

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 26, 2008
4:45 PM
LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM, 6TH FLOOR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislator Frank Dart, Chairman,
Legislator Thomas J. (TJ) Briggs,
Legislator Richard Parete
Legislator Susan Zimet
Legislator Kenneth Ronk Jr.

EXCUSED: Legislator Paul Hansut, Dep. Chairman
Legislator James Maloney

OTHERS ATTENDING: Holley Carnright, District Attorney
Robert Sudlow, Probation
Art Snyder, Director
Emergency Comm/Emergency Mgmnt
Tana Agostini of the Horizon Center
Legislator Laura Petit
Brad Ebel/Ray Acevedo/Sheriff's Office
B. Brungino/Mid-Hudson News Network

AGENDA: Call meeting to order

1. Discussion regarding "Save Them Now". Discussion about state grant of \$10,000.00. Grant application is here to review-Susan Zimet questioned if required approval. Feels if it's in by April it's already honored, otherwise not approved yet.

2. Discussion about "Save Them Now". "Save Them Now" wants to use old jail. Questioning who gave them permission to use the old jail, Public Works??

3. Briggs discussion: Old Jail Administrative Wing – Parete looking to move IS to jail, need 12,000 square foot, want to be a County owned property vs. a County leased property. Recommended that they should meet with committee. Leased \$4,000.00 per year. Zimet recommended first to find out if money is forthcoming and then see where going with jail, who can fit in. Agreed to meet Tuesday regarding space. This is a time sensitive matter. Have until April 2009. Moved to table for a month to review it.

Motion: Ronk

Seconded: Briggs
No opposition

4. Discussion about League of Women Voters to recognize the building of new jail-committee should make a recommendation to approve and pass to Chairman for implementation. Discussion, no action taken.

5. Art Snyder Emergency Communications Resolution: Request for Ulster County Chairman of the UC Legislature to execute an agreement with NYS Emergency Management Office for the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. Art mentioned the annual program fee was \$40,000.0, now up to \$65,000.00. Went thru Chairman last year with a contract and no resolution. This year went thru with a contract and a resolution.

Motion to accept: Parete
Seconded: Ronk
No opposition

6. Art Snyder Emergency Management Resolution: Greater Catskills Flood Remediation Program. Twenty three properties have been recommended by various municipalities as having owners willing to participate in this. Some may be eliminated due to residency issues, lack of major damage, etc. Purchasing is soliciting quotes from appraisal companies. The demolition component will require competitive bidding. After the list is wittled down an appraisal will be conducted and formal offers made to the homeowners. The Division of Housing and Community Renewal requires an agreement with each participating county. Asking for the Chairman to be granted authority to enter into such a contract. Also presenting a resolution for participation in the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. This is an annual program of federal funding passing through the state that reimburses counties for administrative and personnel expenses associated with disaster and emergency response. This year the county will realize about \$64,938.00 from the program.

The program allocated two million dollars to Ulster County to buyout property exposed to flood. Zimet questioned about the maintenance, insurance and use. Snyder answered it can be used for recreational use, ie., a Town of Ulster Mini Park if can get contiguous properties in Town of Ulster, Orlando Street, etc. to join in. Dart questioned if law department has looked at it. Mentioned two million is not enough. Maybe 10-12 properties. Important program, flooding getting worse.

Moved by Zimet
Seconded: Briggs
All in favor

7. Sheriff's Dept. Resolution-reclassifying positions. Corrections officer from Corrections Lieutenant to Assistant Warden. Final impact savings of \$9501.00. Additional salaries and benefits.

Moved by Briggs
Seconded: Parete
All in favor

8. Resolution-Court attendants contract. Authorize the Chairman of the UC Legislature to execute a renewal agreement with NYS Unified Court System for court attendants. \$50,000.00 maximum reimbursement for court attendants a year.

Moved by Parete
Seconded: Briggs
All in favor

9. District Attorney's Office Resolution: Authorizing the Chairman of the UC Legislature to execute an agreement with NYS DCJS for the Aid to Prosecution Program. Last year grant was \$1500.00 more. Grant used for personnel.

Moved by Briggs
Seconded: Ronk
No opposition

10. Discussion: DA Carnright asks when can he talk about 09 budget. Mentions there's a lot to talk about and address. Answered that this can be addressed at next meeting. Zimet asks Carnright to give them a sense of what he's asking for so they can look at the overall picture and see what to agree on. DA Carnright to put together a copy of proposed budget for caucus in September (to look at beforehand). Zimet will be away. DA Carnright offers to meet individually if she has any questions.

11. Discussion: Robert Sudlow from Probation Department mentions that Chairman of Criminal Justice & Safety Committee will be providing legislature with a mini report card, picture of what criminal justice looks like in the County now, very important to look at how it evolved over last few years. System is not the same system anymore. Now have more judges. Level of what is being done is a lot different now. Talk about City Court and DV Court.

12. Discussion: DA Carnright talks about improvements in efficiency in prosecuting S&G cases. DA's office had 42 cases on S&G list. Defendant was held in jail all this time waiting. DA's office has now reduced this, as of June 2008, from 42 cases on S&G list to 7 cases. This has created more jail space and

saved money having inmates waiting for trial.

13. Discussion: Dart talks about overcrowded jail. It has eighty percent capacity, maximum capacity equals 323. Had 336 one week, then 342. Week of July 13th, 2008 high population was 330, week July 20th high population 320, July 27th 329. Over fifty plus, only budgeted for thirty. Hoping to meet anticipated budget.

14. Agreed that an award will be given to off-duty Corrections Officer Mitchell. While at Newburgh Mall there was a problem with a person who was pulled over, wrestling involved. Officer Mitchell stepped in to help and he's to be presented an award at next Legislative meeting.

15. Laura Petit discussion regarding volunteer firemen. Joe Sills from St. Remy told her that there's a decrease in volunteers with fire departments. Trying to put in place a participation with businesses for volunteers of fire departments to be given a discount at stores, free coffee, etc. Volunteer would have to show ID that he or she is a member of fire department in order to receive discount. Would call it VIP Program (Volunteer Incentive Program). It would be a program similar to AARP. Briggs suggests this be available to EMS people also. Maybe the chamber could place a sign up stating that volunteers would get a discount, etc. Petit will speak with legislators at October meeting to present a resolution to support it and institute a program. Questions who would be in charge of the identification process.

16. Zimet discussion about problem in New Paltz with bars remaining open until 4:00 AM. There's a lot of drugs/violence/heroin problems in New Paltz. She's asking if New Paltz should deal with this as a town problem or if the county could ask the state to allow a 2:00 AM closing of the bars. She's in the process of having petitions signed, etc. Asking if she should approach Senators Bonacic and Cahill about home rule. Other towns close their bars at 2:00 AM. Briggs will draft a letter to County to perhaps close the bars. Dart has concern regarding home rule issue.

17. Tana Agostini of the Horizon Center states that per advice given her from the last meeting, she met with Building and Grounds and made a presentation to the committee. She wants some direction about renting space at old jail. She needs 5000 square feet of the building. She mentions that Horizon Center can bring in services to the county at no charge to the County. Ulster County is being neglected by Division of Parole for re-entry by inmates. This program will offer a place for undomiciled serious felons here in Ulster County. Will keep tracking devices on the sex offenders, will transport them to appointments, etc. to help structure them. This is for Ulster County people only, not out of town residents. State pays for this. Tana will try to meet with Mike Hein again, will call Charles

Landi to explain this program. Parete stated he will speak with Dave Sheeley and Mike Hein.

Motioned to adjourn by Parete

Seconded: Ronk

Meeting adjourned 6:20 PM