

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

DATE: **JUNE 29, 2006**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Bentley
Stec
VanNess

Kate Hogan, District Attorney
Robert Iusi, Probation Director
Amy Bartlett, First Assistant County Attorney
John Wappett, Public Defender
Joy McLaughlin, Assigned Counsel Administrator

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisors Tessier
O'Connor
Kenny
Mason

William Thomas, Chairman
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
JoAnn McKinstry, Confidential Secretary
Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman Bentley called the meeting to order at 11:42 a.m (Please note with Chairman Thomas present, there was a quorum.)

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. VanNess, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2006 meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Kate Hogan, who distributed copies of the Agenda packet, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Ms. Hogan began the Agenda review with Item 1. She apprised she had a resolution request to renew the annual Aid to Prosecution grant. She stated that every year she received Aid to Prosecution money and she would like to be able to renew this annually unless there was a change in status, for example, more funding, then she would have to come back and change the number.

A motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting and a copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Ms. Hogan expounded Item 2 on the Agenda was a resolution request to allow the District Attorney's Office to apply and enter into a new contract with the Department of Criminal Justice Services for IMPACT-Tools funding. She further explained that this was money that the Division of Criminal Justice Services was trying to get to counties that were impacted by the plight of criminal defendants coming up out of New York to the more rural counties. She noted that the Byrne money was drying up and the State was trying to supplement that money, so this would be a narcotics based task force funding, similar to the Byrne money.

A motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting and a copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Continuing the Agenda review, Ms. Hogan said the next requests were for authorization to attend meetings or conventions within New York State. She stated the first request was for her and Jason Carusone, First Assistant District Attorney, to attend the District Attorney Summer Conference in Canandaigua, New York from July 20 through July 22, 2006. She added that she thought it was important for Mr. Carusone to attend because this year they would be discussing certain narcotics investigation techniques.

A motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve the request for travel as outlined above.

Ms. Hogan apprised the other request to attend a meeting or conference within New York State was for Nancy Harrison, Paralegal. She added that Ms. Harrison handled all of the asset forfeiture and it was important that they were compliant with the State and Federal guidelines on asset forfeiture. She noted there was a training class being offered by the New York Prosecutors Training Institute on Asset Forfeiture Training. She stated that the training was being offered at no charge on July 31 through August 2, 2006 in Syracuse.

A motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the request for travel as outlined above.

Ms. Hogan returned to the Agenda review with Item 4, DNA databank update. She stated that the DNA databank had been expanded to all felonies and seventeen misdemeanors and also eliminated the statute of limitations on rape. She said she had gone to Albany with Kathleen Rice, District Attorney of Nassau County, to lobby and speak to members of the Democratic Assembly. She noted they were trying to highlight that this was an issue where sexual predators could actually be apprehended before committing subsequent sex crimes. Ms. Hogan added that Assemblywoman Sayward was very important in all of this and she wanted to publicly commend Assemblywoman Sayward for her efforts.

Ms. Hogan expounded Item 5 on the Agenda was an update on the Shared Services grant. She noted that Bob Iusi, Probation Director, had suggested that they meet with the representatives of Caleo, a counseling service in Hudson Falls that Warren County referred many sexual assault victims to and also used for sex offender treatment programs. She added that they had met and started a coalition, the Sexual Offender Accountability Coalition (SOAC). She concluded that this would be a very important grant and would allow for better accountability.

Ms. Hogan apprised she would like to discuss Items 6 and 7 on the Agenda together.

She said she had reached out to the Tourism Department to get a statistic on the number of residents in Warren County during the summer. She stated she was told there were nine million people that came into the County each year and the summer population was two million. She added there was a ripple effect which would impact the Police Departments and the District Attorney's Office. She noted that she would be tracking this in order to get real numbers to present to the committee.

Ms. Hogan expounded she did not have a full-time investigator; she had one that worked three days a week and one that worked two days a week. She stated she really needed the District Attorney Investigators to be full-time.

Mr. VanNess asked Ms. Hogan if she had money in her budget to cover a full-time investigator until the end of the year. Ms. Hogan said she would have to check her books and added that she did have grant money, although she was not sure how it had to be spent.

A motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to authorize the District Attorney to increase the hours of one Investigator to five days a week as opposed to three days, and to increase the other Investigator to three days a week as opposed to two days a week, if the money was in the current year budget.

Ms. Hogan concluded her Agenda review with Item 8, Operation Teen Proof. She explained this was a Heineken sponsored program and they would be distributing tools to every establishment that sold alcohol in Warren County. She said the tool was a viewer which could identify any tinkering on a license.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert Iusi, Probation Director, who distributed copies of the Agenda packet, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Iusi began his Agenda review with Item 1, POA (Probation Officers Association) Conference. He stated he had a resolution request for a contract with the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives for reimbursement to Warren County for certain costs associated with the attendance of probation staff at the 13th Annual Probation Officers Association Conference in Albany from August 2 through August 4, 2006. He explained he needed a resolution because the State wanted a signature on a letter of approval. He added that the State of New York would be reimbursing up to \$170 for registration fees and he would be spending \$210, so this was a good deal.

A motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting and a copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Iusi stated Item 2 on the Agenda was in regards to the Hamilton County Probation Department. He reminded the Committee that Hamilton County had approached him

about overseeing their Probation Department. He apprised he and Chairman Thomas had met with representatives of Hamilton County again, and they were very interested in having Warren County pursue this idea. He added that he had spoken with the State Division of Probation and they had told him he could go ahead with this. He asked the Committee if they wanted him to continue pursuing this, and noted if he were to do this it would be on an interim basis for a year to see how it worked out. He stated that he had contacted Senator Little's Office in regards to this and if they did go forward he would apply for funding.

The consensus of the Committee was to authorize Mr. Iusi to continue pursuing the implementation of shared probation services with Hamilton County.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Iusi expounded Item 3 was regarding the Warren/Washington Counties Sex Offender Collaboration. He stated this needed to be done given there were sex offenders in the community and this was a comprehensive way to manage sex offenders.

Privilege of the floor was extended to John Wappett, Public Defender, who stated he did not have an Agenda. He announced that he did receive the \$168,000 in the Indigent Services Fund which now was in the General account and he would be seeking a projection from the Defenders Association based on what the State money would be for next year.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. VanNess, Mr. Bentley adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk

