

Special Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, immediately following the County Board meeting in Room 703 of the McLean County Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner Renner, Members Rodgers, Nuckolls, Owens and Rackauskas

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Mrs. Carmen Zielinski, Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Circuit Court Judge Elizabeth A. Robb, Eleventh Circuit Court; Mr. William Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Ms. Cindy Outlaw, Office Manager, State's Attorney's Office; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender; Sheriff Dave Owens, Mclean County Sheriff; Chief Deputy Derick Love, McLean County Sheriff's Department; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Ms. Barbara Nafziger; Deputy Coroner; Mr. Jim Wahls, Director, E.S.D.A./Civil Defense; Mr. Curt Hawk, Assistant Director, E.S.D.A./Civil Defense; Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, MetCom

Members of the
Public Present: Ms. Barbara Stuart, League of Women Voters, Alternative to Jail Committee; Ms. Lori Bergner, Co-President of the Alternative to Jail Committee; Rev. Tom Shea, Alternative to Jail Committee

Chairman Renner Renner called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Chairman Renner Renner introduced the Board Member Benjamin Owens, is a new member of the Justice Committee.

Chairman Renner Renner invited Ms. Lori Bergner, League of Women Voters and a member of the Alternative to Jail Committee, to address the issue of Electronic Monitoring.

Ms. Bergner advised the Committee that the League of Women Voter's Alternative to Jail Committee has spent years gathering information on Electronic Monitoring and Pre-Trial Release Programs. The League considers electronic monitoring to be a necessity for McLean County. Currently, there are many people who are kept in jail unnecessarily, both pre-trial and after sentencing. These are non-violent people who could be and are

in many other communities allowed by means of electronic monitoring to continue working as productive employees, while interacting with their families. This means that they are allowed to keep their jobs and continue to make money, rather than losing their jobs and ending up on government subsidies, at taxpayer expense. They continue being spouses and parents rather than becoming absentee parents, which cause hardship for their spouses and their children. While they are being restrained and watch over, they are being given a chance to be a part of the community. The logic is especially obvious for people sentenced to weekends in jail and work release, since they have already been deemed to be a low-security risk or they would not have been given this type of sentence in the first place.

Ms. Bergner stated that as these non-violent persons are given the option of electronic monitoring, an expensive jail cell is not wasted on them, thus retaining cells for people who are truly a risk to society. This means less jail overcrowding, which reduces the need for out-of-county jail cells. In Fiscal Year 2004, \$60,000.00 has been budgeted for out-of-county prisoner housing. Electronic monitoring, a much less expensive alternative to jail, could potentially save some portion of this budget expense.

Ms. Bergner noted that the Justice Committee has accepted the idea of electronic monitoring as a good idea. The League urges the Committee to continue working hard to help the County Board see the broader picture. The League urges the Committee to insist that the County Board find a way to fund this program. There is always a reason for putting off a new program. It is imperative that this program get off the ground in 2004, even as a pilot, to enable it to prove its worth, its effectiveness and its cost efficiency. A pilot program could be run by utilizing two Probation Officers for the year instead of four or all four Probation Officers for six months. The League believes that it is the County Board's job to find a way to work it into the overall budget for 2004.

Chairman Renner Renner stated that if time permits it, this topic will be revisited at the end of the budget hearings.

Chairman Renner Renner referred to the Circuit Court's budget. Mr. William Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator, apologized and asked that the Justice Committee move forward with another budget, since Judge Robb has been held up in court and will be here as soon as possible.

Chairman Renner Renner asked if there were any questions from Justice Committee members or Mr. Yoder regarding the proposed budget for the State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Yoder stated that the State's Attorney's Office budget is very lean. There were several positions that were deemed necessary, but can not be funded at this time such as an investigator and paralegal.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if Mr. Yoder was mandated to cut something out of the proposed State's Attorney's Office budget in order to help fund the Electronic Monitoring Program, where would Mr. Yoder cut the budget. Mr. Yoder answered that decreasing salaries would not be an option, because he places emphasis on hiring qualified people to do the work. Ms. Cindy Outlaw, Office Manager, State's Attorney's Office, commented that if it was mandated that some line item be decreased, the Contractual Transcript Expense, line item 0728-0001, could be slightly decreased. Ms. Outlaw explained that since the structural change of which cases get referred to the Grand Jury, a decrease in the expense for transcripts has been documented. If this program continues, the Transcript Expense line may provide some funding that the Justice Committee may redirect towards the Electronic Monitoring Program. Mr. Yoder commented that the Transcript Expense line item was budgeted at \$40,000.00 in 2003. Previously, felony cases were being charged in McLean County strictly by Grand Jury Indictment. Any time there is an indictment, a court reporter records everything that is said in the jury room. That transcript has to be prepared. This was a motivating factor in initiating the change in the formal method of charging felonies in McLean County in order to save some of the money in this line item. At this time, there is not a good picture of what the savings will be in the long term in this line item, because it took until March to get this program in place and then the building explosion caused great difficulty in presenting cases. At the present time, people can waive preliminary hearings and save the need for a Transcript. Approximately 30% to 40% of the identified cases are waiving preliminary hearings. Mr. Yoder does not have a good idea of what the savings will be in 2004.

Chairman Renner Renner stated that this is a line item that the Justice Committee can track to see if funds can be redirected.

Ms. Rodgers referred to the Contractual Services line items. Mr. Yoder stated that the Office does not have any margin there. This is due to the implementation of a Victim Witness Grant and the addition of two grant funded contract positions.

Mr. Owens pointed out the high figure for toners used for the copier machines.

Ms. Outlaw explained that the toners are acquired through the Auditor's Office. A color printer was installed in the Office. Because of some problem with some of the other printers, the office relied heavily on the color printer and incurred a high volume usage costing extra for the color toners. The black and white printers are back in working condition so the color printer is not being used as much and the expense of the color printer cartridges has decreased.

Chairman Renner Renner asked if any one had any further questions regarding the State's Attorney's Office General Fund Budget. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Motion by Nuckolls/Rackauskas to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the State's Attorney's Office
General Fund budget. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner referred to the State's Attorney's Asset Forfeiture Fund 0152 that was established to account for the receipt of funds derived from the seizure and sale of assets used in the distribution and sale of drugs. This line item account has decreased from \$30,000.00 in the Fiscal Year 2003 Adopted Budget to \$1,600.00 in the Fiscal Year 2004 Recommended Budget. Mr. Yoder explained that the Transfer of Funds line item account has been budgeted at \$0.00 in the Fiscal Year 2004 Recommended Budget, because, in prior years, a transfer was made to the County's General Fund to cover the professional services contract expenses for an attorney in the State's Attorney's Office. Because the State's Attorney's Asset Forfeiture Fund is currently in the "red" and the prospect for a large increase in revenue is problematic, no dollars have been budgeted for an Interfund Transfer in Fiscal Year 2004.

Chairman Renner asked if any one had any further questions regarding the State's Attorney's Office Asset Forfeiture Fund. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the State's Attorney's Office
Asset Forfeiture Fund budget. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner referred to the State's Attorney IV-D Child Support Enforcement Fund 0156. Mr. Yoder noted that the IV-D Public Aid funding was decreased from \$326,915.00 to \$150,947.00 in the FY'2004 Recommended Budget. This decrease reflects the contract payment from Public Aid for funding the State's Attorney's Child Support IV-D Program. The change in the FTE Staffing level in the FY'2004 Recommended Budget reflects the funding commitment from the Illinois Department of Public Aid through June 30, 2004. Positions are budgeted for 6 months (0.50 FTE) in the FY'2004 Recommended Budget. If the Illinois Department of Public Aid commits funding beyond June 30, 2004, an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance/Budget Amendment would need to be approved.

Motion by Rodgers/Rackauskas to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the State's Attorney IV-D Child
Support Enforcement Fund 0156. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner referred to the Public Defender's Office Fund 0001-0021. Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, stated that after working with the Administrator's Office, her budget is as lean as it can be. Ms. Davis noted that the usual 3% yearly increase was

not proposed this year. Ms. Davis explained that line items with over expenditure in the past have been budgeted to reflect the actual yearly expenditure. For example, Psychiatric Expenses are due to mandated fitness exams and/or insanity findings of the offender and expert testimonies provided by a psychiatrist. Another line item that has increased is the Investigator Expense. In 2002, there were three murder cases that required expert witness expenses. If the fees to an expert witness are not provided, the court case can be appealed due to incompetent counsel, which, in turn, costs the taxpayer for another court hearing.

Mr. Owens asked what caused the increase in the Books/Publication line item account. Ms. Davis answered that this line item account increased from \$3,070.00 in the FY'2003 Adopted Budget to \$4,870.00 in the FY'2004 Recommended Budget. This increase is to cover the \$1,800.00 cost (Public Defender's share of the total cost) for the Westlaw computer-assisted legal research subscription. Westlaw is a computer based research software program that saves the County a large amount of money in books. Ms. Davis noted that the County has moved to computer aided legal research that provides information for the State's Attorney's Office, the Judges, the Law Library and Court Services. The other expense under this line item corresponds to specialized books or videos for particular cases that can not be acquired through the computer.

Chairman Renner asked if any one had any further questions regarding the Public Defender's Office. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Motion by Nuckolls/Owens to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the Public Defender
Fund. Motion carried.

Ms. Davis informed the Committee that she has looked into funds for the Electronic Monitoring program. Ms. Davis talked with Ms. Lori Lavin, Director, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, who may be able to direct the County towards some grant money that could be used for this program. Ms. Davis stated that she plans to draft a letter explaining the situation in McLean County, including a tentative budget for this program. It seems that the Authority has funds available for Elder and Mentally Disabled programs and services. Because of the number of inmates who have mental problems and are on psychotropic medication, McLean County may qualify for some of these funds if a grant proposal is submitted. Ms. Davis will keep the Committee informed.

Chairman Renner referred to the Merit Commission Budget 0001-0008. Sheriff Dave Owens, McLean County Sheriff and Chief Deputy Derick Love were present. This revenue line item account has been budgeted at \$1,000.00 in the FY'2004 Recommended Budget. The Sheriff's Merit Board charges an application fee to candidates applying for the position of Deputy Sheriff and Correctional Officer. The Merit

Board Testing line item account increased from \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00 in the Fiscal Year 2004 Recommended Budget. This increase is attributable to the increase in the number of tests being given by the Merit Board. This increase is also based on a review of last year's actual expenses and the year to date expenditures.

Chairman Renner asked if any members had further questions regarding the Merit Commission Budget, hearing none, Chairman Renner asked for a motion.

Motion by Rodgers/Owes to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the Merit Commission
Budget. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner referred to the Sheriff's Department budget. Sheriff Owens noted that the 600, 700 & 800's line item accounts have decreased by 2% from the FY'2003 Adopted Budget per the request of the Administrator's Office. No Personnel positions have been cut. Sheriff Owens noted that the increases in the Sheriff's Department budget are due to contractual obligations pursuant to the Collective Bargaining agreements. Sheriff Owens informed the Committee that negotiations are underway with the Correctional Officers Bargaining Unit that will be heading for mediation later this month.

Mr. Owens noted that the Equipment Maintenance Contract line item is budgeted for \$14,000.00. Mr. Owens asked if these funds are for new equipment or for warranty contracts. Chief Deputy Love answered that this line item covers the maintenance and warranty for existing machines. No new equipment has been requested.

Chairman Renner referred to the Reimbursement Special Prisoners line item account that has increased from \$50,000.00 in the FY'2003 Adopted Budget to \$60,000.00 in the FY'2004 Recommended Budget. This increase is based on a review of last year's actual revenue and the year to date revenue.

Ms. Rodgers asked the Sheriff what portion of the \$60,000.00 allotted in the Prisoners' Housing – Out-of-County line item could be deferred into the Electronic Monitoring Program. Sheriff Owens answered that all of the funds in this line item are needed, because this line item has always been under funded in the past. As a result, an Emergency Appropriation from the Unappropriated Fund Balance has been necessary to cover the actual expenses.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the Sheriff's Department was mandated to cut the Department's budget, where would he cut it. Sheriff Owens answered that the only place he could cut the Sheriff's Department would be under the Personnel line item.

Sheriff Owens noted that the FY'2004 Recommended Budget includes changes in the FTE Staffing Level reflecting the Lead Process Server position budgeted at 0.67 FTE to recognize the pending retirement of the incumbent employee. In FY'2004, this position is annualized to recognize that the position will be filled for the entire year. In the FY'2003 Adopted Budget, the Deputy Patrol Officer position was budgeted at 27.67 FTE's to recognize the pending retirement of several senior officers. In FY'2004, this position is annualized to recognize that the vacant positions will be filled for the entire year. Sheriff Owens noted that because of the Merit Board Testing and the Police Officer Training Academy schedule of class sessions, there is a period of time during which a position may not be filled. Sheriff Owens pointed out that the Sheriff's Department has the largest budget in the McLean County at over \$6 Million, but over \$5 Million is spent on salaries.

Chairman Renner asked if any member had any further questions regarding the Sheriff's Department budget. Hearing none, Chairman Renner asked for a motion.

Motion by Rackauskas/Owens to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the Sheriff's Department
General Fund budget. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner discussed the Court Security Fund. Sheriff Owens stated that this is a Special Revenue Fund established pursuant to Illinois law. The Circuit Court can assess a Court Security Fee to be used to provide funding for the Court Security program within the Sheriff's Department. The revenue generated from the Court Security Fee can be used to pay personnel expenses, purchase operating supplies, and contract for services and purchase capital equipment. As a Special Revenue Fund, the Court Security Fund must be balanced within the Fund. This revenue line item account has increased from \$280,000.00 in the FY'2003 Adopted Budget to \$455,000.00 in the FY'2004 Recommended Budget. This increase is based on the recommended increase in the Court Security Fee as permitted under Public Act 093-0558. The Circuit Clerk's Fee Ordinance proposes that the Court Security Fee be increased from \$15.00 to \$25.00. The FY'2004 Recommended Budget includes the change in the FTE Staffing Level to add 1.00 FTE Deputy Patrol Officer. In prior years, this position has been budgeted in the General Fund 0001 because the Court Security Fund did not generate sufficient revenues to cover the expense of this position. With the proposed fee increase, the Court Security Fund will again be able to cover 100% of the salary and employee medical expense for all of the Sheriff Deputies assigned to the Court Security detail.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions regarding the Sheriff's Court Security Fund 0141. Hearing none, Chairman Renner asked for a motion.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the Sheriff's Court Security
Fund 0141. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner presented the COPS in School Grant Fund 0166. Sheriff Owens noted that this is a Special Revenue Fund, which was established to account for the receipt and expenditure of a COPS in School Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. This demonstration grant was awarded to the Sheriff's Department in FY'2000. The term of the COPS in School Grant was for 3 years. As a Special Revenue Fund, the COPS in School Grant Fund must be balanced within the Fund. The FY'2004 Recommended Budget reflects the fact that no grant funding will be received next year. Sheriff Owens noted that Tri-Valley has offered to pay for half of the salary for the COPS in School but the County does not have the funds to cover the other half so this Officer will return to duties within the Sheriff's Department when the funds run out.

Motion by Rodgers/Nuckolls to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the COPS in School
Grant Fund 0166. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner referred to the Circuit Court's budget. Judge Elizabeth Robb, Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court and Mr. William Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator, were present.

Mr. Owens noted that the Non-Contractual Services line item increased from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 in the Fiscal Year 2004 Recommended Budget. Judge Robb answered that this increase is attributable to the increase in the use of interpreter services by the Court. Mr. Scanlon noted that this expense includes sign language interpretation.

Chairman Renner asked if any member had any further questions regarding the Circuit Court Fund 0016. Hearing none, Chairman Renner asked for a motion.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the Circuit Court's budget.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner referred to the Circuit Court IV-D Child Support Enforcement Fund 0156. Mr. Scanlon stated that the Circuit Court's IV-D Project Child Support Enforcement Special Revenue Fund 0156 was established to account for the receipt of Illinois Department of Public Aid Funding and the expenditures for this new Child Support Enforcement program in the Circuit Court. As in Fiscal Year 2003, the Circuit Court's expenditures will primarily be for Contract Services, specifically, the services of a contract attorney who will carry out initial case review and screenings for the Circuit Court. The proposed Fiscal Year 2004 Recommended Budget reflects no increase in the contract dollar amount from the Illinois Department of Public Aid.

Chairman Renner asked if any member had any further questions regarding the Circuit Court IV-D Child Support Enforcement Fund 0156. Hearing none, Chairman Renner asked for a motion.

Motion by Rackauskas/Rodgers to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the Circuit Court IV-D
Child Support Enforcement Fund 0156.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner referred to the Coroner's budget. Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner and Ms. Barbara Nafziger, Deputy Coroner, were present. Ms. Kimmerling noted that Morgue Fees revenue line item account has increased from \$18,750.00 in the FY'2003 Adopted Budget to \$26,250.00 in the FY'2004 Recommended Budget. This increase is based on a review of last year's actual revenue. Ms. Kimmerling explained that the 758.0001 Autopsies line item account increased from \$75,000.00 in the FY'2003 Adopted Budget to \$80,000.00. This increase is based on a review of last year's actual expenses and the year to date expenses. The fee per case is \$800.00 (fee includes Pathologist's fee and pathologist's assistant's fee). The FY'2004 Recommended Budget projects 100 McLean County autopsies. Under the Contractual line item accounts the Transcript Expense line item account has increased from \$10,000.00 in the FY'2003 Adopted Budget to \$12,000.00. This increase is based on the number of autopsies (Pathologist Transcription of Notes) and the number of inquests (Court Reporter Transcript). In addition, the Transcriptionist's fee has increased.

Ms. Kimmerling informed the Committee's that the purchase of a new automobile for the Coroner's Office has been included in the County Board's Fleet Program budget. Also, a request for a new Hydraulic Table has been included in the Fiscal Year 2004 Recommended Budget in the Law and Justice Center program of the Facilities Management's budget.

Ms. Rackauskas asked Ms. Kimmerling if mandated by the Board, where would she cut her budget. Ms. Kimmerling answered that the only line item she could possibly reduce would be the Training/Education line item.

Ms. Kimmerling informed the Committee that during the budget preparation process for Fiscal Year 2004, she reviewed the morgue facility fee and determined that the \$225.00 morgue facility fee was not sufficient to cover McLean County's costs associated with providing an out-of-county autopsy service. In an effort to align fees, the morgue fee should increase to \$250.00 as of January 1, 2004. Ms. Kimmerling stated that information on this request will be presented at the November Justice Committee meeting.

Chairman Renner asked if the Committee had any further questions regarding the Special Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

Coroner's Office budget. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Motion by Owen/Rackauskas to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the Coroner's Office
Fund 0031. Motion carried.

Chairman Renner referred to the Rescue Squad budget. Because of the budget constraints, the FY'2004 Recommended Budget for the all-volunteer Rescue Squad is budgeted at the same dollar amount as the FY'2003 Adopted Budget.

Chairman Renner asked what the ramifications might be of decreasing this budget item to zero. Mr. Zeunik explained that the Rescue Squad was formed in the late 1960's, when there was not a County-wide service for extrications, drownings or building collapses. The County Board created the Rescue Squad and provided initial funding. The all-volunteer Rescue Squad does not transport any victims. Over the years, they have responded upon request from other agencies. The Rescue Squad has been trained in drowning rescue, grain elevator accidents, high-building rescue, pancake rescue and has upgraded their HazMat training. The Emergency Service Disaster Agency (E.S.D.A.) has provided certified training to bring the Rescue Squad up to date on HazMat situations.

Mr. Zeunik stated that the impact on decreasing the budget for the Rescue Squad to zero would be in the Hazardous Material (HazMat) scenario. Most of the fire departments in the area are trained and equipped to handle drownings, extrications and rescues, but they are not certified to handle HazMat scenarios. The Bloomington Fire Department is working on certifying their five departments to handle HazMat matters. The other certified HazMat services would come from Peoria or Springfield.

Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, MetCom, commented that the Rescue Squad gets paged out of the MetCom Department. Most of the time when the Rescue Squad gets called, they are eventually called off by the agency where the incident occurred.

Ms. Rackauskas recapped that over the years the fire departments have taken over the functions of the Rescue Squad. Ms. Rackauskas asked how long before the Bloomington Fire Department is certified to handle HazMat scenarios. Mr. Cannon answered that he is not sure of the time status, the last he has heard was the first quarter of 2004.

Mr. Rodgers wondered how often does the Rescue Squad have to answer a HazMat call. Mr. Cannon answered that he does not know. Mr. Zeunik noted that most of the HazMat calls respond to agricultural accidents or highway accidents. Mr. Zeunik mentioned that one of the reasons the Bloomington Fire Department is slow in getting

their HazMat unit started is due to the acquisition of the necessary equipment, which was supposed to be funded through a State grant.

Ms. Rackauskas wondered if the HazMat equipment owned by the Rescue Squad could be sold to the Bloomington Fire Department if funding for the Rescue Squad was terminated. Mr. Zeunik clarified that the County Board would have to make such a decision. Ms. Rackauskas suggested that this topic be further researched and discussed to see how and if the HazMat equipment can be sold to Bloomington. Chairman Renner stated that the Justice Committee can recommend a zero budget balance for the Rescue Squad at this time.

Mr. Owens asked that more information be presented and that representatives from the Rescue Squad, HazMat Team and members of the Bloomington Fire Department be present to answer questions. No one even knows if Bloomington is interested in the HazMat equipment.

Mr. Curt Hawk, Assistant Director, E.S.D.A., noted that the HazMat equipment was purchased through grant funds, so we are not sure if it is legal to sell this equipment. Also, it is very important that the County not be placed in jeopardy by making a hole in some safety issues.

Chairman Renner concluded that Mr. Zeunik will do some research and report back to the Justice Committee at the November meeting. At this time, the Committee concurred on "holding" the Rescue Squad budget tentative approval over until the November 3, 2003 meeting.

Chairman Renner presented the Emergency Service Disaster Agency budget. The FY'2004 Recommended Budget Revenue is budgeted at the same dollar amount as in the FY'2003 Adopted Budget. To more accurately reflect the source of the revenue, the total amount of budgeted revenue has been split in the FY'2003 Recommended Budget between the E.S.D.A. Grant and the Nuclear Safety Grant line item accounts. The proposed budget includes a change in the FTE Staffing level of reducing the E.S.D.A. Director position from 1.00 FTE to 0.70 FTE. This change in staffing recognizes that the incumbent E.S.D.A. Director plans to retire in the fall of 2004.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if E.S.D.A. was directed to reduce their budget, where would the reduction come from. Mr. Wahls answered that the only line item he can see that could be reduced would be the Clothing line item.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend
Tentative Approval of the E.S.D.A. Department
Budget. Motion carried.

Chairmen Renner presented the Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center (MetCom) Budget. Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, MetCom noted that the FY'2004 Recommended Budget Revenue for MetCom is based on the formula defined in the Intergovernmental Agreement between the E.T.S.B., City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and McLean County for allocating the costs of operating the MetCom Center. The Intergovernmental Agreement provides that the costs for operating the MetCom Center shall be allocated between the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and McLean County based on population.

Mr. Cannon pointed out that the budget includes a change in the FTE Staffing level that was approved by the MetCom Operations Board, the Emergency Telephone Systems Board (E.T.S.B.), and the County Board, to add 3.0 FTE Telecommunicator Positions. E.T.S.B. has agreed to pay 100% of the salary and employee medical expense for the 3.0 FTE Telecommunicator positions.

Chairman Renner asked if the members of the Committee had any questions regarding Metro McLean Combined Communications Center (MetCom) Budget, hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Motion by Rackauskas/Rodgers to Recommend Tentative Approval of the Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center (MetCom) Budget. Motion carried.

The Justice Committee recessed for a ten-minute break at 11:01 a.m.
The Justice Committee resumed their regular special meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Chairman Renner asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the Electronic Monitoring/Pre-Trial Program.

Ms. Rodgers wondered if a pilot program could be started by dropping the number of starting cases from 90 cases to 25 cases and dropping the number of proposed Probation Officers from four to two. Chairman Renner noted that this was a good question to consider and research. Chairman Renner also stated that some consideration and discussion needs to be geared towards the elimination of the Rescue Squad.

Ms. Rodgers also commented that, perhaps, consideration should be given to transferring the \$60,000.00 budgeted for the Sheriff's Department out-of-county housing of inmates into the funds being reserved for the Electronic Monitoring Program and the out-of-county housing be paid from the Unappropriated Fund Balance.

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Mr. Owens commented that based on the daily population reports provided by the Sheriff's Department, there is less than 20 inmates housed out-of-county on a daily basis.

Chairman Renner noted that even if the Bonding Fees were increased by January, 2004, the Electronic Monitoring Program is not going to be operational as of January 1, 2004. Budgeting for the Electronic Program should be proposed for the latter six or nine months of 2004 year. The starting date of the program won't be till later in 2004, because guidelines need to be set, evaluating tools have to be agreed upon and staffing needs to be hired and trained.

Mr. Zeunik stated that Ms. Castleman has indicated that in terms of staffing for this program, there would not be an issue finding qualified individuals. The Administrative Office of the Illinois Court provides guidelines that specify who can be hired to be a probation officer. The lead time to get any program going involves writing policies and procedures, training the staff and getting final sign-off from the Court on the Pre-Trial Instrument. Mr. Zeunik estimated a lead time of 60 to 120 days for this program.

Mr. Owens stated that a pilot program for 25 cases and two Probation Officers sounds like the most sensible option.

Ms. Rodgers asked for more clarification regarding the possible increase of the Bonding Fees. Mr. Zeunik answered that he has been working with a firm called MAXIMUS regarding the possibility of increasing the Bonding Fee for McLean County. Mr. Zeunik hopes to have a proposal from MAXIMUS regarding a study on all of the Sheriff's Department Fees for the November Justice Committee agenda. Mr. Zeunik explained that the Bonding Fee is a fee charged to individuals who are bonding out of the Jail. The individual's family arrives to pay the bond, and a bond fee of \$20.00 is charged. What has happened with this process is that within the first year, a significant amount of revenue was generated. Then, this fee was challenged in court to have this fee thrown out. The courts ruled that the \$20.00 fee was legal, but the courts also decided that someone can not be denied bond or the ability to leave the jail if they can not pay the fee. Because there are so many return guests in the jail, they quickly learn to not pay the Bonding Fee. Now, this fee becomes a collection effort. For example, in 2002, the \$20.00 Bonding Fee brought in revenue of \$84,000. In 2003, the Bonding Fee collected through August 31st is only \$48,000.00.

Mr. Nuckolls noted that the first time offenders pay the Bonding Fee, but the repeat offenders have learned to say no to this fee.

Mr. Owens agrees that there is a need for a Sheriff's Department Fee Study.

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Chairman Renner directed the Administrator to check on a fee study for the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Renner also directed the Administrator to gather information on the ramifications of terminating the Rescue Squad and the possible availability of a grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Ms. Rodgers asked if the County was to sell the HazMat equipment, where will that revenue be allocated. Mr. Zeunik explained the HazMat equipment was purchased with Federal grant funds. There is a need to check with the Homeland Security Department to see if the County is allowed to sell this equipment. The Rescue Squad vehicles are owned by the County and so is 90% of the rest of the equipment in the two vehicles. Mr. Zeunik noted that any revenue acquired through the sale of this equipment or the vehicles would be deposited in the General Fund.

Mr. Lindberg informed the Committee that Federal sources have been researched to see if this program would qualify for any grants. At this time, the Federal government is not funding any new Electronic Monitoring/Pre-Trial Programs or the necessary equipment.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Renner adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski
Recording Secretary

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