

## **Minutes of the Justice Committee**

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, August 29, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Members Nuckolls and O'Connor

Other Board Members  
Present: 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: Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad; Chief Deputy Derick Love; McLean County Sheriff's Department; Mr. Bill Yoder, McLean County State's Attorney; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, McLean County Coroner; Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Jennifer Ho, Risk Management; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender; Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb, Eleventh Circuit Court

Others Present: Ms. Kimberly Wells, Executive Director, Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. with three members of the Committee present. Chairman Renner advised the members present that the Committee would not be able to take any action until a quorum of the Committee is present.

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented her Monthly Statistical Reports for July 2005. She advised the Committee that, since implementing the \$2.00 surcharge on the ATM in August, it has netted \$148.00. Ms. Parker noted that the County will receive one-half of that amount which will go towards the service charge for the ATM. She stated that there has been over \$10,000.00 in transactions on the ATM.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Statistical Report and CASA Report as submitted by Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center.

Chairman Renner presented the statistical reports as submitted by Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked Chief Deputy Derick Love, McLean County Sheriff's Office, to present the Adult Detention Facility Population Report.

Chairman Renner reminded the Committee that no action items could be considered until a full quorum was present.

Chief Deputy Love presented the Monthly Detention Report and offered to answer any questions. There were none.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, reported that July was a good month in the Coroner's Office as it was a bit of a slower month. She reported that the Coroner's Office has met its budgeted revenue amount for 2005. Ms. Kimmerling stated that they have brought in approximately \$47,000.00 in Revenue and the FY '2006 Adopted Budget anticipated \$36,000.00.

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

Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad, presented his General Report, noting that the Rescue Squad responded to two fires (Lexington and Dale Township) and provided air and lights for the arson investigators. He stated that they also provided lights for a traffic accident for the Bloomington Police Department. Mr. Books reported that the Rescue Squad is working on a *boom pole* demonstration, demonstrating the proper removal of an upside down car to free a trapped victim for the Chenoa, Lexington and Gridley Fire Departments.

Mr. Books presented a letter from the Chenoa Community Fire Protection District. He noted that the letter highlights the services that are provided to these rural fire departments by the Rescue Squad.

Chairman Renner indicated that, in the upcoming budget cycle, there may be a proposal to reorganize the Rescue Squad to be under the auspices of E.S.D.A. He asked Mr. Books to clarify his position on the possible changes. Mr. Books replied that the Rescue Squad volunteers train several hours per week, they are knowledgeable about the equipment and they work well together. He stated that, as Acting Chief, it is his responsibility to decide who to send on various calls.

Mr. Books stated that, although he has not been part of the conversation, he does not object to a merger with E.S.D.A. However, he expressed some concerns, noting that it is important to the Rescue Squad to maintain its current structure. Mr. Books also advised that the Rescue Squad lights are incompatible with the E.S.D.A. lights.

Chairman Renner stated that it is his understanding that the merger is more an issue of housing the Volunteer Rescue Squad within a County Department, namely E.S.D.A. Mr. Zeunik indicated that the Rescue Squad would become a separate program within E.S.D.A., which would provide access to funds which would not otherwise be available. He explained that, in preliminary conversations with Mr. Curt Hawk, E.S.D.A. Director, they have discussed restructuring E.S.D.A. to more closely mirror State Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management. Mr. Zeunik stated that formal discussions have not begun regarding the changes and options that might be available in terms of the budget. He noted that this process will begin in the next two weeks, prior to making a submission to the County Board in September.

Chairman Renner indicated that he made a call to the International City-County Management Association for advice. He stated that, in terms of urban Counties, it has become a common practice to restructure volunteer organizations under City and County Departments for liability issues and to assist in receiving possible grants. Mr. Books responded that he appreciates the reasons for the restructuring, but reiterated his concern that the Rescue Squad needs to maintain its current organizational structure.

Chairman Renner assured Mr. Books that the restructuring is not intended to diminish the commitment of the Rescue Squad volunteers and expressed his appreciation for their loyalty.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Books for his report.

Ms. Rackauskas arrived at 5:25 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the minutes from the August 31, 2005 Justice Committee Meeting for approval. Hearing no corrections to those minutes, Chairman Renner advised that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Chief Deputy Love presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington, the County of McLean and the Town of Normal regulating the use by the County of McLean and the Town of Normal of the Police Shooting Range Facility of the City of Bloomington. He stated that this three-year Agreement is the same as the previous one and there is no increase in fees.

Motion by Owens/Harding to recommend approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington, the County of McLean and the Town of Normal regulating the use by the County of McLean and the Town of Normal of the Police Shooting Range Facility of the City of Bloomington.

Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he asked Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center, to present the action item for Court Services.

Mr. Goldberg presented a request for approval of a Contract with Woodford County for an additional 100 days of Detention Bed Space at the Juvenile Detention Center at \$80.00 per day. Their previous contract was for 365 days. Mr. Zeunik advised that the request be clarified on the Board Agenda to reflect that it is an additional 100 days and not a decrease in days as shown on the Justice Committee Agenda.

Motion by Harding/Rackauskas to approve the Contract with Woodford County to increase their use of Detention Bed Space at the Juvenile Detention Center by 100 days at \$80.00 per day.

Motion carried.

Mr. Goldberg reported that the Juvenile Detention Center received a favorable report from the Illinois Department of Corrections. He stated that the July statistics are unremarkable. Mr. Goldberg announced that the Juvenile Detention Center will be audited by the American Correctional Association on September 12-13.

Mr. Owens asked if there is a contract with Livingston County. Mr. Goldberg replied that Livingston County has a contract with McLean County. Mr. Owens asked if Livingston County's new Detention Facility is for adults only or for juveniles as well. Mr. Goldberg replied that it is an adult facility at this time, with provisions for short-term housing of juveniles.

Chairman Renner asked if the Committee had any questions concerning the Court Services General Report. There were none.

Chairman Renner recognized Ms. Castleman on her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with McLean County and thanked her for her many years of service. Ms. Castleman responded that it has been a good twenty-five years.

Ms. Jennifer Ho, Risk Management, presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Proclaiming Tuesday, October 11, 2005 "*It's Time to Talk Day*" in McLean County on behalf of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence (CAEPV). She advised the Committee that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ms. Ho indicated that local community agencies, employers (including McLean County), community law enforcement agencies and many others will be hosting events promoting awareness that domestic violence is an issue in McLean County. She stated that she has also asked permission from the Property Committee to display the Silent Witness exhibits and to host a press conference on October 10 on the grounds of the Law and Justice Center. A Candlelight Vigil is scheduled to be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> on the grounds of the Old Courthouse. Ms. Ho introduced Ms. Kimberly Wells, Executive Director, Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence (CAEPV).

Ms. Wells reported that last year there were Proclamations from the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington, but, because of timing, McLean County did not have an opportunity to make a Proclamation. She indicated that proclaiming October 11 as "*It's Time to Talk Day*" is a way to encourage conversations in the workplace, in the schools and at home to recognize that domestic violence exists in our community.

Ms. Wells stated that McLean County is the first unit of government in the United States to take part in the Corporate Alliance's effort to promote awareness of domestic violence. She noted that this community's support, including placing purple ribbons on the police cars, prompted New York to light up the Empire State Building.

Motion by Owens/Harding to approve a Resolution of  
McLean County Board Proclaiming Tuesday, October  
11, 2005 "*It's Time to Talk Day.*"  
Motion carried.

Ms. Wells stated that CAEPV is encouraging the Governor to do a Proclamation on behalf of the State.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions. Hearing none he thanked Ms. Ho and Ms. Wells for attending.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, presented her Monthly Caseload Report for July.

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

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, distributed his monthly Caseload report, noting that there is nothing significant to point out. He stated that the number of felonies filed in July was high, probably due to the hot weather.

Mr. Owens asked if Mr. Yoder had filled the vacant positions in the State's Attorneys Office. Mr. Yoder replied that he recently hired two attorneys and, currently, has only one vacant position. He indicated that things are stabilizing.

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

Mr. Owens stated that he was scheduled to attend the September 13<sup>th</sup> Jail Review Committee, but indicated that he will be unable to attend. Ms. Rackauskas offered to check her schedule. Chairman Renner stated that he is unable to attend these meetings as they meet the same time as the Executive Committee. He indicated that if Ms. Rackauskas is unable to attend, he would check with Ms. Sondra O'Connor.

Chairman Renner invited Mr. Yoder to begin the Drug Court discussion. Mr. Yoder stated that he asked Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb, Ms. Amy Davis and Ms. Roxanne Castleman to be part of the discussion. He asked Judge Robb to make the presentation.

Judge Robb began by recognizing Judge Drazewski, who was unable to attend, as being one of the key persons involved in the Task Force. She stated that the Justice Community is very optimistic about the Drug Court proposal. Judge Robb noted that the Task Force will meet again on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The group will then go to Jacksonville, Florida in mid-October for Stage III of a three-part program to finalize the rest of the components for the grant application. Judge Robb advised the Committee that the Task Force met with Senator Durbin and Senator Obama's staff people, who gave them valuable information on what they might want to include in their grant proposal. She indicated that they are serving as a resource to the Task Force. Judge Robb stated that the Senators suggested they have in place alternative funding options should the group not be successful in getting an implementation grant. She noted that Representative Dan Brady went to Rock Island with the team in early August to visit a Drug Court and, ultimately, sponsored the cost of the van.

Judge Robb assured the Committee that support for the Drug Court is coalescing and the group is feeling very positive about the project. She stated that in some of the discussions, particularly with the Senators, they were asked what financial contributions the County is willing to make as a show of support and investment in the Drug Court. Judge Robb noted that a northern County (Lake or DuPage) gave their Drug Court Task Force seed money in the amount of \$100,000.00. She advised the Committee that the Senators want assurance that the McLean County

citizens and the community support the Drug Court both emotionally and financially.

Judge Robb recognized that funding is difficult to find in these complicated economic times. She reported that the Task Force wanted to discuss the use of the incremental fees being collected by the Sheriff on the Bonds that are posted, which are currently earmarked for electronic monitoring. Judge Robb stated that the group is exploring and will continue to discuss a proposal that, as a component of Drug Court, will utilize electronic monitoring. She asked the Justice Committee to consider a broader application of the funds being collected by the Sheriff to demonstrate to the Senators that our County is serious about funding and supporting Drug Court. Judge Robb advised the Committee that the Federal Grant will not go on forever and it is necessary to have other funding available for the long-term success of Drug Court.

Judge Robb concluded by reporting that there is not a firm proposal in place at this time. She indicated that, at some point, the entire Task Force needs to attend a Justice Committee meeting to make a presentation on the Drug Court issue.

Chairman Renner clarified that the Task Force is asking for funding available through the increase in the increment to the Sheriff's Booking Fees that went into effect on July 1, 2004. Chairman Renner reminded the Committee that, in March, he asked Mr. Lindberg to analyze the amount of funding that this fee increase was generating. He noted that, at that time, he thought if the increment was near \$40,000.00 annually, it would be possible to budget a Probation Officer. Chairman Renner informed the Committee that the annualized rate, at that time, was under \$30,000.00. He recalled that the electronic monitoring vendor, who gave a presentation to the Justice Committee in January, indicated that electronic monitoring could be administered with a half-time staff member. Chairman Renner asked Mr. Lindberg what the figure is at this time. Mr. Lindberg replied that the increment is tracking at a pace of slightly more than \$20,000.00 per year.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what the status is of using the revenue from the increase in the Landfill Tipping Fee. Chairman Renner replied that the Justice Committee's request for the Tipping Fee revenue was passed on to the Executive Committee where it failed. Ms. Rackauskas suggested that the issue be addressed again as possible future revenue for the proposed implementation of Drug Court. Mr. Zeunik reported that the application for the landfill expansion has been filed with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("IEPA"). It is hoped that, before year end, a decision will be made by the IEPA and an operating permit in place so that the new Host Fee, which is currently in place, can begin some time next year. A full year (12 months) of the projected increase in the Tipping Fee revenue will probably not be seen until 2007.

Mr. Owens asked what is the Task Force's expectations for the financial involvement of the community, non-profit organizations and business in the development of a Drug Court and if there was anything that would prohibit such involvement. Judge Robb replied that they have been identifying people who they would like to see on a larger Advisory Committee. She noted that the League of Women Voters has offered to support a community forum to educate community members and various organizations on the efforts being done by the Task Force to initiate a Drug Court. Judge Robb indicated that the only limitations might be the logistics on how funds might be made available.

Mr. Owens stated that he learned, through NACo, the importance of the support of business, not-for-profits and the community for these types of projects. Mr. Owens suggested that a joint meeting of the Justice and Finance Committees be held to discuss financial support for the Drug Court. Chairman Renner replied that the more immediate concern of the Task Force is to develop a proposal to request the small revenue available by the increment to the Sheriff's Booking Fees.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if there is a timetable for applying for the grant. Judge Robb replied that the grant must be submitted by February, 2006. Mr. Yoder stated that the Task Force wants to show the sustainability of the program after the grant money runs out. He noted that the grant funders also want to see how the program will be sustained when the grant is no longer available. Mr. Yoder indicated that the same holds true for the "earmarked funds" that may be received through the Senators and any other legislators at the Federal level. He advised that these are not matching funds, but a showing of good will toward those funders.

Chairman Renner suggested that, if the Drug Court proposal has a component of electronic monitoring, it would require a broader stated use of the incremental fee revenue.

Ms. Harding asked if the Senators mentioned a figure that would be appropriate for McLean County to contribute to the Drug Court project, in comparison with the \$100,000.00 contributed by the northern County (Lake or DuPage) for their Drug Court. Judge Robb replied that a figure had not been discussed, but they will have a suggestion before the grant request is completed. Ms. Castleman indicated that they will have a better understanding following the next meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. Ms. Rackauskas suggested that this project could be financed through funds from the County, corporate sponsors, grants, Host Fees, etc.



Ms. Harding reiterated that the Justice Committee needs to establish a figure that the County must contribute to the Drug Court before the grant is submitted in February. Judge Robb concurred and stated that Senators Durbin and Obama's staff would like to know, when the proposal is submitted, what amount the local County government is contributing. Ms. Rackauskas asked how this can be done. Chairman Renner suggested that the 2006 budget reflect that the revenue from the increment to the Sheriff's Booking Fees be changed from electronic monitoring to Drug Court, with electronic monitoring as a component of Drug Court. Mr. Zeunik stated that the Task Force can submit a request to the Justice Committee following their trip to the Jacksonville, Florida work session.

Ms. Harding asked how the Task Force feels about incorporating electronic monitoring with the Drug Court. Mr. Yoder replied that Drug Court is set up with rewards and sanctions. He stated that drug addicts always relapse and they are then sanctioned with jail, community service or possibly electronic monitoring.

Mr. Owens asked when the Task Force might hold a work session for the Justice Committee. Judge Robb replied that they could possibly give a presentation in early November.

Chairman Renner stated that he believes this is one of the most important projects for the Justice Committee to make a long-term difference in people's lives. The Committee and the Task Force agreed with Chairman Renner.

Chairman Renner thanked Judge Robb, Mr. Yoder, Ms. Castleman, Ms. Davis and the entire Task Force for taking a leadership role in the Drug Court project. Judge Robb recognized Judge Drazewski and Ms. Castleman for their efforts on behalf of the project.

Mr. Owens stated that he was pleased to see that both the Drug Court and electronic monitoring could be incorporated together to satisfy the proponents for both projects.

Chairman Renner expressed his appreciation that the League of Women Voter's volunteered to be involved to help educate the public on what Drug Court is and the advantages to the community to have a Drug Court.

Ms. Rackauskas conveyed her excitement with the Drug Court project, noting that it will be a significant achievement by McLean County. The Committee members agreed and expressed their appreciation for all of the work done by the Task Force in their efforts to promote the Drug Court project.

Chairman Renner stated that he will apprise Ms. O'Connor of the discussion held regarding the project.

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Chairman Renner presented the August 31, 2005 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a pending total of \$690.90 and a prepaid total of \$1,687,138.74 for a fund total of \$1,687,829.64.

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Motion by Owens/Harding to recommend approval of  
the Justice Committee bills as of August 31, 2005.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any other business or communication.  
Hearing none, Chairman Renner adjourned the Justice Committee meeting at  
6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary

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