

**COUNTY OF OSWEGO
PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
COUNTY OFFICE, 46 E. BRIDGE STREET, OSWEGO
January 26, 2009 2:00 PM**

PRESENT:

Paul Santore, Chair
Linda Lockwood, Vice Chair
Margaret Kastler
Kevin Gardner
Shawn Doyle
Lee Walker, Jr.

STAFF/GUESTS

Leg. Chm. Leemann and Leg. Beckwith
Administrator Phil Church
Ted Jerrett, Clerk of the Legislature
Pat Egan, Dir. Emergency Management
Terry Bennett, Emergency Management
Barbara Schuler, Probation Director
Deborah Meyer, Probation Supervisor
John Hinds, Fire Coordinator
Reuel Todd, Sheriff
Mike Allen, Dir. E-911
Ms. Sue Pringle

EXCUSED:

Mary Flett

Committee Chair Santore called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of November 24, 2008 were presented.

Motion to approve: Legislator Walker

Second: Legislator Lockwood

Vote: All in favor.

Fire Coordinator:

Fire Advisory Board Appointments - Fire Coordinator John Hinds presented a proposed list of Fire Advisory Board Members for 2009. Committee recommendations will go before the full Legislature for appointment.

Motion to approve list as presented: Legislator Kastler

Second: Legislator Gardner

Vote: All in favor

Fire Training Center Update: Fire Coordinator Hinds reported that renovations continue and use for fire training is continuing to grow. He emphasized the importance of a quality, long-term facility in attracting important industrial users like Constellation, Entergy and Novelis.

Sheriff's Department:

Sheriff Todd requested approval to accept \$18,990 from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to cover overtime payments in the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

Motion to approve: Walker

Second: Gardner

Vote: All in favor

Sheriff Todd commended volunteer firefighters, the Emergency Management Office and highway departments for their critical assistance during the recent rash of fires in brutally cold weather.

Leg. Kastler asked Mr. Hinds if there is a Fire Cadet Program in Oswego County. Mr. Hinds responded with "yes", and he's very pleased with their success.

Probation:

Director Schuler presented the Probation Department 2008 Annual Report (copy attached).

E-911:

Director Mike Allen provided the E-911 December 2008 monthly report (copy attached). Director Allen emphasized that throughout 07-08 years, call and incident volumes continued to increase substantially. Leg. Walker asked how the employees are handling the increased load. Mr. Allen replied "OK, so far."

(E-911-con't.)

Leg. Kastler asked for an update on the Radio Project. Mr. Allen reported that he has seen the first draft of the concept design and has submitted suggestions.

Leg. Santore offered that the 5-County Interoperable Communications Plan led by Onondaga County is expected to be in place for the summer of 2009, in time to apply and qualify for partial Federal Funding.

Leg. Kastler asked if any portion of the new radio system could qualify for funding from the pending Federal Stimulus Package. Administrator Church noted that portions of that project have been forwarded to State and Federal Offices to get in line for any possible funding.

Emergency Management:

Director Egan noted that part of her Goals for 2009 is to complete the five remaining Local Municipality Emergency Management Plans. She also noted that the nuclear licensees had agreed to fund the upgrade and replacement of the communication tower at the County Office Building in Fulton.

Ms. Egan added that a FEMA full response test is scheduled for this September and that her office is working with ARISE to demonstrate an evacuation plan for the handicapped.

Leg. Kastler asked if there is any funding for generators for handicapped who require electricity. Ms. Egan noted that generators are not funded by the State or Feds and that most often, the handicapped are safer being relocated to congregate sites rather than be put at risk of unsafe use of a home generator.

E-911 Director Allen requested Director Egan to have utilities coordinate their plans for the new Fulton tower with his office.

Adjournment: 2:38 P.M.

Motion to adjourn: Leg. Doyle

Second: Leg. Walker

Vote: All in favor.

DATE: January 23, 2009
TO: Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee
FROM: Barbara A. Schuler, Probation Director
SUBJECT: Oswego County Probation Department – 2008 Annual Report

The mission of probation in Oswego County is to provide information to courts to assist in dispositional decision-making and to document compliance with court orders. For those ordered or placed on a term of probation, the Department provides supervision, balanced between treatment, monitoring and enforcement, which allows for the achievement of short- and long-term goals of offender change and risk reduction, thereby enhancing community safety.

Probation is a sentencing option for both the Criminal and Family Court Systems. It involves the community supervision of offenders as the legal consequence for the act or acts which brought them to the court's attention. Statewide, probation supervision is the most frequently used sentence and in Oswego County twenty-seven (27) probation officers manage a monthly caseload of over nine hundred (900) offenders.

However, Probation does much more than just supervise sentenced offenders. From those offenders, in 2008, the Department collected and disbursed to victims \$265,944 as repayment for damages and loss due to crime. Ten thousand dollars of this total was returned to the County Department of Social Services, the District Attorney's Office and Buildings and Grounds. A 5% surcharge is collected at the end of the restitution obligation - \$7,941 in 2008, which is considered revenue. There were over one thousand, one hundred (1,100) restitution cases managed during 2008.

The largest offender population the Department supervises is the DWI offenders. Six probation officers are totally dedicated to supervising these individuals. The DWI offender is the only supervision type for which we are legally authorized to collect a supervision fee, the maximum being \$30 per month. In 2008, DWI offenders paid \$27,320 in supervision fees. The DWI unit provides support, coordination and referrals to the local Victim Impact Panel, which is operated through Mothers Against Drunk Driving and STOP-SWI. This panel meets at the Public Safety Center every other month.

The Department also supports a specialized Sex Offender Supervision unit of three officers working with adults and one with juveniles. One of the original Sex Offender Supervision Courts for the State was developed and continues to operate in Oswego. All felony level sex offenders are handled through this court and the court meets weekly to monitor offenders' compliance with court orders.

Additionally, one Senior Probation Officer is charged with monitoring the highest risk felony offenders sentenced to probation supervision. This limited caseload utilizes an intensive case management approach to successfully maintain offenders in the community, offenders who would have been incarcerated if this program did not exist. In 2008, twenty-three (23) offenders entered the program and seven (7) successfully stepped down to less intensive supervision requirements.

In 2005, Family Court was awarded a Federal Grant through the Office of Court Administration to implement an Integrated Domestic Violence Court, and Oswego City Court was allowed to start a special Domestic Violence part. As part of the grant, one Probation Officer is funded part-time to provide specialized investigation and supervision functions for these courts.

In 2008, the Department was one of seven counties to receive funding from the State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives to provide Juvenile Risk Intervention Services Coordination. With this money, the Department contracted with Elmcrest Children's Center to provide an early intervention program, called Adolescent Transitions, in the middle schools in Oswego and Hannibal. Other monies were awarded to Cayuga Children's Home to provide in-home Functional Family Therapy services to youth at risk of out-of-home placement through Juvenile Delinquency or Person in Need of Supervision adjudications. This funding will continue in 2009 but at a reduced level and the Adolescent Transitions program will be phased out.

Eight officers in the department have been authorized to carry firearms and to perform certain peace officer functions regarding criminal court supervision cases. These functions are carried out in addition to the supervision and investigation responsibilities each already carries. They have a car equipped with a radio and cage, and in 2008, they conducted nine hundred fifty-four (954) unannounced home visits on Sex offenders, DWI offenders and Domestic Violence offenders throughout the county. During these home visits, they conducted two hundred thirty-one (231) searches for contraband and administered four hundred fifteen (415) alcohol and/or drug screens. Additionally the unit executed thirty-nine (39) warrants for violations of probation. These officers are trained by the Sheriff's Department, which also handles the maintenance of this department's weapons and twice yearly firearms re-qualifications.

Probation does a lot of work with at risk individuals to prevent them from penetrating further into the juvenile or criminal justice systems. At the juvenile level, four probation officers and two probation assistants work to adjust cases outside the court process. For those over the age of 16 who have committed their first misdemeanor offense, one probation assistant works to prevent them from developing a criminal record by requiring six months of supervision and the completion of community service work. In 2008, one hundred forty-eight (148) individuals were supervised through this program, with five thousand, six hundred eighty-eight (5,688) hours of community service being completed.

For those offenders who have been arrested and remanded to the Oswego County Jail when they could not post bail, the Department offers a supervised pre-trial release program. Two probation assistants interview, verify information, and provide judges with information on community ties and risk of flight to assist them in determining whether these individuals can be released to the community during the processing of their criminal court cases. Pre-trial release supervised two hundred thirty-five (235) offenders during 2008, saving the county the daily costs of housing these individuals before they are sentenced.

Probation is in a unique position in Oswego, in that we are one of the few departments to operate the Non-secure Detention Program for Family Court. Three very caring and professional families have agreed to undergo the certification and training required to house those youth the Family Court has determined cannot remain at their own homes during the processing of their court cases. Non-secure detention provides a short-term, safe and secure family environment for youth in crisis. The program is overseen by a Coordinator who is on call 24/5 and assisted by a Probation Assistant and on-call staff for weekends and holidays. Non-secure detention costs are reimbursed at 49% of expenditures. In 2008, the Department cared for forty-four (44) youth, with care days totaling four hundred eighty-six (486). Although Social Services has the financial obligation for Secure Detention Services, currently under contract with Hillbrook Detention Center in Syracuse, our Coordinator also manages these placements.

Our staff also completes home studies for both Family and Surrogate's Courts for cases such as adoptions and child custody and visitation issues. The department also assists in the petition preparation for parties who need custody, visitation, or support orders and who are in agreement regarding the terms of those orders. This service saves court time and time and costs for the parties. Additionally, through Family Court, the Department supervises a number of adults who have previously failed to comply with court-ordered support obligations.

2009 will be a challenging year for the Department. The Department expects state reimbursement for probation services to be reduced again without any reduction of mandates. State support for detention services may change. Our J-RISC grant has already been reduced from the promised \$200,000 per year for five years to \$149,000 for the second year of operation, forcing us to close the early intervention program, Adolescent Transitions, before it had an opportunity to show any tangible results. Internally, the Department is expecting significant staff turnover due to retirements in the next five years. As the County struggles with an uncertain budget picture, decision makers must realize the unique position of probation services within the justice system and throughout the community.

BS/db

39 CHURCHILL ROAD
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315-349-8215
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CALL STATISTICS INBOUND

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
911	32,298	32,186	- 0.35 %
W-911	29,220	34,969	+ 19.67 %
7 DIGIT EMERGENCY	36,671	32,869	- 10.37 %
	Total	100,022	

91,640 (91.62%) answered in first 10 seconds

NON-EMERGENCY / ADMIN	73,225	78,319	+ 6.96 %
TOTAL	171,414	178,343	+ 4.04 %

OUTBOUND

NON-EMERGENCY / ADMIN	51,942	50,598	- 2.59 %
TOTAL CALL COUNT	223,356	228,941	+ 2.50 %

9-1-1 Center - December, 2008

Center Activity

2,125 9-1-1 calls answered
2,607 W9-1-1 calls answered
2,392 7-Digit Emerg. calls answered
6,212 Admin. / Non Emerg. Calls answered
3,833 Outgoing Admin. calls made

2,272 Fire / EMS calls dispatched
6,060 Law calls dispatched

6451 (90.62 %) Emergency Calls answered within 10 seconds

Requests for information

8 Requests for recorded audio files
1 Requests for statistical reports

Management activity

Met with Senior Staff members to discuss issues of importance to the Center.

Met with Project Leaders of our EMD program to discuss quality assurance.

Met with Fulton PD Officials to coordinate new response procedures.

Met with representatives of Gilberti Law firm and discussed opportunities for collaboration in our communications project.

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INCIDENT STATISTICS LAW

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
Sheriffs	18,351	19,546	+ 6.51 %
New York State Police	22,137	28,731	+ 29.79 %
Oswego City Police	18,270	20,918	+ 14.49 %
Fulton City Police	10,147	9,488	- 6.49 %
Central Square Police	2,149	2,052	- 4.51 %
Phoenix Police	1,224	2,083	+ 70.18 %
Pulaski Police	1,691	1,126	- 33.41 %

FIRE / EMS

32 fire Departments (2 city)			
7 Ambulance Corps	24,833	26,866	+ 8.19 %
TOTAL INCIDENTS	<u>98,802</u>	<u>110,810</u>	+ 12.25 %