

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Wednesday, July 6, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

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. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney

Others Present: Mr. Lucas Hellmer, Illinois State University Intern; Mr. James Malic, Illinois Wesleyan University Intern

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

Chairman Renner presented the minutes from the June 6, 2005 Justice Committee Meeting for approval, noting a correction to the Minutes on Page 2, Paragraph 1.

Motion by O'Connor/Owens to Approve the Minutes of the June 6, 2005 Justice Committee meeting, as amended.

Motion carried.

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Illinois State University Police to provide Network Access to recorded phone calls. He noted that this is similar to Agreements that were approved in February with the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal. Mr. Nelson stated that both parties on the telephone call are notified that the call is being recorded. Currently, the conversation is being

Recorded on a CD ROM. This Agreement allows for the transfer of that data from CD ROM to the Network.

Chairman Renner advised that he received a telephone call from a television station in regard to the Agreement. He was asked why Illinois State University needs this recording capability. Mr. Nelson replied that ISU currently is accessing the recorded information the same way that Bloomington and Normal previously received the information, via a CD ROM. He explained that the Agreement allows these files to be accessed directly via the network rather than requiring a physical transfer of the data via CD-ROM or other media. In other words, there is no new access being created, but rather the method of delivery is changing.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Illinois State University to Provide Network Access to Recorded Phone Calls.

Motion carried with Member Nuckolls abstained from voting.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked him for attending.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services distributed the May 2005 Statistical Report. She informed the Committee that she had inadvertently submitted the March report in the Agenda. Ms. Castleman reported that the Juvenile Detention Center's Out of County population has been at a record number with an average of 13 juveniles a day. In February 2005 there were only four juveniles a day. She indicated that all Juvenile Detention Centers throughout Illinois are at capacity. However, Ms. Castleman noted that there are currently only five out of county juveniles at the Center.

Mr. Owens remarked on the AOIC work load standards, noting that an additional 0.32 juvenile officers are needed to accommodate the work load. He observed that there seems to be more grant opportunities for juvenile offenders than for adult offenders. Mr. Owens asked if she is currently seeking more grant monies. Ms. Castleman replied that many of the current juvenile programs started out as grants, including Early Intervention Program, Extended Day and Juvenile Intensive Officer. She noted that they are currently looking at adult grant funding for drug court for next year. Ms. Castleman agreed that there is generally more grant money available for programs and services for juvenile offenders than adult offenders.

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

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented the May 2005 Statistical Reports. She also presented an update on the ATM machine, noting that it is going very well. Last month there were 121 transactions that were not Credit Union-based, totaling \$9,800 in withdrawals from the machine. Ms. Parker stated that there were seven transactions that were Credit Union members, totaling \$320.00. She stated that, in May, there were 103 transactions that were non-Credit Union members and 11 Credit Union Transactions. Ms. Parker reported that a \$2.00 service charge will be added to the machine. The County will receive one-half, or \$1.00, from every transaction that will be applied towards the maintenance of replenishing the cash in the machine.

Mr. Owens asked if all transactions will be charged a service fee. Ms. Parker replied that Credit Union members are exempt from the service charge. She reminded the Committee that the ATM machine is located on the third floor of the Law and Justice Center. Ms. Parker expressed her hope that adding the service charge will not decrease the use of the machine.

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

Chairman Renner presented the Statistics and Quarterly Report for the Jury Commission as submitted by Ms. Cindy Brand. He asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, presented her monthly Statistical Report. She updated the CAC report, noting that there were 125 interviews in June as compared to last year's total of 102. Ms. Larkin stated that first-time interviews are up 5%.

Ms. Larkin reported that there have been some changes in the staff and she expects continued changes in the near future. Ms. Harding asked what staff changes are expected. Ms. Larkin replied that a staff person is leaving at the end of July to go to nursing school.

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

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration, presented the 911 Status Reports for May 2005. He announced that on Tuesday, June 28th, the ETSB passed the Resolution granting Bloomington a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Mr. Gamblin advised that he is attending a meeting on Monday, July 13th with Bloomington to discuss how to proceed.

Mr. Gamblin reported that the FCC has reversed its decision on the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and decided to require VOIP services to provide 911 information. Mr. Gamblin noted that, due to this change, several VOIP service providers have indicated they will institute a 911 surcharge.

Mr. Gamblin stated that 911 equipment is being updated, which will be system-wide beginning in October or November. He stated that the purpose for the update is to accommodate VOIP. The update on the software will allow them to have more flexibility with cellular telephone calls. Mr. Gamblin noted that this will allow them to separate 911 cellular trunks from 911 land lines. Also, the technology will be available to reroute the calls wherever necessary.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if calls coming in for Bloomington will be rerouted to Bloomington. Mr. Gamblin replied that calls can currently be rerouted with land lines but the new upgrade will give them the ability to transfer cell phones as well.

Mr. Gamblin announced that they will be putting in the second of two mobile 911 positions. He stated that currently the mobile 911 positions serve as overflow positions for the 911 Center should there be a large surge of calls. However, the new mobile positions can be placed in the new mobile command center. This means that the mobile center can be taken to any disaster area for tactical dispatch and to handle emergencies on-site.

Mr. Owens asked if Bloomington's equipment will be compatible with the 911 Center. Mr. Gamblin stated that, should Bloomington become a backup for McLean County 911, the Normal backup center will be closed and that equipment will be used by Bloomington. He indicated that the ICC has required Illinois State University to fold into the County 911 system, as their system has not kept up with the technological advancements. Mr. Owens asked when this will take place. Mr. Gamblin replied that they have asked the ICC to include this change-over in the same hearing as the Bloomington issue. He expects this should all happen in the middle part of next year.

Mr. Owens asked if there is additional cost or revenue to the County when ISU moves into the system. Mr. Gamblin responded that there should be a minimal cost for the trunk lines. The County currently collects a surcharge from ISU.

Ms. Harding commended Mr. Gamblin on the recent radio interview he gave regarding Bloomington withdrawing from MetCom. She noted that he did a very good job explaining the issues.

Mr. Lindberg responded to Mr. Owens' question regarding compatible equipment. He stated that Bloomington will continue to operate on a 400 MHz system, whereas the County's system will be 800 MHz StarCom 21. The County made provisions in the system to have a permanent patch to the Bloomington 400 MHz system via a dedicated 800 MHz frequency. Mr. Lindberg reported that the new equipment the County will receive (from the grant that would have gone to Normal) will be in Bloomington's dispatch center so it will be fully compatible with the County.

Mr. Lindberg indicated that Bloomington has elected to acquire its own computer-aided dispatch system, which is the part that takes the radio call, puts it on the screen and includes all the pertinent address and telephone information. This will be a different system than MetCom's and they will not be compatible with each other.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked him for attending.

Chairman Renner presented the June 2005 Detention Facility Population report as submitted by Sheriff Owens. He asked if there were any questions regarding the report. There were none.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented the June, 2005 Caseload Report and distributed the June Drug Report. He reported that the drug cases continue to increase. Mr. Yoder noted that felony and misdemeanor caseloads are where they were expected. He advised that, since he became the State's Attorney, the felony caseload has dropped from about 1,500 to 1,300 per year. But, the actual number of hearings on felony cases has gone up significantly from year to year over the last five years. Mr. Yoder stated that he believes this shows that more serious cases are being prosecuted.

Ms. Harding asked about the status of hiring a new attorney. Mr. Yoder replied that he has hired, is continuing to hire and currently has two vacancies with another vacancy expected on July 15th.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what procedure needs to be done to evaluate the entire justice system, including answering the questions of where we are, what the needs are and what are the goals. She expressed her belief that a Countywide plan is needed.

Mr. Yoder stated that there are many on-going plans, including plans for drug court and programs designed to address the issues that come up through the courts. He noted that the caseload in the Juvenile Division is so large it is becoming very difficult to manage.

In regard to the idea of a County plan, Mr. Yoder indicated that each of the various offices and departments have different goals, as it is the nature of these different disciplines to be adversarial. For instance, the State's Attorneys Office has a different plan than the Public Defender's Office. He stated that it would be very difficult to develop a Countywide plan that the entire justice community will agree upon. He pointed out that there are several plans and programs being implemented, considered or researched to continually improve the justice system. To implement one over-all plan for the County will be difficult.

Ms. Rackauskas reiterated her desire to have a written plan to review and to take to the community in order to gain their support. She reiterated that in order to receive financial assistance from the community, there must be a firm plan in place.

Chairman Renner recognized Mr. Yoder's point of view that the different justice entities have different goals and needs.

Ms. Rackauskas suggested that the entire justice community get together, share their plans and find the mutual needs that can be incorporated and prioritized into one major plan.

Chairman Renner recommended that the Committee ask the justice department heads to prepare a succinct list of needs and goals. Mr. Owens agreed and also suggested that the lists be compiled into a priority order.

Mr. Nuckolls asked what will be done with the information once it is compiled. Chairman Renner replied that it could be used as a guide when resources become available.

Ms. O'Connor asked if Ms. Rackauskas is looking for an overall mission statement and a flow chart that chronicles what each department is doing and planning. Ms. Rackauskas responded by asking where the justice community should be headed – how much should it be punitive and how much restorative, such as drug court and rehab. She stressed the importance of justice in terms of the quality of life in the community.

Ms. Harding agreed that it is important to raise the community's level of awareness of the justice community programs. However, she stated that the Committee is not qualified to develop a plan on behalf of the justice community. Further, she recognized that we have entrusted the justice community with the task of determining the needs and objectives that will benefit the community and it is important to trust their judgment.

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Chairman Renner suggested that the Administrator's Office collect a two-page document from each justice department head with a list of their plans and goals.

Ms. Harding and Ms. O'Connor reiterated Mr. Nuckolls' question of what will then be done with the information. Chairman Renner replied that it may assist the Justice Committee in thinking more broadly on the justice issues facing the community. He noted that it could also help in determining budget issues.

Mr. Yoder stated that everyone in the justice community would be more than willing to address the Committee with their ideas on where they are heading, and what their goals and plans are. He noted that, as the community changes, their plans change. Mr. Yoder indicated they are looking at different tools and programs that fit the needs of the community. He shared his belief that the drug court program will be a reality within the next 12-18 months. Mr. Yoder advised they are working hard to keep methamphetamine out of the County, which is one of the major issues facing the entire country. He pointed out other issues facing the justice community, including the increase in child welfare and juvenile cases, as well as the influx of people who are coming into the community to sell drugs. Mr. Yoder summed up his remarks by stating that plans are always evolving along with the continual changes in circumstances within the community.

Chairman Renner suggested that these are the types of comments and observations that would be helpful for the Committee to receive on an annual basis. He asked that the Committee consider having a yearly meeting to exchange ideas and goals. Ms. Rackauskas proposed that the Justice Community develop a presentation to be delivered, by one representative, to the entire Board.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked him for attending.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Report for May 2005 as submitted by Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, reported that the Jail Review Committee meets on the last Thursday of odd months, which would be January, March, May, July, September and November at 7:00 p.m. The Chairman of the Jail Review Committee is Father Thomas Shea and he can be reached at 662-7361.

Ms. Rackauskas asked Committee members to sign up to attend one meeting each per year. She offered to attend the July meeting. Mr. Owens agreed to attend the September meeting.

Mr. Owens stated that the Finance Committee made a decision to have the Committee bills available for perusal a half hour before the Committee meeting. He asked if that procedure would be consistent for all Committees. Mr. Zeunik explained that the bills are always available at least one hour before the meetings. He indicated that the outside auditor noted a problem in the software wherein some bills were being posted after the close of that month that should have been recorded in the prior month. Mr. Zeunik noted that the software problem has been corrected. He invited Committee members to review the bills prior to the meeting if they so desired.

Chairman Renner presented the June 30, 2005 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a pending total of \$ 43,973.56 and a prepaid total of \$2,443,258.16 for a fund total of \$2,487,231.72.

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Motion by Rackauskas/Owens to recommend approval
of the Justice Committee bills as of June 30, 2005.
Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting
was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary

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