

## **Minutes of the Justice Committee**

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, March 4, 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, Rackauskas, Cavallini, Nuckolls (arrived at 4:40 p.m.) and Harding (departed at 4:58 p.m.)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator and Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials  
Present:

Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director; Court Services; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; and Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney

Others Present: Ms. Michelle Anderson, Financial Reporting Specialist, County Auditor's Office

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the February 5, 2008 Committee minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Rackauskas/Cavallini to approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2008 Committee Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner presented the Children's Advocacy Center Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report as submitted by Ms. Judy Renner, Director. He asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

Sheriff Mike Emery distributed a report on Jail Inmate Statistics. He stated that this report provides a breakdown on the jail population.

Chairman Renner summarized the report, noting the following:

- 80%-20% male/female split;
- Even split between Blacks and Whites, with 7% Hispanics;
- Largest age distribution is 20-30 year olds;
- 64% of the total are waiting for trial;
- 30+% have been sentenced;
- 30% of the Jail population are Drug Offenses;
- 26% of Jail population is out of County

Sheriff Emery advised that this report reflects the Jail population on January 12, 2008. He indicated that in that 24 hour period there were 312 inmates, of which 18 bonded out leaving 294 inmates.

Chairman Renner asked if these figures fluctuate from day to day and do the demographic characteristics change significantly. Sheriff Emery replied that the demographics do not change significantly. He stated that this report can only reflect any given 24 hour period. Sheriff Emery advised that he will work with Information Technologies to develop a report that will provide this information on a monthly basis rather than a 24 hour period. Once the monthly report is prepared, Sheriff Emery stated that he will add it to the regular Monthly Report.

Chairman Renner asked what causes the spikes in population. Sheriff Emery replied that the day of the week drives the population up, noting that the population increases beginning on Thursday and going through the weekend.

Ms. Harding asked how many staff members are needed in the jail to accommodate the higher population. Sheriff Emery replied that staffing was increased to 12 Correctional Officers (CO) on most shifts, which is the minimum staffing for the jail at any time. He noted that if someone calls in ill, another CO will be called in to work at overtime status.

Ms. Rackauskas asked that the new report also include the following information:

- Work Release Inmates;
- Inmates with psychological issues.

Sheriff Emery replied that on an average day, there can be as many as 174-200 inmates that are being administered medication for mental health issues. He added that he can provide that information on a separate report.

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Sheriff Emery advised that his Annual Report for 2007 will be submitted at the April Justice Committee Meeting.

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

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, reviewed her January, 2008 Monthly Report. She stated that the number of deaths have been high and have surpassed last year's figure. Ms. Kimmerling reported that the number of County autopsies was down. However, she noted that the Out of County Autopsies were extremely high.

Ms. Kimmerling advised that the deposits made in January are receivables from bills that went out in 2007, which is why most of the revenue is reported for 2007.

Ms. Kimmerling reviewed the Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2007. She noted that close to \$76,000.00 of revenue was brought in for FY'2007. Ms. Kimmerling referred to the Emergency Appropriation that she requested in January in the amount of \$53,800.00. She reported that she used just over \$45,000.00 of that amount, returning \$8,000.00 to the County. Ms. Kimmerling advised that the Revenue brought in covered more than the cost of the Emergency Appropriation.

Ms. Kimmerling reported that the Coroner's Office has been extremely busy these past few weeks. She indicated that she does not yet know when her Annual Report will be ready for review.

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

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services and Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center, presented the Court Services Monthly Reports, as well as the 2007 Year-End Statistical Report. Ms. Castleman also distributed the Drug Court Report for 2007. She pointed out that the Adult Court Services division has been status quo this past year with no significant changes. However, Ms. Castleman reported that Juvenile Probation saw a large increase. She also pointed out that the juvenile crime is becoming more violent.

Ms. Rackauskas asked who screens the cases and refers them to Drug Court. Ms. Castleman replied that the cases are referred from the State's Attorneys Office. She stated that the State's Attorney's Office reviews all the reports they receive from arrests. That office makes a determination based upon the criteria for Drug Court. Ms. Castleman advised that the State's Attorneys Office makes a

recommendation to Court Services, and Court Services interviews the defendants. She noted that many defendants refuse the opportunity. Ms. Rackauskas asked if there are more people who want to be part of the Program than the Program can handle. Ms. Castleman replied that they are considering increasing the Program to accommodate 50 clients. She noted that the current goal is to increase to 40 clients. Ms. Castleman indicated there are 27 clients at this time.

Ms. Harding commended the Drug Court Program, particularly noting the effectiveness of the graduation. She asked if the Committee will be notified of the next graduation. Ms. Castleman assured her that the Committee will be invited.

Several members of the Committee acknowledged how moved they were by the graduation, particularly with the graduate who spoke.

Ms. Castleman thanked the Committee for their support of the fund raiser luncheon. She reported that it was very successful.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Castleman and Mr. Goldberg.

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

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, distributed his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He noted that statistics are up except for Mental Health. Mr. Yoder explained that the mental health statistics were much higher last year, which was the reason Judge Robb started the meetings to consider Mental Health Court.

Ms. Harding asked for clarification on the Case Load Report. She noted that under "Juvenile Totals" there are subheadings for "Juvenile," "Juvenile Abuse" and "Juvenile Delinquency." She asked what does "Juvenile" signify. Mr. Yoder replied that he was not sure what that section signifies, but he indicated he will get clarification and share it with the Committee next month.

Mr. Cavallini asked what falls under the areas of "Juvenile Abuse" and "Juvenile Delinquency." Mr. Yoder replied that abuse/neglect is when a child is living in a dirty home or has been physically or sexually abused. Juvenile Delinquency is juvenile crimes.

Mr. Yoder advised that he will present his Annual Report in April. He noted that the conviction rates were very good. Mr. Yoder reported that the Felony conviction

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rate was in the range of 82%. He noted that conviction rates are not the major aim of a Prosecutor. Mr. Yoder stated that the job of the Prosecutor is to obtain justice and not simply convictions. He indicated that the relevancy of that figure is that it shows the efficiency of the office, including the felony review screenings conducted prior to filing a felony case.

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

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

Chairman Renner presented the February 29, 2008 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$1,808,534.50 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Nuckolls/Cavallini to Recommend Approval  
of the Justice Committee bills as of February 29, 2008,  
as transmitted by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the  
Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary