

## Minutes of the Justice Committee Meeting

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, February 2, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 700 of the McLean County Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Lucretia Wherry, Administrator's Office

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials

Present: Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Mr. Derrick Love, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff's Department; Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator, Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

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

Chairman Renner presented the Minutes of the January 5, 2004 Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by O'Connor/Owens to recommend approval of the January 5, 2004 Justice Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator, Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental agreement between the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the Circuit Court for the Administration of an Expedited Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program. This agreement is effective December 31, 2003 through June 30, 2004. The Illinois Department of Public Aid will reimburse McLean County \$19,000.00 for the administration of the program. The County is able to suspend the program at any time.

Motion by Owens/Nuckolls to recommend approval of a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the Circuit Court for the Administration of an Expedited Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner noted that the E-911 statistical reports can be found on pages 27-30

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of the agenda packet. Mr. Bill Gamblin, E-911 Administrator, was not present at the meeting. Hearing no questions, Chairman Renner moved to the next agenda item.

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk was not present. The Statistical Reports for the Circuit Clerk's Office can be found on pages 31-49 of the agenda packet.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner presented the Statistical Reports for the Coroner's Office. Ms. Kimmerling summarized the reports stating that all revenue for Fiscal Year 2003 has not been reported. There are three outstanding invoices yet to be received. The Annual Report shows that 390 autopsies were done in McLean County this year. More autopsies have been performed this past year than in any other year, including the years when McLean County employed a full-time pathologist. The out of County autopsies are primarily from Champaign County and Peoria County. Both have their own morgues, but send their cases to McLean County for autopsies due to the reputation of Dr. Mitchell.

The numbers of inquests are down due to the explosion and fire at the Law and Justice Center on June 16, 2003. Inquests were required in 59 deaths in 2003 with 11 cases still pending.

The Committee commended Ms. Kimmerling for her and her staff's hard work. Ms. Kimmerling noted that she included an article on the abuse of DMX, a common ingredient found in most of the counter cough medicines. The McLean Coroner's Office collaborated on this article which appeared in the February 2, 2004 issue of People's Magazine.

Ms. Amy Davis was not present to present the monthly Statistical Reports for the Public Defender's Office. The reports can be found on pages 71-73.

The monthly Statistical Reports for Court Services can be found on pages 74-80. Ms. Roxanne Castleman was not present at the meeting.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, presented the monthly Statistical Reports for the Children's Advocacy Center. The Children's Advocacy Center had 24 interviews in January. This is an increase from past months. Ms. Larkin stated that she would notify the Committee if the interviews began to decline again. The Committee thanked Ms. Larkin for her reader friendly Annual Report.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented the statistical reports for the State's Attorney's office. The felony conviction rate is continuing to increase. The State's Attorney's Office hopes that this trend will continue due to the screening and investigations techniques that the State's Attorney's Office has put in place. A result of the new techniques is that cases are being resolved faster. Ms. O'Connor asked if

shorter case resolutions result in a cost savings to the County. Mr. Yoder stated that he believed that shorter case resolutions generate a cost savings. At the very least, it is a morale booster for the staff.

Mr. Derick Love, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Department, presented a request for approval of a Uniform Bid with O'Herron Co., Inc. for the McLean County Sheriff's Department. Three companies were sent bid requests. Of those three companies, only two responded. The Sheriff's Department recommends that the bid be awarded to O'Herron Co., Inc. O'Herron Co., Inc submitted a complete bid on all the listed items .The company's located in Danville, Illinois and the Sheriff's Department has done business with this firm.

Motion by Owens/Harding to recommend approval  
of the recommendation received from the Sheriff's Department  
to award the Uniform Bid to O'Herron Co., Inc. Motion carried.

Mr. Love requested approval of an Application for a Law Enforcement Grant through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The grant would be used to replace the current patrol/rescue boat stationed at Evergreen Lake. The current patrol/rescue boat has been in used since 1995 and maintenance and repairs are beginning to increase. The \$10,000.00 grant requires a 10% local match. Mr. Wasson stated that it is the hopes of the Park's and Recreation Department and the Sheriff's Department that the current boat could be used for trade-in to meet the local match. If not, the boat would be used by the Park's and Recreation Department.

Motion by O'Connor/Rackauskas to recommend  
approval of an the Sheriff's Department's request  
to apply for a Law Enforcement Grant through the  
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Motion  
carried.

Mr. Love presented the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report. As requested by the Committee, the reports have been broken down to show the statistics for male and female inmates. Ms. O'Connor asked what the special needs column represents. Mr. Love replied that the special needs column includes individuals on suicide watch and those with medical problems. Ms. Rackauskas asked if work release was considered for parents to provide childcare. Mr. Love replied that he did not believe that anyone has been sentenced for work release to care for a child. Ms. Rackauskas stated that incarceration has a large effect on the family.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, presented the Cost Report for certain Sheriff's Department fees as prepared by Maximus. Representatives from Maximus were not available for the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The report included in the

agenda packet is an update from 1997 and includes State Law and guidelines for direct and indirect costs. Maximus studied the actual costs for providing services and recommended an increase in fees that the County Board could approve. Mr. Lindberg reviewed the suggested increases with the Committee. Maximus suggested that bond fees could be raised to \$57.92, which would generate \$406,795. Currently, the bond fee is \$20.00. If all bond fees were collected in 2003, \$241,515.00 would have been generated in bond fees. However, only \$85,000.00 was collected in Fiscal Year 2003. If fees are raised, collection rates may drop further.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if commissary fees could be raised and any profit made be turned into the General Fund. Mr. Love replied the link that commissary fees are set by Jail Standards and have to remain on par with prices charged by retail stores. Currently, any profit made by the commissary is used to purchase equipment for the inmates or to cover costs for indigent inmates. Mr. Zeunik explained that the County handles the commissary as a trust. Friends and families of the inmates place money on account. If the inmate is released, the money is returned. Mr. Zeunik added that he would research the commissary prices to see how much the prices could be raised while remaining within Jail Standards.

The Committee agreed to continue the discussion on the Maximus Fee Study at the Committee meeting on March 8, 2004 at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the County has responded to the City of Bloomington decision to leave MetCom. Mr. Zeunik replied that the County is continuing to meet with the City of Bloomington to work on a solution that would benefit all parties involved with MetCom. Per the Intergovernmental Agreement, if a party leaves MetCom, the party is responsible for their costs for one full year after leaving. The City of Bloomington is responsible for payment until December 31, 2005.

Chairman Renner presented the bills, as transmitted and recommended by the County Auditor, for review and approval by the Justice Committee.

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Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend approval  
of the FY' 2003 bills for the General Fund, as presented by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

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Motion by Rackauskas/Harding O'Connor to recommend approval  
of the FY' 2004 bills, as presented by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time,  
Chairman Renner adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia Wherry  
Recording Secretary  
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