

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, March 7, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Member Owens

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; Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner

Others Present: Mr. Derick Love, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Mr. Bob Clark, Assistant Director, ESDA

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the minutes from the February 7, 2005 Justice Committee Meeting for approval. Hearing no corrections to those minutes, Chairman Renner advised that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Chairman Renner presented the Children's Advocacy Center reports as submitted by Ms. Billie Larkin. Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented a request for approval of an ATM Agreement by and between the County of McLean and Bloomington Municipal Credit Union. She reported that she would like to put an ATM Machine on the 3rd floor of the Law and Justice Center. This would provide an opportunity for customers to get cash to pay their court obligations. She stated that the Bloomington Municipal Credit Union would be the business partner on this project.

The Credit Union will purchase the machine at a cost of \$10,000, and will allow County employees, who are Bloomington Municipal Credit Union members, to use their ATM cards to make cash withdrawals from the machine. It will be a service to County employees as well as to customers. Ms. Parker indicated that the County will bear the cost of a maintenance agreement with the Credit Union. The Credit Union will monitor the machine, stock the cash and handle any problems with the machinery. The County will supply the phone line. The Credit Union will check the machine daily and will make sure the machine is never below \$5,000. Ms. Parker reported that the machine will handle credit cards, debit cards or ATM cards.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if there is a way to track the success of the ATM machine. Ms. Parker replied that the County will receive quarterly reports from the Credit Union. She noted that the Circuit Clerk in Will County and Lake County have an ATM machine and report that it is very successful.

Mr. Nuckolls asked what the maintenance cost would be. Ms. Parker reported that it is \$100.00 a month, plus \$30.00 for the phone line. The machine will be placed on the 3rd floor near the drop box.

Motion by Nuckolls/Harding to Recommend Approval of an ATM Agreement by and between the County of McLean and Bloomington Municipal Credit Union.
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Derick Love, Chief Deputy Sheriff, presented a request for approval of a Resolution transferring monies from the General Fund 0001 to the COPS in Schools Fund 0166 for Fiscal Year 2004. Mr. Love explained that this is a four year grant that was entered into in 2000. In the fourth year of the grant, Tri-Valley was to pay \$20,000.00 and the County was responsible for the remainder. Mr. Love stated that the \$30,343.65 noted in the Resolution represents the County's obligation based on that grant.

Motion by Rackauskas/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of the Resolution Transferring Monies from the General Fund 0001 to the COPS in Schools Fund 0166 for Fiscal Year 2004.
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented a request for approval to accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to raise community awareness during National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). This grant is to be used to set up a booth at the Eastland Mall on April 16, 2005 to educate people on victims' rights.

Motion by Harding/Rackauskas to Recommend Approval to Accept a Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to Raise Community Awareness during National Crime Victims' Week (NCVRW).
Motion carried

Mr. Yoder presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Domestic Violence Grant Fund 0160. He explained that, in 2004, the State's Attorneys Office received a grant to pay for initial start-up costs for the Domestic Violence program. The first quarter would have been in 2004, but because there was a late start, not all of the money was spent. This Emergency Appropriation Ordinance is to move the dollars into the 2005 budget.

Motion by Nuckolls/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Domestic Violence Grant Fund 0160.
Motion carried

Ms. Harding asked about the education booth that is being set up for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. She wondered how children can take advantage of the DNA Kit, as described in the proposal, if they are unable to visit the booth or if the grant were not received. Mr. Yoder replied that contact information would be publicized and available for those who were unable to visit the booth.

Mr. Yoder informed the Committee that the State's Attorney Office Child Support Contract through the Illinois Department of Public Aid has become an annual battle to renew due to budget constraints faced by the State. He indicated that he met with Ms. Pam Compton who is negotiating the contract for the next State Fiscal Year and she assured him that the contract would be forthcoming with at

least identical financial commitments by the State under the exact same contract provisions. Mr. Yoder stated that he requested an increase, which will be negotiated.

Mr. Nuckolls asked if the State's Attorneys Office had received the funding for the Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement. Mr. Yoder replied that he had received a large check from the State within the last couple of weeks. He noted that the State is very far behind in fulfilling their financial commitments.

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

Chairman Renner presented the 911 Administration status reports as submitted by Mr. Bill Gamblin. Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the Public Defender's Monthly Case Load Report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis. Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad, reviewed some of the training being taken by the Volunteer Rescue Squad. He reported that members of the Rescue Squad attended an Extrication Safety Training session, which educated them on the new hybrid cars and where to cut into the car without getting shocked. Members also attended the ICS Incident Command School. Mr. Books indicated that Rescue Squad members will do a refresher program on Hazmat at the end of April.

Mr. Books reported that a new radiator was built for the truck, which was \$550.00. He noted that there was also a gas line leak on the truck, which was repaired for \$300.00.

Mr. Books expressed concern with rumors he has heard that the Rescue Squad may be discontinued. He indicated that several volunteers have extensive years on the Rescue Squad.

Chairman Renner reported that Mr. Books contacted him last week with his concerns. He stated that, at this time, the Committee has no proposal to merge the Rescue Squad with ESDA. Chairman Renner noted that there may be certain types of grants that may be easier to attain if there were a merger. He advised that there is no current plan to dissolve the function of the Rescue Squad, but it might be organizationally changed.

Mr. Zeunik clarified that there have been discussions with Mr. Curt Hawk and with Mr. Fred Finck regarding the possibility of merging with ESDA in order to take advantage of opportunities to apply for grant funding as a County agency.

Ms. Rackauskas recalled that this issue was discussed a couple years ago during budget time. Mr. Zeunik replied that it was discussed in conjunction with the new Homeland Security initiatives, the Bioterrorism and Hazmat initiatives. He noted that ESDA has the opportunity to apply for grants for certain types of equipment and response vehicles. Mr. Zeunik stated that one of things they talked about is leaving the Rescue Squad intact, but instead of having it exist as an entity onto itself, fold it in as a program that would be part of the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency. They would still have all of their volunteer members and still have a distinct budget that would be identified and unique to the Rescue Squad, but would give them the ability to access, through ESDA, grant opportunities that would otherwise not be available.

Mr. Zeunik reiterated Chairman Renner's comments that nothing has been presented to the Committee in a formal proposal, nor has it been discussed or acted upon. He stated that if the Committee were to recommend such a proposal, it would be done as part of the Fiscal Year 2006 budget as that is when this type of change or reorganization would be made.

Mr. Books responded that they have had discussions and would not have a problem with the Rescue Squad being under ESDA, but they would want to have the command structure remain as it is. He explained that the Rescue Squad structure is different than that of ESDA. Mr. Books described the difference as being similar to the Pentagon which controls the Department of Defense, but then there is the Army, Marines, Air Force and Navy, which are all separate. He stated that his concern is with the rumors that the Rescue Squad will be dissolved. Mr. Zeunik stated that there are several fire departments in the area that would like to see the Rescue Squad disappear, because they feel they have the equipment and trained men who can do all of the things the Rescue Squad does.

Chairman Renner clarified that this is not a "done deal" and there is certainly opportunity for broad additional comment by members of the Rescue Squad as well as other Board members.

Mr. Zeunik recalled an incident that happened a couple years ago when the Illinois Department of Labor cited the County and the Rescue Squad for a long list of

violations that originated from a complaint by the Bloomington Fire Department regarding a Hazmat response. He noted that Curt Hawk, who was Assistant Director of ESDA, at that time, stepped forward and worked with the Rescue Squad to prepare written policies and procedures. Because of his certifications, he was able to do training, which the Department of Labor recognized and accepted. Mr. Zeunik explained that, as a volunteer group, the Rescue Squad does not have a support staff that can do the necessary paper work. As part of ESDA, they would have the ability to keep the paperwork updated and generate the proper paperwork.

Ms. Rackauskas asked how the volunteers are insured. Mr. Zeunik replied that a separate policy is purchased to protect the volunteers and the County in terms of possible suits that might originate against the County as a result of their action. It also gives the volunteers protection if they should sustain a debilitating injury. Ms. Rackauskas asked how that would change if they were under ESDA. Mr. Zeunik replied that it might be possible for a County insurance carrier to provide insurance for the Rescue Squad volunteers. One advantage is that ESDA and ESDA volunteers are covered under a State-wide insurance program that the Illinois Emergency Management Association administers.

Chairman Renner stated that none of the Board members are trying to get rid of the Rescue Squad.

Ms. Rackauskas advised that the subject of folding into ESDA will likely be discussed again sometime in the future.

Chairman Renner commended the Rescue Squad on its commitment and service to the community. He thanked him for his report.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Domestic Violence Grant Fund 0160. She reported that this was a grant received that was not approved prior to the budget process last year. The \$65,000 grant will be received to cover the two Domestic Violence officers.

Motion by O'Connor/Rackauskas to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Domestic Violence Grant Fund 0160.
Motion carried

Chairman Renner reported that, at the Legislative Breakfast, the Board Chair made it clear to the State Senators and Representatives that the County has a problem with the State's reimbursement of probation and officer salaries.

Ms. Castleman reported that the Adult Probation Division has neither an increase nor decrease in caseload. However, she noted that the increase they have seen has been with felony cases. Ms. Castleman indicated that there has been a large increase in Juvenile Probation, with approximately 30 additional cases filed.

Mr. Goldberg conveyed that there was not much of a significant difference in the Juvenile Detention report. He noted that there were 64 more admissions last year than the year before. Mr. Goldberg indicated that these were attributable to the utilization of weekends, as every time they come in it is considered an admission. The McLean County count is ½% above the ten-year average of the Detention Center. He noted that the number of females has increased 33% over the ten-year average, which is following the national trend.

Ms. Rackauskas asked that the annual report contain a one-page written analysis.

Mr. Nuckolls asked if there are nine probation officers. Ms. Castleman replied that there are six officers this year that do direct line staff and three that write PSI's. The direct supervision officers handle 174 cases per officer.

Ms. Harding asked for clarification on the report listing juveniles arrested at the ages of five, six and seven. Ms. Castleman replied that these are police reports received on juveniles who may have been throwing rocks or shoplifting and in which a police report was filed. She stated that Court Services receives a copy of the report. If the cases are warranted, they are turned over to the Department of Children and Family services.

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

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Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, presented the Monthly report for January. She explained that after inquests this Thursday, all of the cases for 2004 will be cleared and she hopes to have the year-end report prepared in time for next month's meeting. Ms. Kimmerling indicated that the revenue received in January was for bills due in 2004 so the February report will not reflect a large amount of 2005 revenue, as the first installment has just been billed.

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

Mr. Bob Clark, Assistant Director, ESDA, presented a request for approval of an Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IMEA) Disaster Assistance and Preparedness Grant. He explained that this is an application for a grant from IEMA to help defray the anticipated expenses of implementing the plans and programs authorized by the "Illinois Nuclear Safety Preparedness Act" for Fiscal Year 2006.

Motion by O'Connor/Rackauskas to Recommend
Approval of an Illinois Emergency Management Agency
(IMEA) Disaster Assistance and Preparedness Grant.
Motion carried

Chairman Renner presented the February 28, 2005 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a pending total of \$4,143.15 and a prepaid total of \$1,661,393.12 for a fund total of \$1,665,536.27.

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Motion by O'Connor/Rackauskas to recommend approval of the Justice Committee bills as of February 28, 2005.

Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary

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