

Minutes of the Justice Committee

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

Members Present: Members Owens, Harding, Rackauskas

Members Absent: Chairman Renner, Members Nuckolls and O'Connor

Other Board Members

Present: Board Chairman Sweeney

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. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Sheriff Dave Owens; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney

Others Present: Mr. Derick Love, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Ms. Margie Meegan-Jordan, Director, Victim Witness Service

Acting Chairman Owens called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Acting Chairman Owens presented the minutes from the May 2, 2005 Justice Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Harding/Rackauskas to Approve the Minutes of the May 2, 2005 Justice Committee meeting.
Motion carried.

Acting Chairman Owens presented the April 2005 Statistical Reports as submitted by Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk. Acting Chairman Owens asked if there were any questions or comments on the report. There were none.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001—Coroner's Office 0031. She explained that this Emergency Appropriation Ordinance accounts for a donation received from the McLean County Funeral Directors Association to be spent for the betterment of the Coroner's Office. Ms. Kimmerling indicated that the funds might be used to purchase a new video camera or goggles for a DUI Prevention project. She asked the Committee for their approval to deposit these funds.

Motion by Rackauskas/Harding to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001 – Coroner's Office 0031.

Motion carried.

Ms. Kimmerling submitted the April 2005 Monthly report. She noted that, year to date, the number of deaths reported to the Coroner's Office is higher than in 2004, but the number of autopsies performed is slightly lower. Ms. Kimmerling indicated that the discrepancy in out-of-county autopsies is a result of Peoria not sending as many cases to McLean County.

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

Acting Chairman Owens presented the monthly Statistical Report and CASA Report as submitted by Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center. Acting Chairman Owens asked if there were any comments or questions on the monthly statistical or CASA reports. There were none.

Acting Chairman Owens presented the 911 Status Reports for April 2005 as submitted by Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration. He also presented the MetCom Problem Reports, which he requested at the May meeting and are an informational tool for the Committee.

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Sheriff Dave Owens presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean, the McLean County Sheriff and the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority. He explained that this Agreement would allow the McLean County Sheriff's Office to hire a full-time Sheriff's Deputy to provide general security at the Central Illinois Regional Airport. This Deputy will be scheduled to work eight (8) hours per day, five (5) days per week and the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority agrees to reimburse the McLean County Sheriff's Office for all hours worked.

Sheriff Owens indicated that an Intergovernmental Agreement between these same two entities was approved earlier to provide security on a limited basis at the Airport. He noted that this is working well. However, it would be easier to manage if the Sheriff's Office had full-time employees at the Airport. Sheriff Owens indicated that it is his hope to eventually have two full-time Deputies at the Airport.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what would happen, since this is an Intergovernmental Agreement, if the Airport Authority decides they do not want this service any more. Sheriff Owens responded that the least senior person would be discharged. However, he noted that funding is available through 2007.

Acting Chairman Owens informed the Committee that an action item regarding the FTE position will be presented at the Finance Committee Meeting on June 8.

Ms. Rackauskas asked why the Sheriff's Office decided to provide a full-time position at the Airport instead of using Deputies on an overtime basis. Sheriff Owens replied that Deputies assigned to the Airport on a full-time basis would become more familiar and provide better security at the Airport. She also asked why the Airport Authority didn't hire their own employees. Sheriff Owens replied that this was his initiative, which the Airport Authority supports.

Ms. Rackauskas stated that she intends to question any Intergovernmental Agreement until she is satisfied that it is appropriate. She asked for clarification on point Number 5 of the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding a situation wherein the Sheriff's Deputy may be unable to provide service due to a personnel shortage, an emergency situation or exigent circumstances. Sheriff Owens responded that this was carry-over language from the previous Agreement and, with full-time people, this situation could be avoided.

Acting Chairman Owens asked if there were any further questions regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement. There were none.

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Motion by Harding/Sweeney to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the County of McLean, the McLean County Sheriff and the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority.

Motion carried.

Sheriff Owens requested approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001 – Sheriff's Department 0029. He noted that this is a request to adopt the budget to create the FTE for the Airport Authority position. Mr. Lindberg explained that this funds one-half of an FTE on a full-time basis for the remaining six months of the year.

Acting Chairman Owens asked for clarification on the salary from the full-time, six-month salary of \$17,000 to the salary next year when it is a full-time, 12-month FTE. Mr. Lindberg replied that it will not quite double, as some of the expenses in the \$17,000 are one-time expenses, such as the purchase of police equipment.

Motion by Rackauskas/Sweeney to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001 – Sheriff's Department 0029.

Motion carried.

Sheriff Owens presented a request for approval to enter into a contract with Securus Technologies to provide inmate telephone services. He indicated that this is the Company that has provided Inmate Telephone Service to McLean County for the past ten years and he is very pleased with their service. Further, they have provided state of the art equipment that allows the Sheriff's Department to monitor phone calls for investigative purposes at no additional cost.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if all inmate phone calls are recorded. Sheriff Owens replied that all calls are recorded and the inmates are informed that the calls are being monitored.

Ms. Harding asked if this was a one-year contract. Sheriff Owens replied that it is a three-year contract and that the reimbursement rate to the County will increase 4%.

Ms. Rackauskas asked where are the funds deposited that the County makes from the commission on the phone calls. Sheriff Owens responded that the revenue goes into the General Fund.

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Ms. Rackauskas asked what the County makes in a year on the telephone commission. Mr. Zeunik responded that it was approximately \$120,000 last year. Ms. Rackauskas asked if it is standard practice for jails to make revenue on inmate phone calls. Sheriff Owens replied that with most medium and large Sheriff's Departments, an inmate phone contract with a commission paid to the County is standard practice.

Motion by Harding/Rackauskas to Recommend Approval to enter into a Contract with Securus Technologies to Provide Inmate Telephone services – Sheriff's Department.
Motion carried.

Sheriff Owens presented the April 2005 Caseload Report. He noted that the report does not reflect the fact that, in the last couple of weeks, the population has gone up significantly.

Acting Chairman Owens asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Sheriff Owens for his report.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, introduced Ms. Margie Meegan-Jordan, Director, Victim Witness Service. Mr. Yoder presented a request for approval of an Interagency Agreement between the County of McLean on behalf of the Office of the State's Attorney and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for the Implementation of the Law Enforcement and Prosecutor-Based Victim Assistance Services Program. He indicated that this is a renewal of a program that has been in effect for two years.

Members of the Committee expressed appreciation with the thorough and well-documented report.

Ms. Meegan-Jordan reported that the Interagency Agreement has been very successful and the public has been very supportive. She noted that the program has one full-time and two part-time advocates, with one who speaks fluent Spanish. Ms. Meegan-Jordan announced that the program has provided advocate support to the families of violent crimes; offering someone who can sit in court with them, answer their questions and go over information with them. She noted that the Victim Witness Service worked with 27,000 people last year.

Ms. Meegan-Jordan indicated that the Federal Government cut the program from a two year renewal to a one year renewal. She noted that the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has commended the McLean County State's Attorneys Office on what they have done with this program.

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Ms. Harding asked for clarification on the section of the Agreement found on Page 70 of the Committee Packet, wherein the number of clients anticipated was listed at zero and the number of clients actually received was 2,442. Ms. Meegan-Jordan replied that, when the first grant was written, former State's Attorney Charlie Reynard expected the case status and disposition information to come directly from Victim Witness Service and not from the advocates. Ms. Meegan-Jordan indicated that she was able to get approval from the Authority so that the advocates can provide the information.

Ms. Meegan-Jordan offered to share information on specific case summaries if Committee members were interested.

Motion by Harding/Sweeney to Recommend Approval of an Interagency Agreement between the County of McLean on Behalf of the Office of the State's Attorney and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for the Implementation of the Law Enforcement and Prosecutor-Based Victim Assistance Services Program.
Motion carried.

Mr. Yoder commented on the *Operation Kid* program that was approved a few months ago. Ms. Meegan-Jordan reported that 1100 DNA kits were distributed, almost 900 people attended the event, the event was publicized by newspaper, television and radio, and she will be taking extra kits to the McLean County Fair to distribute. She announced that it was a very successful program.

Mr. Yoder presented the Statistical Report and distributed the May drug report. He indicated that the State's Attorneys Office has been very busy.

Ms. Harding asked if the State's Attorneys Office staff recently attended a Drug Court Conference. Mr. Yoder replied that he recently attended the conference in Louisiana. He reported that the conference was very beneficial and informative. Mr. Yoder indicated that there will be another conference in October.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if Drug Court is the direction he would like the County take. Mr. Yoder replied that if it was done correctly, it would be beneficial. He noted that there were several different points of view represented at the conference in Louisiana, including the Public Defender's Office, the Circuit Court, Court Services, treatment providers and representatives from Chestnut Health Systems. Mr. Yoder reported Mr. Mark Godley, Chestnut Health Systems, developed an Assessment Tool that is used nationally, which he was asked to describe at the Conference.

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Ms. Rackauskas asked if Drug Court is a program that could be used in conjunction with electronic monitoring or if it is a higher priority than electronic monitoring. Mr. Yoder responded that he does not see it in association with electronic monitoring at all. He said that Drug Court is a totally different type of program that helps treat the individual and, hopefully, stop the substance abuse.

Ms. Rackauskas asked, if the County's budget only allowed for one program, would Mr. Yoder choose electronic monitoring or Drug Court. Mr. Yoder replied that he would support Drug Court.

Acting Chairman Owens asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked him for his report.

Acting Chairman Owens presented the April 2005 Monthly Case Load Report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender.

Acting Chairman Owens asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services and Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center, presented a request for approval of a Contract extension for Logan County's bed space at the Juvenile Detention Center. Ms. Castleman noted that this is an extension to the January contract for 120 beds. Logan County has requested an additional 100 beds at \$80.00 per day.

Mr. Sweeney asked if other counties pay more than \$80 per day. Ms. Castleman replied that the per diem rate is \$110, \$90 in the Circuit and \$80 per day for Circuit Contracts. The Contract is \$80 because of the competition for bed space and because it is guaranteed funds.

Motion by Rackauskas/Harding to Recommend
Approval of the Contract Extension for Logan County's
Bed Space at the Juvenile Detention Center.
Motion carried.

Ms. Castleman presented the April 2005 Court Services Adult/Juvenile Division Statistics and the McLean County and Out of County Juvenile Detention Center Statistics.

Acting Chairman Owens asked Ms. Castleman if given the choice between electronic monitoring and Drug Court, which would Court Services prefer. Ms. Castleman stated that she agreed with Mr. Yoder that Drug Court would meet

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more needs in the community and, if you can take care of the drug problem, it would alleviate many of the other problems.

Acting Chairman Owens asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Castleman and Mr. Goldberg.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, indicated he had no action items and would be willing to answer any questions anyone had.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if a sign-up sheet could be placed on the agenda of the next Justice Committee agenda for Committee members to sign up to attend the Jail Review meetings. Mr. Zeunik replied that one could be added to the Agenda.

Acting Chairman Owens presented the May 31, 2005 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a pending total and a prepaid total of \$1,501,074.30.

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Motion by Rackauskas/Harding to recommend approval of the Justice Committee bills as of May 31, 2005.

Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Acting Chairman Owens stated that he would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Harding/Rackauskas to adjourn the Meeting of the Justice Committee at 5:43 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary

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