

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice/Public Safety
DATE: January 14, 1997
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Legislative Conference Room
LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Legislators Tantillo, Noonan, Smith,
Bauer, Provenzano, Todd,
LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislator Jennings, Carle, Felicello
OTHERS PRESENT: Art Snyder, E911 Management; Charlie
Mutz, Fire Coordinator's Office; Robert
Sudlow, Probation Department; Charlene
Cappillino, Alternative Sentencing;
Michael Berg, Family; Legislator
Donaldson

I. FIRE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

Mutz handed out a resolution that requests the County to sign an agreement to purchase a Fire Safety House in cooperation with three other Counties with monies from the Burn Fund. The House will be used in education and fire prevention programs to teach fire escape and 911 usage procedures. Ulster County will only be liable for insurance when the House is utilized by Ulster County.

Discussion: Legislator Noonan questioned what cost this unit will be to Ulster County? Mutz stated that there will be none, unless something happened to the unit while in Ulster County's possession. Ulster, therefore, will only be responsible for any damages that occur while in Ulster County's possession.

Legislator Provenzano does not see why County's Self-Insurance can't insure the unit when it is our possession?

Moved by Legislator Noonan. Seconded by Legislator Bauer, contingent upon approval of William Darwak and Frank Murry.

Legislator Tantillo stated that she will put into memo the letter from the County Attorney clarifying liability when it hits the floor.

No further discussion. Unanimously carried (Legislators Tantillo, Noonan, Provenzano, Todd, Bauer, Smith all in favor).

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II. E911 MANAGEMENT

Art Snyder submitted his monthly report to the committee. Snyder stated in efforts to improve relations with the police community he has put together a program he will be delivering to the students at the Municipal Police Training Course at the Kingston Police Academy.

Snyder stated that he has received some negative response on a letter that the UC Police Chiefs Association sent out regarding the new method of polling for the closest police vehicle that was requested by the police representatives on the 911 Advisory Committee. Snyder stated that his concerns about the new methods were that he felt it puts more time between emergency calls and response times and puts a lot more burden on dispatchers. Ultimately, 911 will do what ever the police community wants, they just have to all agree on what they want.

Snyder ended by stating that attached to his monthly report he included a report regarding a minor haz-mat incident at Dyno Nobel and an incident in Highland that occurred on January 08, 1997.

III. MICHAEL BERG FROM FAMILY

Michael Berg handed out information packets and did a brief overview of what Family has to offer. Family helps advocate for the release of youths from the Ulster County Jail and help provide and implement services to straighten their lives out.

Berg stated that their program funding lapsed leaving them with no money to fund their program. They are requesting to the State for assistance but the earliest that it would come into effect would be June. Therefore, he is requesting \$17,500 from the County to help fund the program until the end of June, when they hope to have other funding. Probation Director, Bob Sudlow, stated that he will be able to allocate \$8,500 from his budget. Legislator Tantillo stated that she had discussed transferring the additional \$9,000 from contingency with Legislator Sinagra, Chairman of Ways and Means. Bob Sudlow indicated that by putting the funds in his budget some of it may be eligible for reimbursement from the State. Sudlow stated that ultimately the program Family has to offer will save the County a lot of money by relieving overcrowding at the jail and reducing recidivism.

Moved by Legislator Bauer. Seconded by Legislator Todd. No discussion. Unanimously carried. (Legislator Tantillo, Noonan, Todd, Bauer, Provenzano, Smith all in favor).

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IV. ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING

Cappillino submitted a resolution requesting the Legislature to enter into an agreement continuing a dedicated work crew for the City of Kingston, from January 01, 1997, through December 31, 1997, with the City of Kingston purchasing services from Ulster County Alternative Sentencing.

Moved By Legislator Provenzano. Seconded by Legislator Smith. No discussion. Unanimously carried (Legislator Tantillo, Noonan, Todd, Smith, Bauer, Provenzano all in favor).

Legislator Tantillo handed out a resolution that Legislator Noonan put together stating that persons incarcerated in the Ulster County Jail and are convicted of the crime which led to their incarceration should pay the County of Ulster for actual un-reimbursed costs of incarceration. What is to be done with the money received is then left up to the discretion of the Sheriff.

Moved by Legislator Provenzano.

Discussion: Legislator Todd questioned if this policy was modeled after any other. Legislator Noonan said it is identical to that of Nassau County. Legislator Provenzano would like to see the reimbursement money stay in the system to eventually help pay for County Programs. Legislator Smith questioned whether the Sheriff is in agreement with this. Legislator Noonan stated that it was discussed with the Sheriff and he will make sure a Faxed copy gets sent to him.

Seconded by Legislator Bauer contingent upon the Sheriff's approval. End of discussion. Unanimously carried (Legislator Tantillo, Noonan, Smith, Todd, Bauer, Provenzano all in favor).

Legislator Tantillo handed out Resolution 324 of December 3, 1996, referred to the Criminal Justice/Public Safety Committee by the Legislature. Legislator Smith was the original sponsor and Legislator Tantillo asked Smith to explain it. Smith stated that it a memorializing resolution requesting the State Legislature to mandate all other Counties to set up and utilize the SANE Unit Program, making it a State wide program. He also stated the District Attorney Michael Kavanaugh had written the resolution.

Discussion: Legislator Tantillo stated that her concerns with the resolution were that by mandating other Counties to implement the program before they are ready would take money away from Counties that already utilize the program. She

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does not feel that we have the right to tell other counties what to do when we do not know the internal reasons why they haven't already gotten the program up and running. Legislator Provenzano stated that all they were doing was requesting the State to get other Counties to utilize an necessary program that each County should have.

Legislator Noonan had reservations about some of the resolutions wording. There were requests to change the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Whereas' from personally naming other Counties, change the wording in Resolved from that of insisting to urging and to take out the Third Whereas unless Kavanaugh stated it is law to leave it in. Legislator Tantillo stated that it should further Resolve to fund programs that are all ready running.

Motion to make stated amendments by Legislator Todd. Seconded by Legislator Bauer. End of discussion. Unanimously carried (Legislator Tantillo, Noonan, Smith, Todd, Bauer, Provenzano all in favor).

Legislator Tantillo submitted a Resolution for the Ulster County Fire Advisory Board requesting the appointment of Jeffrey Kiltzner and John Duffy to their board. Discussion: Legislator Smith questioned if appointments have to come from certain districts? Legislator Noonan stated that someone is to be appointed from each district. Moved by Legislator Todd. Seconded by Legislator Bauer. End of discussion. Unanimously carried (Legislator Tantillo, Noonan, Smith, Todd, Bauer, Provenzano all in favor).

Legislator Smith questioned "silent meetings" that he has been hearing about. Legislator Tantillo stated she was not aware of such meetings. Legislator Provenzano stated she walked in on a meeting that included only the Chairs and Majority Leaders of 4 or 5 Counties where Majority Leader Sinagra invited the Dormatative Authority to come down and assess what could be done about the Jail over-crowding problems. Legislator Smith questioned what is going on with establishing a Jail Committee? Legislator Tantillo stated she asked the acting Chairman and was told that when the Chairman is ready to establish one he will. Legislator Provenzano stated that as a committee they should express their concern to the Chairman the importance to act on a Jail Committee. End of discussion

Motion to adjourn meeting by Legislator Bauer, seconded by Legislator Noonan. No discussion, unanimously carried.

Time end 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fawn Tantillo, Chairman
Criminal Justice/Public Safety Committee

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