draw up what would be a comprehensive package. Dart wants to explore possibility of using a state prison to house offenders. As a representative of the City of Kingston, Dart doesn't want them housed in Kingston. Wants to have round table discussion with DSS, DA, Mental Health, State Reps.

Zimet: Maybe towns should step up and help house offenders. "Safety Net" Solution.

Sudlow: Level 3 offenders in Kingston are not employed. They're on social services.

Dart: Homeless should report to nearest jail.

DeGasperis: Came up with \$1500 waiver fee (not \$5000). Rogers had no problem with that. Super refund stays as is. Will present a reso at April meeting. Probably won't take effect until June 2008.

Gregorius: Cindy O'Connor letter – Drowsy Driver – Discussion.
Sheriff VanBlarcum will bring up topic at Police Chief's meeting. There is currently no section of law related to drowsy driving. Maybe John Miller can do public announcement.

Dart: Proposal to Committee that any Conference Attendance forms and/or Purchase Requests submitted by Departments which are \$500 or less, Dart can approve outside of the formal meeting. All agreed.

Sudlow: Conference Attendance Requests (2):
One is less than \$500.
Treatment of Sex Offenders - \$721, but after reimbursements would be \$500-ish.
Motion: Zimet
Seconded: Distel
Carried.

Equipment Purchase Request:

Copy machine. No county dollars. \$8100 from Offender fees into Equip Account.

Motion: Parete

Seconded: Distel

Carried

Request to Fill (1):

Part time Probation Officer. Full time employee is on leave of absence, would back-fill on a less than half time basis, is in budget for full time.

Motion: Aiello

Seconded: Distel

Carried

GPS Grant

\$250,000 has been approved.

1 Resolution to accept the money.

1 Resolution to create two (2) part time positions that will “die” when grant monies run out. One Grade 15 at about \$20,000 and one Grade 10 at about \$14,000.

Will purchase up to 15 GPS units. Spoke to Parole about forming a partnership.

Probation will track some of their worst offenders.

Has met with Information Services about doing some mapping to look at concentrations.

Vehicles will be dedicated to offenders. License plate reader will be mounted in this vehicle.

Motion: Zimet

Seconded: Parete

Carried.

Request to Fill: (1)

CCP has a blanket request to fill to fill up to 15 LTHT Community Correction Aids.

Motion: Parete

Seconded: Distel

Carried.

****Ulster County doesn't have a place for people coming out of prison to report to. Will do resolution to Albany asking for fiscal support.**

Distel: Looking at old UC Jail as a solution. We may need money for a rental if we can't use the old jail. We need a reso to go to Albany asking for financial support.

Reso will be presented at April's meeting.

Falutico: We have a trailer at old jail (former medical trailer) which can be used temporarily.

Snyder:

Emergency Services Dispatchers:

Discussion of new positions created at Sheriff's Office – covered by PBA as opposed to CSEA – salary discrepancies between the two departments and Sheriff's Office dispatchers will now make significantly more money/benefits.

Aiello: Possibly change titles?

Parete: Sees and understands the problem.

Dart: Resolve in negotiations.

Aiello: Speak with Brenda – possibly change the titles in 911 to upgrade the titles/upgrade salaries. Go through that process. Those new titles in the Sheriff's Office should be in a union under the Sheriff's Office because the Sheriff is their boss.

Resolutions: (2)

Receipt of \$150,000 Grant Money: Hazard Mitigation Grant from NYS

Motion: Distel

Seconded: Aiello

Carried

(?) Second Resolution Information un-recorded by this transcriber due to being away from table at time of submission.

Motion: Parete

Seconded: Aiello

Carried

****Legislator Zimet leaves meeting, does not return****

**Dart: Resolution (1):
Criminal Justice Council appointments.
Motion: Aiello
Seconded: Gregorius
Carried**

**VanBlarcum: Conference Attendance Request:
Jail Conference – Nashville, TN
\$3976 – out of Telephone Revenue Account
Motion: Aiello
Seconded: Parete
Nays: Gregorius
Carried.**

**Dart: Amendment – Authorizing Committee Chairman to approve Equipment Purchases and Conference Attendance Requests up to \$1000 absent a formal committee meeting.
Motion: Gregorius
Seconded: Aiello
Carried.**

**Resolution – Homeland Security
Motion: Distel
Seconded: Gregorius
Carried.**

**Request to Fill (2):
Deputy Sheriff – FT Temp
DS Sgt – Perm
Motion: Gregorius
Seconded: Distel
Carried.**

**Purchase Requests (3):
Guns and Accessories: \$56390.90 (Homeland Security Grant)
Motion: Parete
Seconded: Aiello
Carried.**

**New K-9 (money donated by Ulster Savings Bank):
Motion: Distel
Seconded: Parete
Carried**

New AEDs (8):
Motion: Aiello
Seconded: Gregorius
Carried.

VanBlarcum: Will obtain 50-9mm guns from State Police which will result in a \$25,000 savings to the County. // Submitted report to Committee outlining costs for Sheriff's Office doing security at Highway Department. Can repair fence, install security cameras, Sheriff's Office could monitor via computer for about \$30,000.

Ebel: New building update. Leaks in and near Sheriff's personal office. We need 153 full time staff to run the facility.

Distel: Discussion of new jail facility. Why does and how can State handle more inmates with less staff? Ebel explained staffing requirements. Discussion of special housing unit – design flaw. Install screening of some sort on 2nd levels of all pods for security/safety reasons, lighting issues.

Dart: Suggests Distel visit new jail and then make suggestions.

Ebel: Department utilized substantial overtime and part time monies for the move from the old jail into the new jail. In June, we will be asking for more money. Reminds committee that original budget request was for \$950,000 and that was cut down to about \$400,000 by Legislators.

Faluotico: Noted that the rotunda area of the new jail has been “re-designed” and some offices were moved as a result of that. It was done by volunteerism (Bruderhof) from within the community and from Sheriff's Office staff. Sheriff will do a press release notifying public and thanking volunteers.

Metroni: Member of public asked to make presentation to Committee, specifically about his personal eviction experience and, more generally, about the eviction process as a whole. Discussion ensued with Legislators asking questions about the eviction process, who handles, who is in charge, etc., etc.
VanBlarcum suggests that Don Ryan of the Civil Office appear at April's meeting to briefly explain the Eviction and Civil Process. Sheriff suggests that committee members attend an eviction to see firsthand.

Motion to adjourn – 8:50 p.m.

Motion: Aiello
Seconded: Distel
Carried