

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, April 5, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 700 of the Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, IL.

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

Members Absent: Members Nuckolls and Rackauskas

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, and Ms. Karina Bak Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Bill Gamblin, E-911 Director, Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk, Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Coordinator, Jury Commission, Mr. William Yoder, State's Attorney, Mr. Ed Books, Rescue Squad

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

Chairman Renner presented the March 8, 2004 minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to approve the March 8, 2004 Justice Committee Minutes as presented.
Motion passed.

Chairman Renner asked if the Committee had any objections to hearing the only action item on the agenda first. Hearing no objections, Chairman Renner asked Mr. Yoder to present his item for action.

Mr. Zeunik asked before Mr. Yoder made his comments if he could explain the tardiness of this request. He said that the Request for Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2004 Combine Annual Appropriation Budget Ordinance – State's Attorney's Office 0020 – DCFS Grant for Children's Advocacy Center Attorney should have been brought to the Committee's attention in January. This is a State grant that runs on the State's fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Because of the late date in fiscal year 2003 when this grant was initially approved and the fiscal year 2003 was amended, the grant

was not rolled into the fiscal year 2004 budget. This should have been brought to the Committee's attention in January 2004 so that it could have been reflected in the 2004 budget for the first six months of the fiscal year. Mr. Zeunik apologized to the Committee and Mr. Yoder for error.

Mr. Yoder stated that the grant is a renewal for what should have been in the budget for 2004. The position is for the State's Attorney's Office Childrens Advocacy Center Attorney. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Child Protection Network provide the grant funds' the State grand funding ends June 30, 2004. Mr. Yoder has submitted a request to renew the position for 2004 – 2005.

Mr. Yoder stated that if the position is not renewed, he has reserved an Assistant State's Attorney III position and he would leave the attorney in place paying for the position out of his budget. However, he is hoping that will not happen.

Motion by Owens/Harding to approve the request for
Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the
Fiscal Year 2004 Combined Annual Appropriation and
Budget Ordinance – State's Attorney's Office 0020 –
DCFS Grant for Children's Advocacy Center Attorney.
Motion carried.

Mr. Yoder also brought information before the Committee on a new domestic violence grant. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has awarded the County grant in the amount of \$570,000.00 for 2004. The grant funding is not all for County Government though. It includes the City of Bloomington Police Department, City of Normal Police Department, Countering Domestic Violence, Court Services, and the Sheriff's Department. The distribution of these funds has not yet been decided. Mr. Yoder said he was not sure if the County was going to receive all of the funds and then distribute the grant funds to Bloomington and Normal, or if the funds were going to be distributed among the appropriate entities.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, E-911 Director, presented his monthly reports to the Committee. He included a new report this month, 911 Hang Up Calls. Mr. Gamblin explained that hang-up calls are logged before the Telecommunicators can pick-up the line, 90% of the time the Telecommunicators answer a call within three rings (10 rings represents a one minute time frame). Mr. Gamblin wanted to show the hang-ups because they do require the Telecommunicators to take action. Each call can

take anywhere from 2 to 10 minutes. When there is a silent call or no answer when the Telecommunicators call the number; a police car is dispatched to the location to investigate.

Mr. Owens asked what is the reason for the majority of the hang-up calls. Mr. Gamblin said that some are mis-dialed numbers, 9-1 is also the international dialing code for the sub-continent of Asia, children playing with the phone, and some deliberate hang-ups.

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented her monthly reports to the Committee. She believes it will be interesting at the end of the year to see the effect the increase in filing fees has had. She believes that they are seeing fewer Plaintiff's Attorney's asking for Jury Demands because the fee went from \$62.50 to \$212.00.

Mr. Owens asked if a fee was charged when a case was re-instated. Ms Parker stated that in most cases there is a fee for reinstatement and if you ask to re-instate a case after 30 days, the fee could be significantly higher. In a lot of cases if you are suing an individual and you do not have a valid address for service and the document comes back unsuccessful delivery, the judge may mark the case "Stricken On Leave" and there is not a fee for that.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services presented her monthly reports to the Committee.

Chairman Renner asked if the Committee has any questions for Ms. Castleman. Hearing none, Chairman Renner thanked Ms. Castleman for attending.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, presented her monthly reports to the Committee. She informed the Committee that the reports are the same as the ones that were presented in March because of the timing for the request. She did explain to the Committee that the Children's Advocacy Center is going through a National Children's Alliance evaluation starting in May of 2004. A two-day on-site visit should be done at that time. During June, the Children's Advocacy Center will be receiving their initial CASA evaluations.

Ms. Larkin stated that there are about 15,000 blue ribbons made for Child Abuse Prevention Month, which occurs every April.

Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Coordinator, Jury Commission, informed the Committee that the amount of jury trials is about the same as previous years. Jurors are using the call-in system to save time and money for both the people and the County.

Ms. Brand said that they allow other County offices to use the Jury Assembly Room on non-jury weeks. She noted that such use is encouraged to maximize the use of the room for the County.

Mr. Ed Books, Rescue Squad, addressed the Committee. He stated that new members have been using to practicing extractions from a vehicle. They also have a pool set up to do black water scuba training and will be doing training on that in about two weeks. The CPR classes have already been completed for this year and new member driving practice is on going.

Mr. Books stated that they have completed their yearly hazardous material training for 2004. They are getting ready to do joint training with ESDA. ESDA will back-up the Rescue Squad by bringing the decontamination shower and any back-up equipment that may be needed.

Mr. Books stated that the Rescue Squad is scheduling meeting with local Fire Departments to compare equipment lists and introduce new members of the squad.

Mr. Owens asked Mr. Zeunik if the repair work on the room in the basement that is used by ESDA has been completed. Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that all the repairs in the basement have been completed.

Chairman Renner presented the March 31, 2004 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee Fund pending total is \$1,183.15, with a prepaid total of \$1,393,757.83, and a fund total of \$1,394,940.98.

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Motion by O'Connor/Harding to recommend approval of the March 31, 2004 Justice Committee bills as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karina L. Bak
Recording Secretary