

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, March 6, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner, Members Nuckolls, Rackauskas and Harding

Members Absent: Members Owens and O'Connor

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:

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender

Others Present: None

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the February 6, 2006 minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Rackauskas/Harding to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2006 Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner presented the January, 2006 Statistical Reports as submitted by Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk. He asked if there were any comments, questions or observations by members of the Committee. There were none.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, presented the Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center and the CASA Report. She stated that January and February have been very busy at the Children's Advocacy Center.

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

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Chairman Renner presented a request for approval to accept a grant from the Illinois Terrorism Task force as submitted by Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, Emergency Management Agency ("EMA"). Mr. Zeunik explained that the grant is strictly for equipment, with no personnel involved.

Motion by Rackauskas/Nuckolls to Recommend
Approval to Accept a Grant from the Illinois Terrorism
Task Force
Motion carried.

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

Chairman Renner presented the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report for January, 2006 and the 2005 Annual Report as submitted by Sheriff Dave Owens. Ms. LaCasse, Recording Secretary, advised the Committee that Sheriff Owens had a conflict and was unable to attend the meeting, but would be glad to answer any questions at the April meeting.

Chairman Renner reviewed the year-end report, noting that the crime index is up 13% from the previous year, but below 2003, 2002 and 2001. He reported that the jail population is up 7% from 2004 and 2003, but is almost the same as 2001 and a little below the peak in 2002.

Ms. Harding asked what is the jail capacity. Chairman Renner replied that the jail capacity is 205 inmates. He reminded the Committee that the population in December is usually lower, which skews the median of approximately 200 inmates. On a daily basis, the population is very close to the limit or exceeds the limit, causing inmates to be housed outside of the County jail. Chairman Renner indicated that it is usually males that are housed out of County.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if all of the County police cars are computerized. Mr. Zeunik replied that they are all computerized.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented his Monthly Caseload Report, noting that there is nothing out of the ordinary in the report. He asked if anyone had any questions on his report.

Ms. Harding asked if Mr. Yoder had filled his attorney position. Mr. Yoder replied that he has hired Mr. Bill Workman who has been a good addition to the State's Attorneys Office. Chairman Renner stated that Mr. Workman previously worked for McLean County. Mr. Yoder reviewed Mr. Workman's resume, noting the following positions he held:

- Assistant State's Attorney, McLean County from 1989 to 1996;
- State's Attorney, Logan County;
- Corporate Counsel, City of Springfield;
- Assistant State's Attorney, Woodford County;
- Illinois Supreme Court working with the AOIC

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

Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center, presented the Court Services Monthly Caseload Reports for January, 2006. He indicated that there is nothing out of the ordinary in the monthly statistics. Mr. Goldberg pointed out that the Juvenile Detention Center's 2005 Annual Report shows a population increase in out-of-County youth, which is a result of the contracts with Woodford, Logan and Livingston Counties. He stated that other statistics are near or at the 12-year average since the facility opened.

Chairman Renner asked that the minutes reflect that the population increase in the Juvenile Detention Center is the result of the contracts with other Counties placing youth in the McLean County Juvenile Detention facility and the increase in the adult population reflects an increase in McLean County residents being incarcerated, which sometimes results in sending McLean County adult inmates to other County facilities. He pointed out that the influx of youth from out-of-county provides revenue to the County and the need to send adult inmates to other County facilities is an expense.

Ms. Rackauskas asked for an explanation of the AOIC standards, as noted on the report, which stated that Juvenile Probation Services needs .98 Juvenile officers to fulfill the work load. Mr. Goldberg replied that the AOIC recommendations on the average case load per officer often fluctuates from month to month and does not always reflect that an additional Probation Officer is needed. Chairman Renner asked if the County is close to the recommended standards. Mr. Goldberg replied that it is very close to the standards.

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

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Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, reviewed her Monthly Report for January, 2006. She noted that January followed the same pattern as the last few months of 2005. However, Ms. Kimmerling reported that the number of autopsies has increased significantly in February and March.

Ms. Kimmerling stated that the fees collected in January are applicable to 2005. As of January, 2006, no income was received from out of Counties.

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

Chairman Renner presented the January, 2006 Status Reports as submitted by Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration. He asked if there were any comments on the 911 report. There were none.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender presented a request for approval to apply for a County-owned Credit Card to be used by the Public Defender's Office, as recommended by the County Auditor. Ms. Davis noted that her office has not dealt with money in the past, but is willing to accept the recommendation of the Auditor.

Motion by Harding/Nuckolls to Recommend Approval to
Apply for a County-owned Credit Card to be used by
the Public Defender's Office.
Motion carried.

Ms. Davis reviewed her Monthly Caseload report, noting that the felony numbers continue to go up. She stated that in January, 2006, felonies increased by 31% over last year. Ms. Davis indicated that she and Mr. Yoder had hoped felony offenses would have decreased, but it appears that the increase in felony crimes is a sign of the times and will likely not get better.

Chairman Renner asked if Drug Court will help decrease the amount of felonies. Ms. Davis replied that it will help in the long-run, but it will probably not help statistically. She said it is expected that Drug Court will have a dramatic affect on the people with whom it deals, but Drug Court, if fully funded, will have a maximum of only 40 people at a time. When you consider the hundreds of felony offenses, the statistics will remain high.

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Chairman Renner asked if 40 is the number of offenders per year or the total number at any one point in time. Ms. Davis replied that it is 40 people maximum at one time; however, that number will fluctuate during transitional times.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments, questions or observations by the Committee. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Davis.

Chairman Renner presented the February 28, 2006 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$2,049,058.63 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Harding/Rackauskas to recommend approval of the Justice Committee bills as of February 28, 2006.

Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary