

## Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, April 2, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner; Members Rackauskas, Owens and Selzer

Members Absent: Members Harding and Butler

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

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials  
Present:

Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Cindy Brand, Coordinator, Jury Commission; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA

Others Present: Rev. Tom Shea, Alternatives to Jail Committee

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

Chairman Renner presented the March 5, 2007 Committee Meeting and the February 20, 2007 Stand-up Committee Meeting Minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Owens/Selzer to approve the Minutes of the March 5, 2007 Committee Meeting and the February 20, 2007 Stand-up Committee Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner presented the March 31, 2007 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a pending total of \$956.44 and a prepaid total of \$2,049,037.64 for a fund total of \$2,049,994.08.

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Motion by Selzer/Owens to recommend approval of the Justice Committee bills as of March 31, 2007, as transmitted by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Dave Goldberg, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center, presented a request for approval of a Master Contract for Lease of Space in the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center with Ford County. He announced that Ford County asked for one change in the Contract, namely a change in the last sentence of the first paragraph under "Terms." The sentence now reads "Transmitting County shall not be liable/pay for unused detention days." Mr. Goldberg noted that Mr. Brian Hug, Assistant State's Attorney, reviewed and approved the contract.

Motion by Rackauskas/Owens to recommend approval of a Master Contract for Lease of Space in the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center with Ford County.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Goldberg presented the Court Services Monthly Report.

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

Sheriff Mike Emery presented the McLean County Adult Detention Facility Report for January, 2007.

Sheriff Emery presented the 2006 Annual Report. Ms. Rackauskas expressed her appreciation to Sheriff Emery for the Annual Report. She asked that the County Administrator's Office distribute a copy of Departmental Annual Reports so that they can be saved separately from the Agenda packets.

Sheriff Emery indicated that he added some new statistics in this Report on male-female population percentages. He noted that the numbers are holding steady.

Sheriff Emery advised that he will be glad to answer any phone or e-mail questions the Committee has regarding the report.

Mr. Selzer referred to the "White Paper" written by Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA, which reviews the Mission Statement of the Emergency Management Agency, and its necessary command vehicles. He asked Sheriff Emery to evaluate the needs of the Sheriff's Department to utilize the EMA command vehicles. Mr. Selzer suggested that knowing how other County departments might utilize the EMA equipment will assist Mr. Hawk in building a strong case for purchasing new vehicles.

Sheriff Emery stated that they recently used the EMA unified command center vehicle during a hostage situation in Bloomington. He indicated that he will meet with Mr. Hawk to determine future needs of EMA command vehicles.

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

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, reviewed her February Report. She pointed out that, although McLean County business was down, there was an increase in the out-of-County case load. Ms. Kimmerling added that this increase will also be reflected in the March report.

Ms. Kimmerling announced that she will present her Annual Report at the May Justice Committee meeting.

Mr. Selzer asked Ms. Kimmerling if she has ever used the EMA command vehicles while investigating death scenes at accident sites. Ms. Kimmerling responded that she mostly works out of the trunk of the car. However, she noted that they have used the EMA lighting resources a few times.

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

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented her February, 2007 Statistical Reports. She commented that there is an increase in the total case load, as was discussed at last month's meeting.

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

Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Commission, reviewed her quarterly report. She pointed out that, because of the increase in trials, there is an increase in the need for jurors. Ms. Brand advised that she will ask for more printing money in the FY'2008 budget cycle.

Mr. Selzer asked about college students serving on juries. Ms. Brand stated that if their voter registration address and/or driver's license address are in McLean County, then McLean County is their legal residence and they are required to serve on a jury if called. She noted that, if called, a student can request a deferment until summer or a break from classes. Or, they can write a letter to the judge asking to be excused for extenuating circumstances.

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

Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA, reviewed his "White Paper," which was requested by the Justice Committee at the March meeting. He advised that the estimated cost of \$200,000.00 for the Support Operations Truck was based on a telephone call from a company that researched the Committee Minutes and was aware of the requested purchase of a vehicle. Mr. Hawk indicated that he spoke with a representative from another company today who stated vehicles are available for around \$100,000.00.

Mr. Selzer asked if it would be okay to e-mail Mr. Hawk with some questions and suggestions regarding the "White Paper." He noted that there were a few points he would like to discuss with Mr. Hawk. Mr. Hawk replied that he would be glad to discuss the Paper with him.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center, stated that she just attended the CASA "Swearing In" Ceremony, which also began at 4:30 p.m. She advised that this was the 34<sup>th</sup> CASA "Swearing In" Ceremony.

Ms. Larkin presented the Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and the CASA Report. She reported that there is a 27% increase over last year at this time. Ms. Larkin stated that they have seen 98 children since January 1.

Mr. Selzer asked if the increase is an anomaly or is there something happening in the community to cause the increase. Ms. Larkin replied that there is a lot going on and she anticipates the increase to continue.

Ms. Rackauskas expressed her concern and suggested that the load on employees be monitored. Ms. Larkin indicated that they are looking for ways to deal with the increase.

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

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments on the Monthly Reports of the Public Defender's Office or the States Attorney's Office.

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Mr. Selzer commented that he appreciated the "White Paper" that was submitted by Mr. Hawk and he stated that he found it very informative. He indicated that he believes the EMA equipment and command vehicles could be used effectively by the Sheriff's Department and the Coroner's Office.

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary