

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, August 1, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Vice Chairman Nuckolls, Members Rackauskas, Owens and O'Connor

Members Absent: Chairman Renner and Member Harding

Other Board Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration; Chief Deputy Derick Love; McLean County Sheriff's Department; Mr. Bill Yoder, McLean County State's Attorney; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, McLean County Coroner

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

Vice Chairman Nuckolls called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls stated that the Minutes of the July 6, 2005 Justice Committee would be placed on file if there were no objections or corrections from Committee Members. Hearing no objections or corrections, Vice Chairman Nuckolls placed the Minutes on file.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls informed the Committee that Rev. Tom Shea, Alternatives to Jail Committee has asked to speak to the Committee. Vice Chairman Nuckolls invited Father Shea to come forward and address the Committee. Father Shea distributed an article concerning new intervention programs being offered by the State of California along with a letter to the Committee suggesting that now is an opportune time for the Committee and the Justice Offices to make changes in the programs and services that are available to offenders in the community. Father Shea noted that, based on statistical information which the Alternatives to Jail

Committee has reviewed, there is a core group of repeat offenders who continually recycle through the McLean County Jail. Father Shea suggested that if the Justice System and the community can make an effort to address the problems of this core group of repeat offenders then, perhaps, the revolving door syndrome, which is so prevalent, might be stopped. Father Shea suggested that the Committee Members read the article and note steps that are being taken in California.

Member Rackauskas advised the Committee that at the Juvenile Justice conference that she attended in March, the theme of the conference was very similar to what Father Shea stated. For juvenile offenders, if their behavioral problems can be addressed early on by programs and services available in the community, then juveniles are less likely to commit further offenses or to be repeat offenders. Member Owens commented that, at the NACo Annual Conference, he heard similar comments from various speakers at the Conference. The emphasis was on trying to address problems early on so that individuals are able to make choices which do not result in repeat offenses. Member Rackauskas noted that State's Attorney Yoder and the other Justice Officials have expressed strong support for the establishment of a drug court in McLean County. This is one example of a program that has the potential to address an individual's problems in a way that can result in a positive outcome and, perhaps, correct a pattern of behavior that has led to repeat offenses.

Father Shea advised the Committee that the LZT Space Study report, that was prepared for the County approximately five years ago, cited the following statistic: 70% of those detained in the County jail do not have a high school diploma. Father Shea stated that until the community and the Justice Offices can address the impact of this group on the jail population and the community, the result will continue to be that these individuals return time and time again as repeat offenders to the County Jail and, ultimately, the Department of Corrections. Member Rackauskas commented that this group may have dropped out of high school in the tenth grade and never even attained a GED. Member Rackauskas noted that for many of these individuals, their skill level would test out at a second or third grade level. In looking at the overall community of services that need to be provided, Member Rackauskas suggested again that a comprehensive strategic plan for all County Justice Offices and Departments might be a good starting point to begin addressing some of these issues and problems.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if any other Committee Member had a question or a comment. Hearing none, Vice Chairman Nuckolls thanked Father Shea for the information and encouraged the Committee Members to read both the letter and the accompanying article that Father Shea distributed.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls called upon Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center to present the item for action under Court Services.

Mr. Goldberg requested approval of the third contract extension for Logan County to Lease bed space at the Juvenile Detention Center. This extension guarantees 150 bed days to Logan County for housing their juvenile offenders. Member Owens asked if the contract language was similar to the previous agreements presented to the Justice Committee. Mr. Goldberg replied that the contract is identical to the previous contract agreements. The only changes in the contract are the guaranteed number of beds and the date of the contract. Mr. Goldberg informed the Committee that the proposed contract extension has been reviewed by the State's Attorney's Office. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if there were any additional questions.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend approval of
a Contract Extension for Logan County to lease bed space
at the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center.
Motion carried.

Mr. Goldberg informed the Committee that the monthly statistics presented for the Adult and Juvenile Probation and for the Juvenile Detention Center are uneventful for the month ending June 30th. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if the Committee had any questions concerning the monthly statistical reports. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Goldberg for his attendance.

Mr. John Zeunik informed the Committee that Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, was unavailable to attend this evening's Committee Meeting. Mr. Zeunik advised the Committee that on the Corrected Report "A", which appears on page 13 of the Justice Committee Agenda packet, the correction can be found in the line for Probate cases. The correct number of Probate cases is shown in the report in the Committee's packet. The correct number is 1,079 cases. In last month's packet, the number of Probate cases was listed incorrectly as 1,076.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, to present her monthly statistical report.

Ms. Larkin advised the Committee that the monthly statistical report shows that the number of first interviews year to date continues to track at the high pace that the Center experienced in 2004. Ms. Larkin noted that there have been several staff changes in the Department and the office is still working through those changes at this time. Ms. Larkin informed the Committee that the internal reorganization of the CASA program should be completed by the end of this month and she plans to present a full report to the Committee at the September Meeting.

Member Rackauskas offered congratulations to Ms. Larkin on her 10 year anniversary with McLean County as Director of the Children's Advocacy Center.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if there were any further questions or comments, hearing none, he thanked Ms. Larkin for her report.

Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad presented two letters to the Committee, one letter from the Lexington Fire Department and a second letter from the Chenoa Community Fire Protection District. Mr. Books noted that both letters highlight the services that are provided to these rural fire departments by the rescue squad. In the letter from the Chenoa Community Fire Protection District, the Fire Chief noted that many of the calls are not fire-related calls. As a result, the specialized services and equipment that are available from the County Rescue Squad are often critical when responding to a vehicle accident involving extrication of victims. Mr. Books advised the Committee that the squad recently completed training and certification on blood-borne pathogens. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if there were any questions Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Books for his report.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration, advised the Committee that the statistical reports presented through the end of June are routine. He stated that there was nothing in the reports that he wanted to call attention to. Mr. Gamblin stated that he would be happy to answer any questions that Committee Members might have.

Hearing none, Vice Chairman Nuckolls thanked Mr. Gamblin and asked Chief Deputy Derick Love, McLean County Sheriff's Department to present the items for action. Chief Deputy Love informed the Committee that the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) has awarded a grant to McLean County to purchase a new Live Scan fingerprint machine. The present Live Scan machine will be obsolete as of December 31, 2005. The grant from the ICJIA will provide 75% of the funds needed to purchase the new machine. Grant funding is in the amount of \$17,008.00. The Sheriff's Department will provide the remaining 25% match, which totals \$5,670.00. Chief Deputy Love asked for Committee approval of the Grant Agreement between the ICJIA and McLean County.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if there were any questions, hearing none, he stated that a motion for approval is in order.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to recommend approval
of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Grant
Agreement for the purchase of a new Live Scan Fingerprint
Machine for the Sheriff's Department. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Love informed the Committee that items F1(b)(c) and (d) can be grouped together and approved in one motion. The County, the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington have been awarded an Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. Under the terms of this

grant award, the County must negotiate with the City and the Town to determine how the total grant amount will be split among the three agencies. Chief Deputy Love advised the Committee that the Justice Assistance Grant totals \$34,035.00. Pursuant to the agreement approved by the Town, the City and the County, each entity will receive \$11,345.00. Chief Deputy Love advised the Committee that the County intends to use its share of the grant to purchase tasers to be used by Court Security personnel. Normal Police Department plans to use their share to purchase mobile data computers and in-car video-audio systems. The City of Bloomington intends to use the grant funds to purchase additional security cameras and addition security equipment for use in the police department. Chief Deputy Love recommended that the Committee approve the receipt of the grant award and the Interlocal Agreement between the County and the Town of Normal and the Interlocal Agreement between County and the City of Bloomington.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if the Committee Members had any questions for Chief Deputy Love. Member Rackauskas asked if private citizens can purchase the same tasers that law enforcement agencies purchase. Chief Deputy Love replied that he was not certain of the legal requirements for a private citizen to purchase a taser. He advised the Committee that he would look into this and get back to them with that information. Member O'Connor commented that the purchase of tasers is probably no different than a private citizen wanting to purchase the same handguns, riffles and automatic weapons that various police agencies use. Member Rackauskas stated that she was concerned that private citizens could in fact purchase tasers that were equal to or possibly superior to those that are being purchased for use by law enforcement agencies. Chief Deputy Love advised that he would be happy to look into this issue and report back to Committee Members. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if there were any additional questions for Chief Deputy Love. Hearing none, a motion is in order.

Motion by Rackauskas/Owens to recommend approval of the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Award and the Interlocal Agreement between the County of McLean and the Town of Normal for the 2005 Byrne Justice Assistance Program Award and approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the County of McLean and the City of Bloomington the 2005 Byrne Justice Assistance Program Award.
Motion carried. Member O'Connor voted "no".

Chief Deputy Love asked if there were any questions concerning the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report for July. Hearing none, Vice Chairman Nuckolls thanked Chief Deputy Love for his presentation to the Committee.

State's Attorney Bill Yoder invited Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner, to present her monthly report prior to his presentation. Ms. Kimmerling presented the Coroner's Monthly Statistical report for June. She noted that the year-to-date out-of-County autopsies total number of cases is down from last year. This decrease is the result of Peoria County doing most of their cases in Peoria. McLean County only receives Peoria cases when Dr. Hnilica is on vacation or is otherwise unavailable to do their cases. Ms. Kimmerling noted that the year-to-date revenue from copy fees and morgue fees is on budget through the end of June. In fact, as noted in the monthly report the morgue fee revenue as of June 30 nearly equals the amount budgeted for the fiscal year. Ms. Kimmerling presented a brief explanation to the Committee of the difference between the category for medical sudden death and the category for other pending toxicology and autopsy results and or an inquest ruling. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if Committee Members had any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Kimmerling for her report.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented the Monthly Case Load Report and the Asset Forfeiture Fund Report through the end of July. State's Attorney Yoder noted that California enacted laws that were intended to take a very hard line on repeat offenders. The famous "*3 Strikes and You're Out Rule*" was initiated in California. Because of the hard line taken by the State, California found it necessary to initiate a large building program for new prisons in the State. In fact, State's Attorney Yoder noted that California built more new prisons than any other state. There are two consequences to the decisions made in California. First, when an individual continues to commit repeat offenses under California law, that individual will be incarcerated for a longer period of time. As these repeat offenders are taken off the street, one would expect that criminal activity would decrease. Secondly, there is a limit on the number of prisons and prison beds that can be built with the support of the public and the funding necessary to not only construct the prisons, but to staff and operate them. As a result, the State may need to look at other programs and other services to address repeat offenders and to avoid the cost of continuing to build and staff new prisons. Mr. Yoder advised the Committee that it is difficult to rehabilitate an adult offender, especially a repeat adult offender. He noted that the programs and services that seem to work best are offered to children between the ages of 0-6 and 0-9. If you can impact a child's life in the early years, then the likelihood of that child committing offenses in the pre-teen and teen years and as a young adult are lessened.

Member O'Connor commented that all of the research that she has seen supports the need to reach a child before the age of 14. If programs and services are not available to that child so that that individual can adapt to school and community standards of behavior, then it is difficult to change that individual after the age of 14. Mr. Yoder agreed and supported the appropriation of federal or state funding for early childhood intervention programs in the community.

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Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Yoder for his attendance at the Meeting and for his comments to the Committee this evening.

Member Owens informed the Committee that he recently returned from the NACo annual conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. He noted that the Conference was well attended and a large number of first time attendees attended the Conference. He stated that at the September Justice Committee meeting, he will present a report to the Committee on his trip to the NACo Conference.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls advised the Committee that he has bills in the amount of \$1,964,003.98, which have been reviewed and approved by the County Auditor for transmittal to the Justice Committee. Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked for a motion to approve the bills.

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Motion by O'Connor/Rackauskas to recommend approval of the Justice Committee bills as of July 31, 2005. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if there were any other business or communication. Hearing none, Vice Chairman Nuckolls adjourned the Justice Committee meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Zeunik
County Administrator

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