

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2006

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Tessier
Bentley
O'Connor
Stec
Kenny
Mason
VanNess

Others Present:

Robert Iusi, Probation Director
Kathleen B. Hogan, District Attorney
Joy LaFountain, Assigned Counsel Coordinator
Amy Bartlett, First Assistant County Attorney
William Thomas, Chairman
Joan Parsons, Commissioner of Administrative &
Fiscal Services
Joan Sady, Clerk
Supervisor Sokol
Supervisor Girard
Supervisor Geraghty
Carlene A. Ramsey, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist

Mr. Tessier called the meeting to order at 10:52 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk

Probation

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert Iusi, Probation Director, who distributed an agenda packet to each of the Committee members and a copy is on file with the minutes. He directed attention to the monthly Budget Performance Report included with the packet and he noted the revenue from New York State for the various programs traditionally lagged behind the actual expenditures.

Mr. O'Connor stated the monthly Budget Performance Reports had been discussed at all of the Committee meetings held earlier this week. He said it was his understanding the reports would no longer be required on a monthly basis. Mr. Tessier concurred that it was his understanding a recommendation would be made to the Budget Officer to request these reports at the end of each quarter, for the balance of the year.

Mr. Iusi turned to Agenda Item 1, Transfer of Funds, and he explained the Part-time Salaries Code (A.3140.130) had unused funds due to a vacant Probation Officer position for the first few months of 2006. He proposed that the funds might be used to purchase new computers and cover costs related to the Community Action contracts. Therefore, he presented a Request for the Transfer of Funds from Part-Time Salaries (A.3140.130) in the amount of \$2,700 into Equipment (A.3140.220) and \$7,635 into Contracts (A.3140.470).

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve the Request for Transfer of Funds from Salaries-Part-time (A.3140.130) to Equipment (A.3140.220) in the amount of \$2,700 and from Salaries-Part-time (A.3140.130) to Contracts (A.3140.470) in the amount of \$7,635; and to forward same to the Finance Committee. A copy of the request form is on file with the minutes.

Next, Mr. Iusi reported he had recently learned Warren County would be receiving a Legislative Grant Award in the amount of \$10,000 although he said a grant application would need to be submitted.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to authorize a grant application be submitted to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Service for a Legislative Grant Award in the amount not to exceed \$10,000 and to authorize the necessary resolution be prepared for the December Board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Iusi reported Agenda Item 3 related to the Hamilton County Probation Department and he referred to the letter from Hamilton County Attorney, Linda J. Valenti, included with the Agenda packet. He noted that the letter proposed a joint Probation Department (between Warren County and Hamilton County) and outlined the types of services Hamilton County hoped to receive. Continuing, he reviewed each section of the letter, in detail.

Mr. Wm. Thomas entered the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Mr. Iusi suggested that if Warren County agreed to the joint department, he would prefer a two-year contract, rather than a permanent commitment.

Responding to questions from various Supervisors, Mr. Iusi explained the Hamilton County Probation Department was comprised of two Probation Officers with limited qualifications and experience. He noted that one of the Officers was qualified to be named the Department Supervisor, and had the potential to be trained as the Department's Director. However, he estimated the necessary training would take a minimum of one and a half, to two years to complete.

Mr. Wm. Thomas and Mrs. Parsons left the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Mr. O'Connor said he felt that even one year was too long a time frame and he was concerned about locking Warren County into a contract for an extended period of time.

Mr. Kenny said he felt it was imperative that Hamilton County recognize the need to have its own fully trained and capable Probation Director. He said he could only support a temporary arrangement that would assist them with the necessary training.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Mrs. Sady left the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Amy Bartlett, First Assistant County Attorney, reported that she and Mr. Iusi had discussed the proposal from Hamilton County, prior to today's meeting. She confirmed that a 30-day termination clause was standard procedure, and that a draft agreement had been started.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding

between Hamilton County and the Warren County Probation Department to provide supervisory and training services for no more than a two year period, with the related compensation rate yet to be determined. The Committee authorized the necessary resolution be prepared for the December Board meeting and a copy of the request form is on file with the minutes.

There being no further business with regards to the Probation Department, Mr. Tessier thanked Mr. Iusi for his report.

District Attorney

Privilege of the floor was extended to Kathleen Hogan, District Attorney, who distributed an Agenda packet to each of the committee members and a copy is on file with the minutes.

Ms. Hogan reported, for informational purposes only, that the New York State Empire Development Corporation had awarded a grant in the amount of \$100,000 to the Child Advocacy Center. She mentioned the funds would be used for the purchase of a private residence in the City of Glens Falls (please see the minutes of the prior meeting for further details).

Next, Ms. Hogan reported on recent events related to the treatment of registered sex offenders and related demographic information.

Mrs. Sady re-entered the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Following an extensive discussion, Mr. Tessier said he felt Ms. Hogan had a tremendous amount of valuable information with regards to how our communities could best protect our children from sexual abuse. He suggested the District Attorney schedule a workshop where the proper time and attention could be devoted to the topic.

Ms. Hogan resumed her Agenda review at Item 1, Impact Funding, and she explained that notification had just been received which indicated Warren County would receive \$60,000 for the Narcotics Investigator's Salary along with \$10,000 for equipment.

At Agenda Item 2, Request for Transfer of Funds, Ms. Hogan proposed to move funds from various 200 codes into various 400 codes to cover miscellaneous expenses.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve the Request for Transfer of Funds as per the attached list, and to forward same to the Finance Committee for approval. A copy of the request form is on file with the minutes.

Next, Ms. Hogan reported that several of her staff members had enrolled in college credit courses, related to their employment. She presented the various resolution request forms.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the enrollment in job related courses by employees as listed below:

Justine Cording	2 courses @ \$543 each	SUNY Plattsburg
Deborah Eggleston	2 courses @ \$543 each	SUNY Plattsburg

Nancy Harrison

1 course @ \$724

Empire State College

The Committee further authorized the necessary resolutions be prepared for the December Board meeting. Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.

Ms. Hogan reported that Agenda Item 4 related to a matter covered under the Public Officers Law Section 105 (c).

Mr. Tessier requested an executive session in order to discuss matters related to future investigations and/or prosecution; and motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Kenny, and carried unanimously, that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105 (c) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 11:40 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Committee reconvened.

Pursuant to executive session, motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Mason, and carried unanimously to authorize the equipment purchase and subsequent grant reimbursement; and to refer same to the Finance Committee. (No resolution request form was submitted.)

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. VanNess, Mr. Tessier adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlene A. Ramsey, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist