

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 24, 2006

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Legislators Frank Dart, Don Gregorius, Peter Loughran, Joan Every, Leonard Distel, Richard Parete, Robert Aiello, Sheriff J. Richard Bockelmann, Mr. Art Snyder, Ms. Charlene Cappolino, , Mr. John DeGasperis, Weights & Measures, , Mr. Don Williams, District Attorney, Ms. Kelvin Antonelli, Mr. Robert Sudlow, Mr. Charles Mutz.

Excused: Legislator Susan Zimet.

Bockelmann: Introduced representative from NYS Dept of Parks and Rec who presented D.S. Sgt. Tim McGuire with Navigation Officer Of The Year Award.

Loughran: Introduced Memorializing Resolution regarding security cameras in shopping malls. Re-written to include in NYS Fire Code.

Motion: Parete.

Seconded: Gregorius

All in Favor.

Carried.

DeGasperis: Introduced amendment to Local Law of 2000. Needs public hearing. Motion to schedule public hearing.

Motion: Every.

Seconded: Parete.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Cappillino: Resolutions (2)
Continue contract with City of Kingston (Work Crew)

Motion: Every.

Seconded: Distel.

All in Favor.

Carried.

State Reimbursement Money (in one lump sum rather than broken down)

Discussion: Has already been approved by Committee. State changed wording of contract and requires a copy of the resolution so therefore a new vote is required. // Maybe this should go before the new County Contract Manager for review. All agreed. Parete suggests moving and then sending to Contract Manager for review. Dart suggests that all multiple-year contracts automatically go to Contract Manager first and this should be standard operating procedure for entire County. All agree that all County Contracts

go to Contract Manager for review first and then come to Committees for approvals.

Motion to approve, subject to approval by County Contract Manager.

Motion: Gregorius.

Seconded: Parete.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Snyder: Submitted monthly report and updates.

Mutz: Conference Attendance Forms (after-the-fact)

In March 2005, Legislature approved two new positions (Instructors). Those instructors were required to attend training in August 2006. County Auditor would not reimburse instructors for expenses, saying that a Conference Attendance Form had to be submitted. None was ever submitted because Mutz does not have a budget line for such reimbursements so this is being done out of Professional Services.

Motion to approve reimbursement.

Motion: Parete.

Seconded: Every.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Update on Training at UCCC. Projected start date for that program is Fall, 2007.

Sudlow: Conference Attendance Forms (2)

Field Intelligence Training. 100% reimbursable by State.

Motion: Parete.

Seconded: Distel.

All in Favor.

Carried.

State Conference for Sudlow. Put in for reimbursement for meals and gas and was denied by County Auditor because it was not submitted on a Conference Attendance Form. Form being submitted at this meeting for \$226.

Motion: Parete.

Seconded: Distel.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Summary of conference in Florida where Sudlow taught. Report submitted to committee.

Sudlow thanked Legislator Dart for bringing to the forefront, the issues of Sexual Offender residency and kudos to the Ulster County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Rich Bockelmann and D.S. Lt. Don Pecora for implementing and staying abreast of sex offender issues continuously. Suggests County purchasing "Offender Watch", a program introduced to him by Lt. Don Pecora where citizens can be notified when a sex offender moves into their area. All agreed to pursue the purchase.

Approval requested to purchase \$200 worth of pizza for Sex Offenders who are being asked to report to CCP for four hours on Halloween night, during the hours that kids will be out trick-or-treating.

Motion: Parete.

Seconded: Every.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Williams: Reviewed Memorializing Resolution drafted by Legislator Dart requesting that NYS review and stiffen penalties for sex offenders. Williams educated Committee on current penalties, current standards, the problems with the current laws, etc. Lengthy discussion. Motion on Resolution.

Motion: Every.

Seconded: Aiello.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Dart: Discussed and introduced Memorializing Resolution creating a uniform sexual offender registry across the State so that there is a standard procedure to be administered by the State Police and/or Sheriff. // Discussion followed. // Bockelmann – The NYS Police are currently not charged with this responsibility. Other Sheriffs across NYS would probably take on the responsibility because of the seriousness of the crime. Gregorius suggests amending the wording to include the word "standards" to "standards and procedures". All agreed. And to change the wording "County" to "County / State". All agreed.

Motion with amended wording.

Motion: Parete.

Seconded: Every.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Memorializing Resolution – Civil Confinement for Violent Sex Offenders. Lengthy discussion with input from Sudlow and Williams. // Gregorius states he cannot vote on something that he does not fully understand or have enough information on. All agreed. Dart will hold off on this resolution until he gets copies of both Bills for the Committee to review. All agreed. Resolution held / tabled at this time.

Every: Thanks to Sudlow and Williams for their time and efforts with regard to Sexual Offender issues.

Williams: Suggests researching GPS possibilities with regard to Sex Offenders and discuss at November's meeting.

Conference Attendance Form - \$59.19

100% reimbursable.

Motion: Gregorius.

Seconded: Aiello.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Requesting that Chairman Donaldson sign contracts for Operation Impact. \$163,000 – fully reimbursable. Contract needs to be reviewed by Contract Manager first.

Motion: Aiello.

Seconded: Distel.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Dart: Discussion of October's public hearing on Sex Offenders Residency Requirements. Lengthy discussion including Sudlow and Williams. Dart will ask for a joint caucus in December, inviting Sudlow and Williams to educate full legislature on the issues. Gregorius suggests inviting other authorities to speak also so varying points of view can be obtained.

Bockelmann: Resolutions (3)

Transfer from Contingency into 207C line - \$40,000.

Motion: Aiello.

Seconded: Parete.

All in Favor.

Discussion about 207C, financial impact, increase in number of cases, officers staying out of work for longer periods of time, NYS Statute needs to be addressed and language tightened. Pressure needs to be put on State by the County to address the wording of the current Statute.

Carried.

Transfer from Contingency into Automobile Maintenance - \$49,350

Motion: Parete.

Seconded: Aiello.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Transfer from Contingency into Office Supplies - \$30,300

Motion: Aiello.
Seconded: Parete.
All in Favor.
Carried.

Conference Attendance Form – Operation Impact – 2 Officers - \$20.00
Motion: Aiello.
Seconded: Parete.
All in Favor.
Carried.

Purchase Request – Weapon Safe - \$1749.00
Motion: Every.
Seconded: Aiello.
All in Favor.
Carried.

Distel: Requested detailed information from Sheriff regarding overtime costs in the Sheriff's Department (Road and Jail divisions). Distel studied the figures for 2005 and year-to-date for 2006.

Bockelmann submitted the Jail Division overtime book to Distel for his review. Overtime can change for various reasons including, but not limited to jail overcrowding, training for new officers, ongoing training for existing officers, new training for new facility, staff coverage for 207C absences, mandated staffing by COC, etc. Explaining overtime costs within the Road Patrol Division, Sheriff explained that law enforcement and responding to emergencies cannot be budgeted for. In 2005 and 2006 there were several major incidents in Ulster County where the Department was called upon to respond and/or assist (ie: shooting at mall, shooting at Ground Round, activist demonstration in City of Kingston, drownings, missing persons, floods, forest fires.) Add to that, the requests made to the Sheriff's Office by constituents throughout the County for security at town functions, Ulster County Fairgrounds events, traffic control, escorts for funerals of dignitaries. The list goes on and on and every dollar is justified and accounted for. Overtime is not given out freely. When emergency situations call for manpower, the emergency is dealt with first.

Dart: Asked Sheriff what his input was regarding the County's decision to abolish two positions within his department. Bockelmann said he will appeal that decision to Ways and Means, but also explained that any action on his part, at this time, would be awkward and unfair to the incoming Sheriff. Dart asked for Sheriff's recommendations for November's meeting.

Parete: Didn't want to sound political, but needed to mention something about the current Sheriff's race. Parete's wife received an endorsement letter from Sheriff Bockelmann, endorsing Republican candidate, Kevin Costello.

Parete indicated that it was against County policies to use County letterhead. Bockelmann indicated that that letter was created on personal stationary purchased by him during his tenure as Sheriff, out of his campaign funds (an invoice from American Printing was produced as proof). Parete also asked that for the duration of this Sheriff's race, Sheriff Bockelmann adheres to County Policies regarding the use of County property and equipment during campaigns. Sheriff asked if fund raising for one candidate or another during work hours by employees was allowed under County policy, if an employee could display campaign billboards on vehicles during work hours, on County property. Parete said that would be an issue for the department head to address.

Criminal Justice Council – recommending replacement for current Council Chair, who is moving to Pennsylvania. Replacement would be J. Edward Lewis of West Hurley.

Motion: Aiello.

Seconded: Distel.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Distel.

Seconded: Gregorius.

All in Favor.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Barbara O'Brien, UCSO