

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COMMITTEE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**DATE: MARCH 22, 2007**

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**Committee Members Present:**

Supervisors Tessier  
Bentley  
O'Connor  
Stec  
Kenny  
Mason

**Others Present:**

Robert lusi, Director, Probation Department  
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board  
Hal Payne, Administrator, Westmount Health  
Facility  
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board  
Supervisor Caimano  
Tucker Stanclift, Esq., The Stanclift Law Firm  
Charlene DiResta, Legislative Office Specialist  
Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk

**Committee Member Absent:**

Supervisor VanNess

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Mr. Tessier called the Criminal Justice Committee meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the Floor was extended to Robert lusi, Director of the Probation Department, who distributed copies of his Agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. Mr. lusi noted he would like to hold Agenda Item Nos. 1 and 2 for discussion at the end of the meeting. Mr. Tessier acknowledged the request.

Mr. lusi spoke on Agenda Item No. 3, Part-Time, Word Processor vacancy. He stated the request was to fill the vacant position of Word Processor Operator, base salary of \$12,734, due to resignation. Mr. lusi advised the position had been established in the 2007 County budget. He explained the vacancy made the Department very short on clerical staff and they were in the process of entering new and existing cases into their automated system, that had been developed by the State. Mr. lusi apprised the Department made about 600 investigations a year and all that information had to be entered into the system. He stated he had spoken to Joan Parsons, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, and she had approved the request to be presented to the Committee. *A copy of Mr. lusi's memo to Mrs. Parsons which outlined the rationale for filling the vacancy is on file with the minutes.*

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill the vacant position and to forward same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position is on file with the minutes.*

Pursuant to Agenda Item No. 4, Mr. lusi apprised the Department had received \$500 from the Warren-Washington Victim Impact Panel to be used by the Juvenile Drug Court. He requested to amend the 2007 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the

amount of \$500 to reflect the receipt of Warren-Washington Victim Impact Panel funding.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request, as presented, and to refer the item to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Lusi stated Agenda Item No. 5 was regarding a grant in the amount of \$900 that the Department had received from the State Division of Probation for Pre-Trial Release funds. He noted they had received a total of \$11,400 annually and the past couple of years the State had awarded additional funds in this category. Mr. Lusi stated he planned to purchase a printer to replace one that was broken. He requested to amend the 2007 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$900 to reflect the receipt of New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternative funding.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request, as presented, and to refer the item to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. Lusi said Agenda Item No. 6 was a request for a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$300. He noted the funds would be transferred from the Supplies account code (A.3140.410) to the Office Equipment code (A.3140.220). Mr. Lusi noted the funds would be used to purchase RAM for office computers. Mr. Lusi confirmed for Mr. Caimano that the purchase of the RAM was handled through the Information Technology (IT) Department.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request, as presented, and to refer it to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request to Transfer Funds is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing with Item No. 7 on the Agenda, Mr. Lusi presented a request to apply for a NYS DPCA (New York State Division of Probation & Correctional Alternative) Mental Health grant in the amount of \$50,000. The grant's purpose, he said, was for a specialized project to provide additional targeted services to Probationers with mental illness, as well as alcohol and drug addictions. The majority of the Probation Department's caseload, he continued, had alcohol or drug addictions or mental illness. He noted that this grant was a collaboration with Washington County and that the grant would be used for Warren-Washington Mental Health Services. He added that there would not be matching costs to either county.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried unanimously to apply for the NYS DPCA Mental Health grant in the amount of \$50,000. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board Meeting.*

Returning to Item Nos. 1 and 2 on the Agenda, Mr. Lusi informed the Committee that the

population of Probationers was approximately 600, of which approximately 300 were felons. He stated that the Office had never had metal detectors. The issue of metal detectors, he continued, should be revisited as the population of Probationers was becoming more dangerous.

Mr. Stec entered the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Mr. Iusi noted that the Office of Court Administration had complained about space issues and the Probation Department would eventually be asked to give up space. He said, at that point, the Probation Office would be sharing an office with the Drug Court Coordinator.

Mr. Iusi suggested that the Probation Office be moved to the vacant communications room. He noted that traffic coming into the Probation Office could be re-routed through the Public Defender's Office, which did have a metal detector. He said the new office would need a receptionist; however, the restroom in that facility would be ideal for the amount of drug testing that the Probation Office handled. This move would solve that space issue, he stated, as well as the safety issue, due to the metal detector. He informed the Committee that he had talked to Frank Morehouse, Superintendent of Buildings, about the possibility of the move. Mr. Iusi added that Mr. Morehouse had said that he could see the logic in the move and would bring the issue before the County Facilities Committee.

Mr. Tessier stated the issue had to be referred to the County Facilities Committee to see if the space had already been allocated.

Mr. Caimano praised the Probation Department for trying to resolve this problem without a negative impact on the County budget.

Mr. Iusi displayed and reviewed a map with the Committee members, explaining the proposal and general discussion ensued.

Mr. Caimano suggested that Mr. Morehouse be asked to make a drawing for the Committee to review. Mr. Iusi stated that he would talk to Mr. Morehouse after the meeting.

Mrs. Sady stated that Amy Bartlett, First Assistant County Attorney, was in Family Court; however, she asked her to present three resolution requests to the Committee. The first, she continued, was to extend the contract with the Legal Aid Society of Northeast New York for Family Court conflict defender cases, commencing on May 1, 2007 and terminating on April 30, 2008.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 391 of 2006, to extend the contract with the Legal Aid Society of Northeast New York for Family Court conflict defender cases, commencing on May 1, 2007 and terminating on April 30, 2008. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board Meeting.*

Mrs. Sady stated the second request was to amend Resolution No. 734 of 2006 with Tucker Stanclift, to change the name of the firm from Silvestri & Stanclift, LLP to Stanclift Law Firm and to amend the effective date of the contract to April 1, 2007.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 734 of 2006, to change the name of the firm from Silvestri & Stanclift, LLP to Stanclift Law Firm and to amend the effective date of the contract to April 1, 2007. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board Meeting.*

Concluding the review, Mrs. Sady stated there was a request to amend Resolution No. 733 of 2006, to update the resolution regarding the current Assigned Council Plan and Policies.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 733 of 2006, to update the Assigned Council Plan and Policies. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board Meeting.*

Mr. Tessier informed the Committee that Kate Hogan, District Attorney, had won the Spirit of Justice Law Enforcement Award. Mr. Tessier stated that since Ms. Hogan was not present, he would enter the letter into the record and the Committee could congratulate her at the next Committee meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion by Mr. Mason and seconded by Mr. Bentley, Mr. Tessier adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk  
*Typed by Charlene DiResta, Legislative Office Specialist*