

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner; Members Butler and Cavallini

Members Absent: Members Nuckolls, Harding and Rackauskas

Other County Board

Board Members Present: County Board Chairman Sorensen and Member Caisley

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Administrative Services Director; and Ms. Judith LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/ Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator - Eleventh Circuit Court; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director; Court Services; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Sheriff Mike Emery

Others Present: Ms. Lori McCormick, Assistant Director, Court Services; Ms. Cathy Waltz, Assistant Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center; Ms. Michelle Anderson, Financial Reporting Specialist, County Auditor's Office; Rev. Tom Shea, Alternatives to Jail Committee

Since a quorum was not present at 4:30 p.m., Chairman Renner convened the meeting to discuss informational items.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, presented her Monthly Report for April 2008. She noted that the in-County business was very busy in April. The number of deaths reported for the month surpassed the average per month year to date. Ms. Kimmerling noted that there were also a greater number of autopsies.

Ms. Kimmerling advised that, at the end of April, the Coroner's Office is one-third on its way to meeting its revenue prediction.

Justice Committee
June 3, 2008
Page Two

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Kimmerling.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Caseload Report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report as submitted by Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney. Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, presented her Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center and the CASA Report. She indicated that there was nothing specific to report. She noted that statistics are consistent with prior reports.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Renner.

Chairman Renner presented the April 2008 Statistical Reports as submitted by Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk.

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a report on Prisoner Transport prices. He explained that the Sheriff's Department has added two more extradition services. The department primarily uses Nationwide Prisoner Extradition Services due to the cost savings. Sheriff Emery pointed out the graph on page 40 of the packet that shows the price difference between three transport companies, which illustrates that Nationwide Prisoner Extradition Services offers the best price. He pointed out that there are now three competing services that can be utilized for transport. Sheriff Emery explained that they do not contract with one service, but can choose whichever one has the best price. He noted that the Sheriff's Department does its own in-state extraditions.

Mr. Cavallini asked how many individuals are extradited. Sheriff Emery replied that there were a total of 43 last year.

Mr. Butler asked how much money was spent on extraditing individuals. Sheriff Emery responded that he does not know what the expenses were last year, but so far this year close to \$8,700.00 has been spent on extraditions. He noted that it is expected that more individuals will be extradited beginning in mid-year to later in the year.

Justice Committee
June 3, 2008
Page Three

Sheriff Emery indicated that in-state misdemeanor warrants and traffic warrants will be restricted by a geographical boundary. For instance, if an individual is stopped in Chicago who has a McLean County warrant for a misdemeanor or a traffic violation, that individual will not be extradited due to the expense. Sheriff Emery noted that this policy is followed by other Counties.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report for May 2008. He stated that the averages are holding steady with approximately 269 inmates.

Chairman Renner asked if there continues to be a large expense for out-of-County housing. Sheriff Emery replied that the out-of-County housing budget is 315% spent. He advised that housing inmates in Kankakee County for \$60.00 per day has been beneficial, as Kankakee County does all transporting of the individuals from McLean County to Kankakee County and back for court dates, etc.

Sheriff Emery indicated that the renovation project at the jail should conclude soon and more housing will be made available.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, he thanked Sheriff Emery.

Noting the presence of a quorum, with the arrival of Chairman Sorensen, Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the May 6, 2008 Committee minutes and the April 15, 2008 Stand-up Committee minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Cavallini/Butler to approve the Minutes of the
April 1, 2008 Committee Meeting and the April 15,
2008 Stand-up Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator – Eleventh Circuit Court, presented a request for approval of an Assessment of Filing Fee Increase of \$8.00 on all civil cases for the Family Visitation Center. He advised that, at the May 5th Justice Committee meeting, Ms. Lisa Pieper and Ms. Teresa Kelly from the Children's Foundation were present to review the request for the fee increase. Mr. Scanlon reminded the Committee that the General Assembly passed a bill in the last Legislative Session, Public Act 91-117, allowing a filing fee of up to \$8.00 to be imposed on civil cases to support a Children's Supervised Visitation Center.

Mr. Scanlon advised that the Family Visitation Center is operated by the Children's Foundation. The goal of the Center is allow persons engaged in difficult custody situations to get to a point where they can safely manage their own visits or exchanges without outside intervention.

Mr. Scanlon stated that the Children's Foundation previously had a Federal grant that operated this Center. He indicated that the Grant was being terminated as of September 30, 2008. Mr. Scanlon noted that the statute allows a filing fee to be established in civil cases to help offset the cost of this program. The filing fee is anywhere from \$1.00 to \$8.00. Mr. Scanlon advised that annually McLean County averages approximately 7,500 civil filings per year, and this filing fee will generate approximately \$60,000.00 if imposed.

Mr. Scanlon indicated that budget information from the Children's Foundation regarding sources of revenue and how the revenue is used is included in the packet.

Mr. Scanlon informed the Committee that Judge Robb and Judge Souk were not available to attend the meeting today. He pointed out the letter dated May 27, 2008 from Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb and Judge James Souk expressing their support for this program. Mr. Scanlon also pointed out that, at the March 12, 2008 McLean County Judge's Meeting, the judges voted unanimously to support a filing fee increase of \$8.00.

Chairman Renner advised that, at the last meeting, the Committee had requested more information regarding the Children's Foundation itself, including an overall budget of the Children's Foundation and how it relates to the Family Visitation Center.

Mr. Butler noted that a Family Visitation Center budget is included on pages 7 and 11 of the packet. He pointed out an error on the budget on page 7 of the packet. Mr. Butler stated that the Committee had asked for more information on the funding available to the Children's Foundation in general and not just the Family Visitation Center. He raised issues with varying amounts in the "Income from Trust" amounts. Mr. Scanlon responded that the Children's Foundation would adjust their staffing levels for this program to reflect funds that are available.

Mr. Cavallini asked when will the Children's Foundation know if they will receive the grant for \$75,000.00. Mr. Scanlon replied that they expect to know by mid-July as the grant must be awarded by October 1st.

County Board Chairman Sorensen indicated that he believes that the Children's Foundation will scale the scope of the Family Visitation Center down if the filing fee increase was their only source of revenue. He suggested the Committee would benefit by knowing what is the impact on the program as the funding mechanisms are adjusted.

After a continued discussion, the Committee concurred to take no action on the request for a filing fee increase of \$8.00 in all Civil Cases for the Family Visitation Center. The Committee recommended that the Children's Foundation submit a financial report on how the Family Visitation Center fits into the overall operation of the Children's Foundation budget.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Scanlon.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, advised that about one and a half years ago, Judge Robb, State's Attorney Bill Yoder, Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Zeunik and she traveled to Washington D.C. to talk to our Senators and Representatives concerning earmark money for Drug Court. Ms. Castleman advised that they have been notified that Drug Court will receive \$333,002.00.

Ms. Castleman presented a request for approval of a Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$333,002.00 for a discretionary grant earmarked for Drug Court. She explained that Court Services recently received information from the Bureau of Justice that we are able to apply for its FY'2008 Congressionally Mandated Award (Discretionary Earmarked Funds), for the Drug Court Program.

Ms. Castleman indicated that the grant application is due June 11, 2008. She stated that the Drug Court team has identified several programs and equipment items for which it would be requesting funds. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Program evaluation;
- Mental health services;
- Family support and programming services;
- Drug testing equipment;
- Portable breathalyzer.

Ms. Castleman stated that there is no match for these funds.

Motion by Cavallini/Butler to Recommend Approval of a Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$333,002.00 for a Discretionary Grant Earmarked for Drug Court.
Motion carried.

Ms. Castleman informed the Committee that this is her last meeting as she is taking advantage of the Early Retirement Program. She stated that June 20th will be her last day, as well as the last day for Mr. Dave Goldberg, Supervisor of the Juvenile Detention Center. Ms. Castleman introduced Ms. Lori McCormick who will be the new Director of Court Services. She indicated that Ms. McCormick has been Deputy Director of Juvenile for 19 years. Ms. McCormick was an intern in August 1980. Ms. Castleman also introduced Ms. Cathy Waltz who will be the new Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Center. Ms. Castleman noted that Ms. Waltz has been the Assistant Superintendent for almost ten years. Ms. Waltz also interned and volunteered in Court Services.

Chairman Renner and the Committee expressed their appreciation to Ms. Castleman for her many years of service.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Castleman.

Chairman Renner presented the May 31, 2008 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor, as well as three Departmental transfers. The Justice Committee bills include a Pending Total of \$55,269.41 and a Prepaid Total of \$2,669,999.95 for a Fund Total of \$2,725,269.36.

Justice Committee
June 3, 2008
Page Seven

Motion by Butler/Cavallini to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Department Transfers and the Bills as of May 31, 2008, as transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Justice Committee
June 3, 2008
Page Eight

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary