

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, August 4, 2003 at 5:15 p.m. in Room 700 of the McLean County Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Member Johnson

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Bill Gamblin, 911 Administrator; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Ms. Beth C. Kimmerling, Coroner; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney

Members of the
Public Present: Mr. Jack Porter, Alternative to Jail Committee, League of Women Voters

Vice Chairman Kinzinger called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center, was not present to discuss the Profile of the Child Protection Network's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program. Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that Ms. Larkin was called away to Coles County this morning. Coles County has lost their Children's Advocacy Director and three staff members. The State's Children Advocacy Coordinator contacted Ms. Larkin and asked her to help with the rebuilding process in Coles County.

Ms. Rackauskas commented that the information supplied by the Children's Advocacy Center is very thorough and very interesting. On page three there is the following statement, "However, there was an overall increase since November 1996, nearly doubling from 70 to 135 in September 2000." Ms. Rackauskas noted that there is no explanation analyzing this increase. Ms. Rackauskas would like some explanation for such a high increase within six years. This analysis could provide further information and clarification that could be relevant to the Board's consideration of future needs for the County.

Ms. Rodgers also acknowledged the high quality of the report, but would also appreciate an analysis of some of the numbers and graphs.

Committee members did not have any further questions or comments regarding the Children's Advocacy Center Reports.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, 911 Administrator, presented the 911 Calls for May 2003. Mr. Gamblin noted that the attached chart shows an increase in numbers for 911 calls due to cellular calls that are now placed on the 911 trunks. Two phenomenons are responsible for the continued increase. First, the "butt calls" or the accidental activation of a pre-programmed 911 button on the cellular phones. For example, this usually occurs when someone has the phone in their back pocket and sits on it causing the activation. Cellphone manufacturers are no longer making phones that have a programmed 911 button. Second, the "roadway good Samaritan" calls have increased now that more and more people have cellular phones in their cars and use them to call in accidents or unusual situations. Because of this, the center will receive anywhere from three to twenty five telephone calls on the same accident. Mr. Gamblin stated that while the intentions are good, this phenomenon will cause an increase in call volume.

Mr. Gamblin stated that E-911 is ready to move onto Phase II, but, one week prior to the date when the Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) software system was to be installed, the system crashed at the Dispatch Center. By the time all the necessary parts for repairing the system were accumulated, the transformer explosion occurred at the Law and Justice Center, and the Information Services' staff was otherwise occupied. Mr. Gamblin stated that the Information Services Department has been able to restore the system and the CAD Software Company is scheduled to be out in September to update the software for Phase II.

Chairman Renner entered the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

Mr. Gamblin informed the Committee that in order to ensure that steps are taken to reach citizens to "test" corrected database items, the following procedures have been instituted:

- 1) The residents are called to set-up a test call.
- 2) If after the third try, no answer is received, then a post card is sent to the residence asking that they contact MetCom to set-up a test call to verify the information.
- 3) If no contact is made within 10 days, a certified, receipt request is mailed to verify that someone is at that address.

Ms. Rackauskas asked for a clarification of "No ALI" and "No ANI" listed on Page 20.

Mr. Gamblin replied that the "ALI" stands for Automatic Location Identifier, which provides the name and address of the caller and it is based on the service record of the telephone company. "ANI" stands for Automatic Number Identifier.

Mr. Gamblin noted that another issued being addressed at this time is the "Soft Dial Tone" system provided by telephone companies. Soft Dial Tone allows a resident to plug

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2003

Page Three

their phone into a new house wall outlet and automatically have some service. But, the soft dial tone service only allows two calls to be placed from this new line, a call to 911 and a call to the business office of the telephone company. This service is being used by people who use their wireless phones as their main source of communication. The downside to the soft dial tone system is that E-911 cannot return a call and help with an emergency situation.

Mr. Gamblin informed the Committee that E-911 and MetCom had a booth at the McLean County Fair this weekend and a lot of information was passed out and staff members were able to answer questions.

At this time, Vice Chairman Kinzinger turned the meeting over to Chairman Renner.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, was not present to discuss the Monthly Statistic Report. The Committee did not have any questions at this time.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Court Services, presented the Monthly Statistical Report. Ms. Castleman noted that the caseload for Juveniles has been down for the last few months, but numbers are starting to slowly increase again.

Ms. Castleman informed the Committee that the Adult Court Services Staff moved back into the Law and Justice Center today.

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, was not present to discuss the Second Quarter 2003 Reports or the Monthly Statistical Report for June 2003.

Sheriff David Owens, McLean County Sheriff, was not present to discuss the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report. Ms. Rackauskas wondered if the numbers being provided in the Population Report could be further documented by gender.

Mr. Zeunik explained that the female numbers are limited by the actual number of female cells available in the County Jail. Mr. Zeunik noted that the Jail pods cannot be easily adjusted to accommodate females.

Ms. Rodgers agreed that better documentation of the female to male ratio under any category would be beneficial. This female to male ratio does not have to be provided on a daily basis, just on a monthly basis. Ms. Rackauskas noted that better statistics will help make better projections. Chairman Renner asked Mr. Zeunik to make this recommendation to the Sheriff for future reports.

Chairman Renner asked if members had any other questions. Members did not have any further questions for the Sheriff.

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2003

Page Four

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, thanked the members of the County Board and the staff of the Administrator's Office for the beautiful bouquet of flowers sent to her.

Ms. Kimmerling explained that she has spent the last 2 ½ weeks with her mother who recently passed away. At this time, Ms. Kimmerling thanked Ms. Barbara Nafziger for her immense help running the Coroner's Office during this time.

Ms. Barbara Nafziger, Chief Deputy Coroner, presented a request for approval of an Appropriation Transfer Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2003 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance - Indigent Burial Expense. This request is to transfer funds from the County Board's Contract Services Line Item to the County Board's Contingency Line Item account for an indigent burial in regards to Lyle G. Shannon. Mr. Shannon died in the McLean County Jail on July 18, 2003, of natural causes. Mr. Shannon has a wife whom he has not had contact with for the last seven years. She wanted no association with Mr. Shannon or the funeral arrangements. She has signed a Release Authorization Form turning all legal responsibility for final disposition over to the McLean County Coroner's Office. Mr. Shannon also has two daughters. A 28 year old who is unemployed and has no resources with which to fund the funeral and a minor child. A Release Authorization Form has been signed by the older daughter and by the minor child's mother who is the legal guardian.

Ms. Nafziger noted that she has attached a bill from Calvert & Metzler Funeral Home in the amount of \$1,500.00. This invoice includes the cost of services, casket and gravebox, as well as a cash advance for cemetery expenses. The Illinois Funeral Directors Association 2003 Guidelines state that the funeral director allowance is \$1,000.00 and the cemetery expenses are reimbursed up to \$500.00. Mr. Shannon was buried on Thursday, July 24, 2003. Ms. Nafziger explained that additional financial reimbursement avenues pursued included the local Social Security Office, but Mr. Shannon was never employed long enough to be eligible for social security. Mr. Shannon was not a veteran, so there would be no money available through the Veterans Assistance Program. Mr. Shannon was not listed in the Illinois Department of Public Aid Roster. Mr. Shannon was homeless and has no permanent address, therefore, he was not listed in the Bloomington City Township role and is not eligible for benefits from the Township.

Motion by Kinzinger/Nuckolls to recommend approval
of an Appropriation Transfer Amending the McLean
County Fiscal Year 2003 Combined Annual
Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Indigent Burial
Expense. Motion carried.

Ms. Nafziger informed the Committee that the Coroner's Office may be visiting the Justice Committee in the near future to ask for another Indigent burial request.

Ms. Kimmerling presented the Monthly Report for July 2003. Ms. Kimmerling noted that the deaths reported to the Coroner's Office had slightly increased. The out-of-county autopsies are going strong. The inquest numbers decreased because of the explosion in the Law and Justice Center.

Ms. Rackauskas asked why Facilities Management was receiving \$5,620.00 from the Coroner's Office, as documented in Page 58. Ms. Kimmerling explained that Facilities Management is the department responsible for the cleaning of the morgue. This expense is not a budgeted amount because the cleaning fee is paid with revenue received for services provided by the Coroner's Office. Mr. Zeunik explained that this is a non-budget line item in the Coroner's Office, but it is a budgeted revenue line item in the Facilities Management Department for reimbursement for services provided for out-of-county autopsy cases.

Mr. William A. Yoder, State's Attorney, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2003 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, State's Attorney's Office 0020. Mr. Yoder explained that this request provides funding for the Victim/Witness Grant positions previously approved by the County Board.

Motion by Nuckolls/Kinzinger to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2003 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, State's Attorney's Office 0020. Motion carried.

Mr. Yoder noted that on Page 61 the Committee would find an *Amended* Asset Forfeiture Fund Report for June 30, 2003. Page 62 documents the Asset Forfeiture Fund Report for July 2003. Mr. Yoder referred to the Caseload Report on Page 63 and asked the Committee not to rely on the projected numbers under the child support column because the numbers do not add up properly. He will revisit these numbers and make the necessary corrections.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any other questions for Mr. Yoder. Committee members had no questions at this time.

Mr. John M. Zeunik, County Administrator, informed the Committee members that at the last County Board meeting Chairman Sweeney noted that McLean County, along with St. Clair County, had been selected to submit a grant application for funding for the radios for the McLean County Sheriff's Department. That application has been submitted on time. The time frame for awarding this grant should be announced sometime in

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2003

Page Six

September.

Chairman Renner presented the Minutes of the July 7, 2003 Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Rodgers/Rackauskas to recommend approval of the July 7, 2003 Justice Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

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

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2003
Page Seven

Motion by Nuckolls/Rackauskas to recommend approval of the 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 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski
Recording Secretary

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