

**Public Safety Committee
October 19, 2007
Scott Heyman Conference Room
3 p.m.**

APPROVED 12-21-07

Present: L. McBean-Clairborne, M. Hattery, M. Robertson, R. Booth, M. Koplinka-Loehr (arrived at 3:06 p.m.)
Staff: L. Shurtleff, Department of Emergency Response, K. Leinthall, Department of Probation and Community Justice; P. Younger, M. Lynch, County Administration; P. Meskill, Sheriff; M. Pottorff, Legislature Office
Guests: S. Hess, W. Sapp, OAR

Call to Order

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Public Comment

No member of the public wished to speak.

Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2007

It was MOVED by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes with the change suggested by Mr. Hattery. MINUTES APPROVED.

Sheriff

Sheriff Meskill said he has not supplied Committee members with financial figures for September because all bills have not yet been received.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne requested information pertaining to what services are provided by the Sheriff's Department at the Trumansburg Grassroots Festival. She asked Mr. Meskill to provide her with a list of services and the associated costs.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr arrived at 3:06 p.m.

Sheriff Meskill updated the Committee on the Airport security contract with the TSA (Transportation Security Administration); He said federal aid has gone down substantially since the first contract between the County and the TSA that requires law enforcement services at the Airport 16 hours per day/seven days per week. Mr. Meskill said that the reduction in funding does not have an impact on the Sheriff's budget but it will impact the Airport budget. The Facilities and Infrastructure Committee will be discussing this at their meeting on October 23rd meeting.

Sheriff Meskill spoke of his 2008 budget request and said he hopes someone will make a motion to approve the Deputy Sheriff position and the Corrections Officer position he has requested. He said while his prioritization of the three requested positions remains the same, they are each very important to the operations of the Sheriff's Department.

Department of Emergency Response

**RESOLUTION NO. AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT STATE HOMELAND
SECURITY PROGRAM FUNDING – DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

It was MOVED by Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature:

WHEREAS, the Department of Emergency Response has identified funding available for the acquisition of interoperable radio communications equipment through the New York State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Homeland Security has approved a workplan and proposed expenditure at \$36,100 for the county's acquisition of said equipment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That Tompkins County accepts the SHSP funding, and

RESOLVED, further, That the following capital accounts be adjusted accordingly:

Project 3412

Revenue	3412.43389 (other PS)	\$36,100
Appropriation	3412.52222 (CommEqmt)	\$36,100

SEQR ACTION: Type II-20

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**RESOLUTION NO AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT NEW YORK STATE
LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE - DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY
RESPONSE**

It was MOVED by Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature:

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 32 of 2006 identified the Public Safety Communications Capital Project as a priority for funding by state and federal initiatives, and

WHEREAS, a Legislative Initiative was appropriated to Tompkins County in the 2007-08 New York State Budget in the amount of \$80,000 for assistance in the County's procurement of interoperable radio communications equipment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That Tompkins County accepts the Legislative Initiative funding, and be it

RESOLVED, further, That the following Capital Accounts be adjusted accordingly:

Project # 3412

Revenue:	3412.43389 (other PS)	\$80,000
Appropriation:	3412.52222 (Comm Eqmt)	\$80,000

SEQR ACTION: Type II-20

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Mr. Shurtleff provided the Committee with an update on the radio system. He said 90 percent of the base stations are on the air and 9 of 10 microwave sites are operational. The paging system has been installed and testing should begin soon. He said he expects system installation to be complete around the end of the month. He spoke of the testing of the portable radios and said they have not yet found a "dead area" within the County's borders. He said this is very good news and exceeds what he expected from the system. He also noted the project is still within budget. Mr. Shurtleff reported that issues that existed with entities neighboring the towers are being resolved.

Ms. Robertson reported the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee discussed the proposed wind farm in Enfield and asked Mr. Shurtleff to comment. Mr. Shurtleff said he has met with Mr. Ranchich, who is proposing the wind farm. Mr. Shurtleff said Mr. Ranchich has enough flexibility to move whatever he has proposed and he does not anticipate any problem at this time.

Mr. Booth asked if there has been any progress on municipalities creating a local ordinance prohibiting the development of structures that interfere with the towers. Mr. Shurtleff said some municipalities have existing ordinances that contain height restrictions and this would be sufficient. He has spoken to the Towns of Dryden and Enfield, who do not have ordinances, but does not know where they stand at this point. *Ms. Robertson asked that Mr. Wood, County Attorney, review these ordinances to confirm they would be adequate to protect the towers.*

Budget Adjustment

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Hattery, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following budget adjustment and submit to the full Legislature:

REVENUE:	3410.4114	E911 Surcharge	\$55,088
APPROPRIATION:	3410.52222	Communications	\$55,088

EXPLANATION: The County is eligible for reimbursement of certain 911-related expenses in this amount. The Department will direct the funding toward an upgrade or alarm analoging receiving equipment integrating with Computer Aided Dispatch Programs. Mr. Shurtleff noted this will be the last budget adjustment as wireless surcharge funds have been budgeted in the 2008 budget under maintenance.

Visitor's Recognized

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne recognized staff from Offender Aid and Restoration who were in attendance. She said the Committee will be receiving a presentation on the Bail Fund program at the November meeting. (The November meeting was later cancelled)

Chair's Report

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne spoke of the recent unfortunate events happening at Ithaca High School and thanked law enforcement and community members who have been trying to assist with that. She said she hopes talks will continue with school district administrators and teachers to produce a resolution to serious issues that are interfering with students getting their education.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Robertson reported the Family Court Advisory Council continues to follow the out-of-school suspension program. She said there have been concerns raised about school work not being received from Ithaca High School. The Council will not meet in November but will continue to follow-up on this and may schedule a meeting with the I.H.S.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, TC Legislature Office