

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, May 7, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. in the 7th Floor Conference Room of the Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner; Members Rackauskas, Owens Harding and Butler

Members Absent: Member Selzer

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present:

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk; Mr. Will Scanlon, Court Administrator, Circuit Court; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA; Sheriff Mike Emery

Others Present: Ms. Judy Mowery, Administrative Deputy, Coroner's Office; Mr. Greg Allen, Jail Superintendent; Rev. Tom Shea, Alternatives to Jail Committee

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the April 2, 2007 Committee Meeting Minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Owens/Butler to Recommend approval of the Minutes of the April 2, 2007 Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, introduced Ms. Judy Mowery, Administrative Deputy, Coroner's Office. Ms. Kimmerling stated that one of Ms. Mowery's responsibilities is to pursue outside grants to assist with funding needs of the Coroner's Office. She noted that Ms. Mowery was instrumental in finding a local organization in town that provided a grant to the Coroner's Office.

Ms. Kimmerling presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance (grant of \$1,171.40 from the McLean County Crime Detection Network), General Fund 0001, Coroner's Office 0031. She stated that there are two categories of items for which they will use the funds, namely:

- Crime Service Processing Kit;
- Presumptive Test for gun shot residue, called a RIFF ("Rapid Identification Friend or Foe") Kit.

Mr. Owens asked if this would be a renewable grant. Ms. Mowery replied that it would be necessary to apply each year.

Motion by Owens/Harding to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance (grant of \$1,171.40 from the McLean County Crime Detection Network), General Fund 0001, Coroner's Office 0031
Motion carried.

Ms. Kimmerling indicated that she has rearranged office space in the Coroner's Office. She noted that she requested and received some chairs, file cabinets and storage items from State Farm. Ms. Kimmerling also noted that she requested a laptop computer from State Farm, which she is waiting to hear about.

Ms. Kimmerling reviewed her March Monthly Report. She stated that, while fewer deaths are being reported to the Office, more deaths are requiring autopsies. The out-of-County autopsies have slightly increased. Ms. Kimmerling advised that they are assisting Peoria again, which raises the number of autopsies.

Ms. Rackauskas requested that Board members receive a list of donations received from State Farm so that acknowledgements can be sent to State Farm. Ms. Kimmerling stated that she will send a list of donations to the Board. She advised that she sent a "thank you" note to State Farm.

Mr. Lindberg advised that State Farm is often reluctant to be publicly acknowledged for their donations.

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

Justice Committee
May 7, 2007
Page Three

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented a corrected "Report A" from her February, 2007 Statistical Reports. She noted there was a math error, which was corrected.

Ms. Parker stated that a representative of the Illinois Department of Human Services attended the Circuit Clerk's Conference last week. At that time, they passed out the IV-D Child Support Contracts, which are renewed each year, and advised that the Contracts needed to be signed and returned by May 15th or the County would be in jeopardy of losing the funding. Ms. Parker indicated that there were no significant changes in the contract. She advised that she discussed the deadline with Mr. Zeunik, who approved signing and returning the contracts. Ms. Parker reported that funding is the same as last year at \$35,948.00. She informed the Committee that the Department of Human Services offered "incentive dollars" to Circuit Clerks who refer 301 clients that receive child support but are not in the IV-D Program. The Department of Human Services offered to reimburse \$1.73 per applicant, or a total of \$350.00.

Ms. Parker reviewed her March 2007 Monthly Report and the First Quarter Reports. She noted that the number of cases pending at the end of this quarter is up compared to last year. Ms. Parker stated that it is too early to predict a trend in cases. However, she indicated that the number of Emergency Orders of Protection has almost doubled over this time last year.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Caseload Report for March, 2007 as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender. Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Court Administrator, Circuit Court, presented a request for approval to accept a grant of \$14,000.00 from the Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice to establish a Legal Self-help Center for the McLean County Law Library. He explained that the purpose of the Center is to provide an on-line resource for persons who are seeking legal assistance in a number of manners, including post-dissolution filings, small claims, landlord-tenant disputes and orders of protection. Mr. Scanlon indicated that the resource would be available in the McLean County Law Library, but would also be available in the Bloomington and Normal libraries, at the Compassion Center and through PATH.

Mr. Scanlon stated that the County needs to be willing to provide the space in the Law Library for an additional computer terminal. He advised that State Farm has agreed to donate the equipment for the computer terminal. Mr. Scanlon noted that the Legal Aid Foundation maintains the website. The County would be required to provide a link to the website, through the Law Library, and through the public libraries and PATH, and to direct people on how to use the terminal. He indicated that individuals who need this service can be directed to the Law Library by the Circuit Clerk's Office.

Mr. Scanlon advised that there is a potential of a second year of funding to bridge the beginning of the program and to provide some staffing resources. He noted that after the second year, they do not anticipate using any County dollars for any staffing resources, rather there is sufficient funding through the Law Library and through the Library Programs at Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University. If that staffing cannot occur, the on-line resources will still be available.

Mr. Scanlon indicated that he is asking the Committee to review and approve the grant proposal from the Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice.

Mr. Owens asked if the donation from State Farm will affect any of the line items in the request. Mr. Scanlon replied that it would eliminate the need to buy a computer, but a printer will still need to be purchased.

Ms. Rackauskas asked how the on-line service works. Mr. Scanlon replied that right now they are looking at self-directed forms. An individual would go to a general topic that will lead to a self-guided legal research system.

Ms. Rackauskas asked who is the target user. Mr. Scanlon replied that the target users are persons who come in seeking legal resources that are currently turned away or sent to Prairie State Legal Services. Ms. Rackauskas expressed concern that the program be user-friendly. Mr. Scanlon responded that the program is geared towards a 5th or 6th grade reading level. He added that the program has been tested in five or six other Counties and has been in operation in those Counties for approximately 18 months.

There was some discussion about the recent issues this year with the Law Library, such as machines that were not working. Mr. Scanlon advised that he is working with Information Services to provide more user-friendly computers. He agreed to keep the Committee apprised of the situation.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what is the name of the site for this program. Mr. Scanlon stated that the site is "illinoislegalaidonline.org."

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional comments or questions. There were none.

Motion by Rackauskas/Harding to Recommend Approval of a Grant of \$14,000.00 from the Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice to Establish a Legal Self-help Center for the McLean County Law Library.
Motion carried.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, presented the Court Services Monthly Reports and year-end statistical reports. She pointed out that the detention numbers have been down this past month or so, but she expects they will increase again over the summer. Ms. Castleman stated she would be glad to answer any questions on the reports.

Chairman Renner asked Ms. Castleman if there were any programmatic problems or changes. Ms. Castleman replied that caseload averages are down for both adult and juvenile, but the yearly intakes are up. She stated that the discharge rate must have increased, which is a good thing. Ms. Castleman expressed a concern that 105,515 hours of Community Service were ordered this past year and last year only 73,000 hours were ordered. She indicated that this is due to an increase in traffic cases that require mandatory Community Service. The judges have no option but to order Community Service.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the problem is finding enough Community Service programs. Ms. Castleman replied that it is difficult to find work sites for that many hours and also some individuals are on disability or have health issues, which makes it difficult to find appropriate work sites.

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

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

Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center, presented the Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and the CASA Report. She reported that the CAC continues to be busy. Ms. Larkin reported that she is making some staff changes in an attempt to give staff some relief. She pointed out that they interviewed six children today regarding two teachers, two baby deaths and abductions.

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

Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA, presented a request for approval of the 2007-2008 Annual Intergovernmental Grant Agreement with IEMA for the Nuclear Safety Grant in the amount of \$10,725.00. He explained that this grant agreement is to defray the anticipated expenses of implementing the plans and programs authorized by the "Illinois Nuclear Safety Preparedness Act" for Fiscal Year 2008.

Mr. Hawk stated that this grant is designed to offset the expenses incurred for preparedness planning in case of a nuclear accident at the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant.

Motion by Harding/Butler to Recommend Approval of
the 2007-2008 Annual Intergovernmental Grant
Agreement with IEMA for the Nuclear Safety Grant in
the amount of \$10,725.00.

Motion carried.

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

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a request for approval to provide, for purchase, Phone Cards to McLean County Detention Facility Inmates. He reported that, at the present time, the Evercom system does not connect to cell phones and inmates have a difficult time getting in touch with family and friends while incarcerated. Sheriff Emery stated that, with this plan, family members without funds or with cell phones could be contacted.

Sheriff Emery advised that the phone cards would be sold through the commissary. He indicated that a form would be developed for the purchase and purchases could be limited to weekly. Sheriff Emery noted that a "special account" would be added to EJS to accommodate this purchase and to maintain individual financial records.

Justice Committee
May 7, 2007
Page Seven

Sheriff Emery introduced Mr. Greg Allen, Jail Superintendent. He noted that he and Mr. Allen would be happy to answer any questions.

Ms. Harding asked if each card would have the same amount of minutes. Mr. Allen replied that the cards are sold in increments of \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$15.00.

After a brief discussion on the use of the cards and security concerns, the Committee concurred that this is a positive service to provide the inmates.

Motion by Owens/Butler to Recommend Approval of the request received from the Sheriff's Department to provide, for purchase, Phone Cards to McLean County Detention Facility Inmates.

Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the McLean County Adult Detention Facility Report for April, 2007. He expressed his concern that there continues to be more inmates than beds. Sheriff Emery stated that there were 94 inmates in over the weekend beginning on Friday afternoon. He reported that they are exceeding the budget for outside prisoner housing. Sheriff Emery advised that he will bring a more detailed report to the June meeting.

Sheriff Emery stated that he is working with Chief Judge Robb and State's Attorney Yoder for authority to make adjustments when the weekend population exceeds a critical point. He indicated that there is a contingency plan to release work release and weekend inmates to make room for other inmates. Work release and weekend inmates are not considered a threat to the community and, when necessary, can be excused from their weekend incarceration.

Sheriff Emery advised that he will continue to e-mail daily jail population reports to the Justice Committee members. He noted that they have had some problems getting the addresses initiated.

Sheriff Emery reviewed a proposal to install a Bloomington Municipal Credit Union ("BMCU") ATM Machine in the Booking Lobby. He advised that the ATM Machine would be a benefit for family and friends to bond their loved ones out of jail.

Sheriff Emery stated that the Agreement would be a two-year Agreement and BMCU would own and be financially responsible for the maintenance of all security of the ATM machine. Sheriff Emery indicated that the County will pay a \$100.00 monthly service fee that will be billed on a quarterly basis. However, BMCU will

Justice Committee
May 7, 2007
Page Eight

give the County back \$1.00 from every transaction after the first \$100.00 in revenue.

Sheriff Emery advised that the Agreement will be similar to other agreements with BMCU in other departmental offices, such as the Circuit Clerk's Office and the Government Center.

After some discussion, the Committee concurred that they will consider a request for approval for an ATM machine at a future meeting.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney arrived at the meeting at 5:00 p.m. He distributed his Drug Statistics. Mr. Yoder stated that he would be happy to answer any questions regarding his reports. There were no questions.

Chairman Renner announced that Ms. Castleman is available to take the Committee members on a tour of the 7th Floor of the Law and Justice Center.

Chairman Renner presented the April 30, 2007 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a pending total of \$2,148,180.49 and a prepaid total that is the same.

Justice Committee
May 7, 2007
Page Nine

Motion by Owens/Harding to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee bills as of April 30, 2007, as transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Justice Committee
May 7, 2007
Page Ten

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary