

Public Safety/Criminal Justice Committee	Date June 20, 2000
Meeting called to order: 1:30 p.m.	Legislative Chambers
Committee Members Present: Hastings, Karius, Bleiler, Larison.	Committee Members Excused: None
Others Present: Sheriff, Jim Halpin, Joe Fazzary, Ron Alexander.	Meeting Adjourned: 3:13 p.m.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Pat asked committee what their feelings were on FT DA. Larison, how do we do it. We should do it. Pat, if we were to do it, find money to reimburse county's side. \$50,000 coming in from aid to prosecution to use for remaining of the year. Joe has agreed to go FT if county so wishes. Joe, \$119,800 is judges salary. Pat, money is there from state from now on every year, she feels we should do it now and when Joe redoes budget for 2001 then change it then. Bleiler, difference from aid to prosecution. Joe F. NYS has given DA office two things. On eis \$61,800 grant for salary and \$50,000 on top for aid to prosecution. That goes into his budget and he uses it. You can use it for salaries. He has read that you can use it to create a FT DA. Bleiler, this year, no additional cost to county. What aoubt office next year. Joe, difficult to say now. There are some catches with \$50,000, you can't cut your budget, it is not aid to county. He feels he can make it work, possibly drop position he has now. Goal is to get salary set without aid to prosecution. Bleiler, how much could we save with out the ADA. Joe, about \$14,000. about \$3,500 away. Bleiler, can you do without that position? Joe, realistic. Can't do it this year. Bleiler, do able. He has handouts to look over (see attached).

**MOTION** by Larison to make the DA FT, **SECOND** by Bleiler. Vote: 4-0. Bleiler, requirement, wha, t if it does not work out. Joe, law is written, total up to county to make decision. Pat, have to do Local law. Joe, he feels as FT he needs a FT secretary which could also be funded by ATP. Pat, committees has agreed, forward request to JPC to write a local law. Pat, not a good thing to wait until election.

Pat would like to talk about parking. Sign on tenth street for DA parking. Questioned by employees and people within the county. Problem is that your secretary is also parking there. The space is for DA. Then every secretary would want one. Just telling you that. Joe, reason he asked for it was for simply for anyone in his office to have parking. Anyone else gets here they get parking lot. Pat, they park at school and state park also. There are spots available. Spot is there for highest law enforcement official in the county. Let secretary walk also. Larison, maybe when PH moves, there will be more parking. At this point there is a morale problem. Joe, he will relay that to his secretary. Sheriff, county judge did that once in parking lot and chair of board made him remove it. No place for his deputies to park when coming on in afternoon also. Parking is real problem. Bleiler, he would usually appear at 3:30 for meetings, he could always find a place. Then during work day, he realized no parking. He uses parking permit for state park parking. That is close to building, it is not bad.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Pat, big question. Why do we have all these courts in the county. Jim, his argument for 20 years, one district court. Policittally impossible, if you think Co. Adm was a problem, try to take away town justice positions. Joe, if you brought them all into one, it would have to be a FT

position , salary set by county and done by State legislature. Jim, some towns have two justices also. Thirteen local courts. He handles county court, family court and all thirteen. District court makes a lot of sense for our population. Bleiler, towns elect and establish it. Joe, town of Dix is Saturday morning. You will run into a big push in opposition for this by State Magistrates Association. We could still give towns their revenue. Pat, any county have a district court? Jim, not around here, some big ones do. Sheriff, you need a judge at night for arraignment, if you have a daytime ft judge, he/she probably won't come out at night. pat, would it be worth a study? Sheriff, maybe league of women voters could do it. Joe, find a similar populated county that does it. Jim, judiciary law or constitution says what you can or can not do with it. Bleiler, emphasis on shared services, look at this. Pat, appoint an ad hoc committee made up of town justices maybe. Joe, yes, even probation involved. Effects a lot of departments in county. Pat, have a couple of retired judges. Set criteria for next month. Bleiler, appoint chair as a retired judge to suggest committee members. Judge Ellison maybe to create the process and format the committee. All agree. Del, maybe RUC for a court area. Jim, district court in the county nto in the seat.

Pat invited Jim H. to talk about his work load. Letter to town justices (see attached). Caseload, restrict himself to felony cases. In 1998 money added to assigned counsel. Two problems in SC. Amount of lawyers and stipened that assigned counsel receives. Need to look at assistant public defender. Legilature might want to consider making PD in-house. Make more efficient operation. He suggests the RUC for that office, it has a lot of advantages, also need part time secretary. Not much additional cost. Additional cost for assistant PD. State budget (see attached). Unless grants available, county expense. Bleiler, presently reimbursed for clerical help, are you reimbursed for facility? Jim no he does not. Larison, putting DA on FT, it would be inconsistent to keep PD at part time. Bleiler, what percentage of public defense do you do. Jim, any felonies, per county law, free representation. He handles misdemeanor cases in local court. He explained what he covers. Jim guesses 50%. Pat, if judge assigns attorney, they have to? Joe, no they don't'. hard time getting people to accept cases now. Everyone has to have an attorney if eligible. Assigning people from Elmira and Tompkins county to take them. \$25 an hour is state wide. Jim, a lot of these cases are nasty ones and one reason why attorney's wont take them on. Pat, what do you suggest. Jim, suggests for now and next year, we have an Assistant PD set up and salary be increased for PD a little. 1998 vouchers for assigned counsel was \$35,000, amount on crimial was minimum. Family court is the expense. If took money for criminal and put towards salary, save money. Bleiler, \$11,000 was what? Jim, budget, professional fees is \$35,000. criminal and family court cases. That was for cases that he didn't handle. Jim explained how he takes on cases. Pat, in house PD and more money for assigned counsel. Do we address the state? Jim, yes it might help. Still have problem with lack of lawyers that take these cases. Jim, do you want me to develop figures to help move it along? Pat, yes that would help.

## **SHERIFF**

Talked about where Bill Randolph is?? And talked about consultants for radio system while I was calling Shirley Churches. Sheriff, different bans and interferences.

Gail reported on study for radios. Emailed NYSAC, they were aware of Saratoga County doing this. Their project is extensive. SSI our of Harrisburg. Intereview four to five firms. One

was RCC. They had used them 10 years ago, problems with them following through. RCC assured them, but they were not convinced. Formed a sub committee that did interviews of consultants. Four phases, needs verification, design, RFP's and oversight of construction. Needs, 79,000, design 95,000, rfp 173,000 and const. 219,000. Saratoga county is bigger than SC. He is sending her the package that they used to go for RFPs. She suggests we shop around and form a committee. Bleiler, contact these companies, give them Bill's name. Gail, she had a hard time finding places. Sheriff, Steuben has consultant firm. Have to define what services we are in need of. Bleiler, towers and radios that have worked together but do not now. Need determine what needs to be done. Pat, quote from RCC did not specifically say a cost, it was a starting figure. What does committee feel. Bleiler, have Bill contact those firms. Hastings, write company and have at least two quotes, we need to move. Sheriff, have to have Bill on board, he receives complaints from Fire Depts.

Shirley Churches called and Bill is having knee surgery tomorrow and did not inform anyone, not even personnel.

Bleiler, would this consultant maybe refer us to someone other than Motorola? Sheriff, he could. They discussed hi ban and low ban and radios. Hastings, he should be able to tell Shirley what to request and see. Then make decision on who to hire. We need to move forward. Any suggestions? Larison, wait until he is out of the hospital. Karius, upset fireman.

Court Contract for Security

**MOTION** to renew contract by Larison, **SECOND** by Bleiler. Vote: 4-0.

Fire

House across the street from Jail caught fire. Evacuated first floor of jail because of smoke. Good practice drill for them. Number of people out of a home. possibly electrical fire.

Defibrillator Training

Next week, in cars as well as in the building. Trained 39 people through red cross. Also trained Village of Watkins police department.

School Resource Officer

Sheriff, still talking about it and researching.

Bleiler, how are revenues? Sheriff, not to good. Looking at offsetting that. A couple of positions that are open like Brad Eisenharts and Mike Wood's. still waiting for State Contract to come back. Some money from boarding. Bleiler, when we have a race, WGI pays for security and you call in from surrounding counties. We don't pay overtime for race event itself. Sheriff, on race track no, maybe with overtime with second dispatcher or on roads directing traffic, nothing of great consequence. Same expenses for a carnival also. Line item in budget for special events is \$150,000 to pay counties. Additional to that they will pay treasurer's office for additional work. Added counties this year. Nancy can bill or work overtime to get it done.

Hastings, did you hire new dispatchers yet? Sheriff, no, sent one application over, if approved he will hire. It is someone already trained.

**PROBATION**

Ron handed out a budget status report (see attached). Doing well with his budget. Below the norm.

Nothing new on State budget yet. One thing, PINS legislation, it did pass to raise max age to 18 years of age for PINS cases. Governor to date has not signed this legislation yet. \$150,000 for investigation. He will keep you updated.

New Position

Current budget year allotted for half year Probation Officer. Hastings, list?

**MOTION** by Larison to create position, **SECOND** by Karius. Hastings, budget is law, doesn't mean that you can't change it. Whole legislature has agreed to it. If you budget positions, it should be law. Reasoning is that there is a rule for vacant for 90 days reinstated. Already voted on at budget time. Budget process or rules need to be looked at. Have to bring to the floor. Vote: 4-0.

Sbh

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Patricia L. Hastings, Chairman  
Public Safety/Criminal Justice Committee