

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 27, 2008

Meeting called to order at 4:50 p.m.

Present: Legislators Dart, Ronk Briggs, Hansut, Parete

Absent: Legislators Zimet, Aiello

PRESENTATION by Horizon Center: (Gus Ramirez/Tana Agostini)

Halfway House proposal in Ulster County, in old jail facility on Golden Hill, in Admin wing – 25 beds.

Funding through NYS Division of Parole for all costs, including construction work needed to convert to housing. Program is not a condition of the parole of the inmate, but it is a condition of their release. Would need and appreciate the support of the UC Legislature. They do drug testing, GPS monitoring, lie detector testing, regular checks for alcohol usage. Residents are continuously monitored. 300 parolees currently live in Ulster County without this service/program. The program helps the parolee obtain training, jobs and housing Before their re-entry into the community.

Mutz: Report submitted. Public Hearing on June 5, 2008 – everyone invited.

Sudlow: Resolution: NYS DCJS

Motion: Briggs

Seconded: Parete

All in Favor

Carried

Resolution: To amend agreement for Alternates to Incarceration. Governor Patterson reduced funds by 2% (\$1800).

Motion: Briggs

Seconded: Ronk

All in Favor

Carried

VanBlarcum: Resolutions:

Contract with Town of Esopus

Motion: Ronk

Seconded: Parete

All in Favor

Carried

Contract with BOCES:

Motion: Briggs

Seconded: Hansut

All in Favor

Carried

Homeland Security Grant (\$98,400.00)

Motion: Ronk

Seconded: Briggs

All in Favor

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Carried

Homeland Security Grant (\$100,000):

Motion: Briggs

Seconded: Ronk

All in Favor

Carried

Funding request for URGENT (\$25,000):

Motion: Briggs

Seconded: Ronk

All in Favor

Carried

Boarding-In Report by VanBlarcum – 38 as of this date.

Sheriff making Power Point presentation re: Minnewaska fire and the impact it had on overtime, etc. Everyone invited to attend.

Sheriff's Office Departmental Awards Ceremony – 5/29/08 at Hillside Manor - \$27 per person, payable in cash at door.

Ebel: Re-Entry Program presentation by Officer Vincent Fiscaletti.
Program is designed for male offenders, 18 years and older. Is a 5-week program and they will be tracked for one year after they are released from jail. They will be taught life skills. The program is run by volunteers. No additional jail staff needed. No cost to County and they will use an existing housing unit.

Kossover: Resolution – DCJS – Aid To Defense: (\$19,000)
Motion: Briggs
Seconded: Hansut
All in Favor
Carried

Snyder: Report Submitted

Pleaded with committee to support him in getting his dispatchers parity in pay with other dispatchers (ie: those working in the Sheriff's Office).

Dart: Thought that direction was given to UC Personnel to take action on this.

Snyder: Will contact Brenda Bartholomew, get together with the Sheriff and unions to discuss a possible resolve. Will ask Brenda to attend next month's CJC meeting.

Multi-jurisdictional Mitigation Program – submitted handout.

Remediation Buyout Program – submitted report.

Carnright: Salary Parity issues/discussion:
Unusual burden placed on his office with the jail investigation, already over-worked staff, key people in his office are leaving due to insufficient salaries. Asking for an increase of a total of \$140,000 for the entire year, but since the request is coming in mid-year, the actual cost would be \$70,000.

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Dart: has problem with amending the budget mid-year.

Carnright: The money was put into contingency at the beginning of the year for this express purpose and County's been putting it off and putting it off. (Point: we were rated the worst County in standards and goals).

Hansut: Question about the Retention Grant Carnright mentioned.

Carnright: Hein said that \$120,000 was put into contingency for attorney salary evaluation.

Parete: Supports Carnright's efforts and will support the raises.

Ronk: Will these proposed raises encourage retention and longevity?

Carnright: Thinks his people will stay.

Dart: Before anything can be voted on, Committee needs to see ALL salary figures, including benefits package cost, retirement system costs, etc.

Parete: Doesn't want Carnright to have to return to the Committee next month and ask over again, thereby further delaying the action.

Briggs: Agrees.

Carnright: Asking for \$40,000.

Motion to approve UP TO \$40,000 for employee retention:

Motion: Briggs

Seconded: Hansut

All in Favor

Carried

Kadgen: Reminding CJC members that the Council had made several recommendations to the Committee last year and no action has been taken yet.

Carnright: Regarding the jail investigation: Judge Bruhn still reviewing the minutes and then he'll decide when final report can be released.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Briggs

Seconded: Hansut

All in Favor

Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Barbara O'Brien – Ulster County Sheriff's Office.