

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 2010

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Lindsay, Suprenant, Banks, Henke, Pitts, Gordon

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: G. Hall

SUPERVISORS: LaPointe, Rymph, Campbell

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Ray Rathbun, Fire Coordinator

Bill Cook, Director Public Safety

Anthony White, Probation Dir.

Sheriff Leclaire

Bruce Mason, EMS Coordinator

Bill McCarty, Code Enforcement Adm.

Mike Gray, Alternative Sentencing Dir.

Undersheriff Mabb

Gary Evens, Deputy Fire Coordinator

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – April 6, 2010
3. Department Requests/Reports:
 - A. Code Enforcement
 1. Discuss Naming – County Route 9A, Whitehall
 - B. Alternative Sentencing
 1. Agency Updates
 - C. Public Safety
 1. Discuss Homeland Security GrantMiscellaneous
 - D. Probation
 1. Ignition Interlock Law
4. Other Business
5. Department Head Evaluation – Director of Probation
6. Adjournment

Chairman Lindsay called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2009 meeting was moved by Mr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Banks and adopted.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Bill McCarty, Administrator, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Discuss Naming County Route 9A, Whitehall – Bill McCarty stated there has been a request to add a locally known name to a road in Whitehall. The request is to rename County Rt. 9A to Norton Road. The road was previously known as the Norton Road. Mr. Gordon stated that the Whitehall Town Board approved of this name change in 2008 but nothing has been done to date. They are willing to pay for all new signage. He stated there are approximately 23 other roads in the County with two names. Bill stated this becomes problematic to the dispatchers in correctly identifying roads when the calls come in to the dispatch center. Bill Cook, Director of Public Safety, stated it has been the County's policy since the 911 addresses were implemented not to have dual road names. This does cause confusion. Chairman Lindsay stated maybe the town would like to take this road over. Bill McCarty stated there are 26 roads with dual names in the County and most are in the villages. A motion to leave the road as currently numbered was moved by Mr. Suprenant, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted. Mr. Gordon abstained. Bill McCarty will notify the Whitehall Town Board of the decision not to rename the road due to 911 concerns.

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING – Mike Gray, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- ~~Incarcerated Youth Educational/Transitional Services~~ – Mike is requesting permission to contract with the Hudson Falls School District to provide transitional services for incarcerated youth, handout attached. Currently, the Hudson Falls School District contracts with BOCES to provide these services but BOCES has notified them that they will no longer be providing that service. The Hudson Falls School District will provide a teacher for the required educational instruction and Alternative Sentencing would provide transitional services. Mike stated there is an opportunity to use existing staff for this purpose. He stated there is no one that knows the services better for these people than his office and they will work with the Jail. A motion to approve contracting with the Hudson Falls School District for Transitional Services for Incarcerated Youth at the Washington County Jail was moved by Mr. Banks and seconded by Mr. Henke. Discussion. The individual education plan will be the responsibility of the school system. Mike Gray stated the cost for the County to provide this service is approximately \$10,000 (employees salaries plus fringe benefits) and if it should increase he would request additional funds. The motion to approve contracting with the Hudson Falls School District to provide Transitional Services for Incarcerated Youth at the Washington County Jail was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Henke and adopted.
- Agency Updates –
 - Recycling Bins - Mike stated they received a Coca Cola bin grant, no funds but bins for recycling. The recycling Green Teams will use these for post event cleanups and also at the Washington County Fair.
 - Community Service Projects – After completion of painting the Hartford Town Barn, they will proceed to the County's DPW Weld Shop. They will also be mowing cemeteries.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Bill Cook, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Discuss Homeland Security Grant:
 - \$78,000 Homeland Security Grant – The committee approved applying for this grant last year. A motion to authorize the Chairman to sign Homeland Security grant was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Henke and adopted.
 - \$83,000 Homeland Security Grant – He is requesting permission to apply for the next round of Homeland Security grants for this year and next year. A motion to apply for \$83,000 Homeland Security grant was moved by Mr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.
- Miscellaneous:
 - Recorder – The new recorder has been ordered and should be here within a few weeks.

PROBATION – Anthony White, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Ignition Interlock Law – Anthony referenced a Department of Probation and Correction Alternatives (DPCA) newsletter addressing the passage of Leandra's Law which makes DWI's a felony if there are children in the car and as of August 15, 2010 each County is

required to have a plan regarding the ignition interlock device. The plan must address monitoring standards relating to the ignition interlock device. He stated his department is ready to take on the monitoring of the ignition interlocks and stated there may even be some funding available. The Director of DPCA is submitting an application to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for \$3M in federal funding that would be distributed to localities to offset the cost. They are already monitoring people on probation that are court ordered to have these interlock devices. He needs a plan for people that he is not supervising under Probation who have been court ordered to use this device. He needs to get together with the District Attorney, Sheriff, STOP DWI Coordinator and County Administrator to develop this plan. He does not feel he will need any additional staff. He wanted to advise the committee that the Probation Department would like to be the monitoring agency for this device. The manufacturer of these devices have to submit their fees, fee structure, which has to include an anticipated 10% waiver of the fees by sentencing courts due to operators who cannot afford this expense. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, recommends getting a working group together to work out the details. Chairman Lindsay concurred that these departments need to get together and work out a plan.

- Probation Department Recognized with Certification of Appreciation for Work with Crime Victims by the Washington County District Attorney. It states that the Probation Department recently expanded the use of home visits and as a result, Probation Officers has been directly instrumental in the detection, interruption, and successful prosecution of cases involving child pornography, illegal weapons possession and other crimes. He distributed a handout detailing four cases in which active probationers were arrested for illegally possessing handguns, attached.
- Interested in establishing a local law charging a one-time \$50 supervision fee for Probationers. He stated other counties have done this. He will follow up with Roger Wickes, County Attorney, on this matter.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Sheriff Leclaire addressed the following items with the committee:

Staffing Review Request – He is requesting permission to go to Staffing Review to backfill an Assistant Cook due to a resignation, handout on file. He stated in the 2010 budget, he reduced one position out of the Jail kitchen. The cooks are responsible for all the meals at the Jail and the meals on wheels for the Office for the Aging. A motion to forward to Staffing Review recommending approval of backfill of Assistant Cook at the Jail was moved by Mr. Banks, Mr. Henke and adopted.

Employee out with serious medical illness – Sheriff Leclaire stated he has an employee out with a serious medical issue that has used up all her benefit time. Many people have expressed a desire to donate vacation time to this employee. He stated this has been done several times in the past in the Sheriff's Department per authorization by a resolution from 2006. Chairman Lindsay stated the issue is she is not a police officer or a correction officer that the 2006 resolution applies to. He stated there is not a county policy to address this type situation. The Sheriff feels this is a win win for the county, the county saves money and the person does not have to go on disability. Chairman Lindsay stated this was never agreed to for the entire county. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, stated the resolution from 2006 is for the PBA, union personnel. This has not been done for non-union personnel. He stated this would

be a handbook amendment. A motion to do it for this person (allow employees to donate vacation time to a Sheriff's Department employee who is out with a serious medical issue) with the recommendation to formalize a policy/handbook amendment for the future was moved by Mr. Suprenant and seconded by Mr. Banks. Discussion. What if it is not for a good employee. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, stated that is why you need a policy. Several Supervisors commented that the employees who donate or not donate their time would take care of that concern. The Undersheriff stated once an employee signs off on donation of their vacation time, it is gone no matter if the employee returns sooner than anticipated. Unused days do not go back to the employees. The Undersheriff stated another factor in this particular case is that he submitted this information to Personnel over a week and a half ago and he spoke with Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, himself and he was not informed they could not do this. The employee was going to file for disability but because all of this was going on she did not file for the disability so right now, she will not get a check next week unless the Supervisors approve this. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, stated this would need full Board approval and they do not meet until May 21st. He stated this is a handbook change that the Finance and Personnel Committee can approve but the Clerk stated prior notice of the change is required before consideration of the change. Mr. Henke stated they did this at DEC and it was very cost effective. Mr. Suprenant stated we could base this non-union policy on the Sheriff's current policy. This motion is to present a resolution to the full Board on May 21st to address this specific case and then come up with a policy. The Undersheriff stated he though this was a done deal and was only notified today otherwise. The motion to do it for this person (allow employees to donate vacation time to a Sheriff's Department employee who is out with a serious medical issue) with the recommendation to formalize a policy/handbook amendment for the future was moved by Mr. Suprenant, seconded by Mr. Banks and adopted.

DEPARTMENT HEAD EVALUATION – DIRECTOR OF PROBATION – A motion to enter an executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, a department head evaluation for the Director of Probation, was moved Mr. Pitts, seconded by Messrs. Gordon and Banks and adopted.

The meeting adjourned from executive session. No action was taken during the executive session.

Incarcerated Youth Educational/Transitional Services

Evaluation/Assessment Tools that will be utilized by Alternative Sentencing

COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions)- This is a statistically validated risk/need assessment that is designed to assess key risk/ need factors and protective factors in correctional populations. NYS Department of Probation and Correctional Alternatives has certified this assessment as a best practice tool to be utilized when developing case planning for offenders. The COMPAS assessment will be utilized to identify the top three area's of risk for each youth and an appropriate individual case plan/ transitional plan will be developed.

Bio-psycho-social assessment- This assessment gathers specific information on substance abuse, mental health, family relations, history of use, employment, education, military history, religious background, leisure activities, previous treatment, client presentation and criminal history to determine if the offender meets the criteria set by the DSM-IV TR for development of a drug/alcohol treatment plan.

4 Academic Program Services (at least 5 hours a week)

CareerZone- NY State Department of Labor CareerZone is a online career exploration and planning system tool that will be utilized with youth while they are incarcerated. This tool can help youth identify careers based on their interests and work importance profile along with exploring job/career tracks.

Resume building

Life essential documentation

Financial Planning- We have a resource of video's, money management game, worksheets etc. that will be utilized to teach financial planning. Additionally, Cornell Cooperative Extension may be utilized to provide in depth group financial education to this population.

Why Try- Hands on curriculum that teaches social and emotional principles to youth using visual analogies which teach a principle such as resisting peer pressure or consequential thinking.

Employability- We have a resource of video's and worksheets that will be utilized along with moc interviewing and application writing practice to increase a youth's employability.

#6 Transitional Program Services

Alternative Sentencing will develop an individual transition plan for each offender's release that will address the following:

Housing- Alternative Sentencing will facilitate communication between family members, DSS, The Homeless Youth Shelter, Job Corp etc. to work with the youth to develop a short and long term suitable housing plan.

Education- An individual education plan will be developed with the youth to determine what "makes the most sense" for that youth. This may include re-engaging in traditional school, Job Corp, GED classes through the One Stop Center, College, Adult Vocational programs etc.

Employment- The Washington County Employment and Training/One Stop Center will be utilized along with the New York State Department of Labor to help youth obtain either subsidized employment, part time employment or full time employment based on the needs of the youth.

Treatment- If it is determined that a youth could benefit from drug/alcohol treatment and/or mental health treatment Alternative Sentencing will help facilitate the referral process to the most responsive agency that could help the youth in this area of need once released from jail.

Alternative Sentencing is very knowledgeable about the "What Works" philosophy and will incorporate best practice/ promising practices in working with incarcerated youth to develop their transition plan that will increase the likelihood that they will not recidivate.

Best Practice

Rapid engagement of clients into treatment

motivational interviewing

employment training and job assistance in the community

intensive supervision: treatment oriented programs

general and specific cognitive behavioral treatment programs

evidenced based skill training approaches utilizing a youth development approach

- nurture a belief in the future

- promoting bonding with family peers, school and community

- support pro-social norms

Washington County Probation Department
383 Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828

During the past year the Washington County Probation Department has handled four cases in which active probationers were arrested for illegally possessing handguns.

- In 2009 a Felony probationer, who was a graduate of the Felony Drug Treatment Court and who was in his last year of probation, was arrested in Lake George for Felony DWI and Criminal Possession of a Weapon. The probationer in this case had in his possession a loaded .25 caliber semi-automatic handgun. He has since been sentenced to state prison on a Violation of Probation.

- In October of 2009 a Felony probationer, who was actively involved in the Washington County Felony Drug Treatment Court, absconded from treatment. Probation Officers were able to locate the probationer at a residence in the Town of Fort Edward. The Fort Edward Police Department assisted the Probation Department in a search of the residence, where the probationer was found to be hiding in a bedroom closet. Further search of the residence resulted in the recovery of three stolen handguns that were in a dresser approximately five feet from where the probationer was hiding. The weapons recovered consisted of a .22 caliber semi-automatic hand gun and two .45 caliber semi-automatic handguns, one of which contained a live round in the chamber. In a second dresser drawer a fully loaded magazine for the .45 caliber handguns was found. He has since been sentenced to state prison on a Violation of Probation.

- In April of 2010, a Misdemeanor probationer with prior Felony convictions was arrested and charged with Felony Kidnapping and Felony Assault. The probationer and two others, including a former parolee, allegedly abducted an individual at gunpoint and beat him and then dumped him along the roadside in Adamsville. This case is currently pending in court and a Violation of Probation has been filed.

- In April of 2010, a Felony probationer who was a graduate of the Felony Drug Treatment Court was arrested and charged with DWAI and Felony Burglary. It is also alleged the defendant was in possession of PCP and a stolen .22 caliber Derringer pistol. This case is currently pending in court and a Violation of Probation has been filed.