

## **Justice Committee Meeting Minutes**

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, July 7, 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: Vice Chairman Kinzinger, Members Rodgers, Nuckolls and Rackauskas

Members Absent: Members Renner and 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: Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Coordinator, Jury Commission; Ms. Laura Tuffentsamen, Assistant Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Ms. Beth C. Kimmerling, Coroner; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk

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 5:15 p.m.

Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Coordinator, presented the Monthly Statistical Report for the Jury Commission. Ms. Brand stated that the number of jurors used and trials held declined in June due to the closing of the courts during the week of June 16<sup>th</sup> and the subsequent relocation of the civil trial judges. Criminal trials will resume in the Law and Justice Center in July. Ms. Brand noted that the Jury Commission Office did not suffer any ill effects from the explosion. Summons for all of the July juries have been sent out on schedule. Ms. Brand stated that she personally called the jurors scheduled for the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup> since the website and the automated phone-in system were out of order for some time.

Ms. Brand added that the proposed budget for the Jury Commission has been completed. Minimal or no increases have been projected for fiscal year 2004. Ms. Brand noted that six months into 2003, less than 50% of the Jury Commission budget has been spent. Committee members had no further questions for Ms. Brand.

Ms. Laura Tuffentsamen, Assistant Director, Children's Advocacy Center, stated that only 13 children listed in the Children Awaiting Assignment are awaiting assignment of a case worker.

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Ms. Tuffentsamen noted that the 18<sup>th</sup> CASA Class graduated on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Since there were many cases waiting for assignment, seven volunteers were assigned to work with 14 abused and neglected children.

Ms. Tuffentsamen informed the Committee that CASA did not miss a week of court due to the explosion, because Circuit Judge Ron Dozier, held court in the office of the Children's Advocacy Center.

Ms. Beth C. Kimmerling, McLean County Coroner, referred to the Monthly Report for May, 2003. Ms. Kimmerling noted that the out-of-county autopsies are keeping the office busy. This is mostly due to McLean County's collaboration with Peoria and Champaign Counties. Ms. Kimmerling noted that both Peoria and Champaign are counties where the Coroner might retire at the end of their present terms, so future dependence on the out-of-county autopsies from these Counties cannot be projected.

Mr. Nuckolls asked if anyone had claimed the Tiger. Ms. Kimmerling answered that on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Tiger was moved to Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. The entire Tiger went to the Anthropology Department at Indiana University. The Anthropology Department will only keep the Tiger's skeletal remains. The United States Fish and Wildlife will take the remaining parts of the Tiger as an investigational tool to aid in the apprehension of individuals who capture endangered species.

Vice Chairman Kinzinger asked who actually had possession of the Tiger. Ms. Kimmerling answered that per the State's Attorney's Office, the Tiger became the property of the McLean County Coroner. Committee members did not have any further questions for Ms. Kimmerling.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, 911 Administrator, was not present to discuss the May Statistics and Error Resolution Report. Committee members did not have any questions at this time.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, presented the Monthly Statistical Report. Committee members did not have any questions.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented the Caseload and Asset Forfeiture Reports. Mr. Yoder noted that the Felony numbers remain consistent with past figures, and the misdemeanor numbers are running as projected.

Ms. Rackauskas wondered if the misdemeanor numbers increased because felonies are decreasing. Mr. Yoder explained that in part this is correct, but the misdemeanor numbers do not reflect cases that are being deferred. The deferred cases are not accounted for in this report.

Vice Chairman Kinzinger asked if the State's Attorney's Office operations were disturbed by the explosion. Mr. Yoder answered that the State's Attorney's Office was fortunate to be back in their offices in a short period of time. The Juvenile Department has been relocated to the temporary facility on Hershey Road, creating some delays because of travel time and such, but overall, business continues as usual. Committee members did not have any further questions for Mr. Yoder.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval of an Ordinance Director, for the Establishment of Drug and Alcohol Testing Fees in McLean County. Ms. Castleman stated that the McLean County Board has statutory authority to establish fees for offenders sentenced to probation or conditional discharge after conviction of certain offenses to defray the cost of the court-ordered drug and alcohol testing. Ms. Castleman explained that the County has been collecting fees for drug and alcohol testing for about ten years but somehow, the original Ordinance cannot be found.

Ms. Castleman informed the Committee that due to current events the Administrative Order Number proposed will have to be changed because Chief Judge John P. Freese, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, used Number 13 to close the Courts down for a week. Mr. Zeunik asked if Ms. Castleman knew what the correct number would be once Judge Freese signs the Order. Ms. Castleman answered that the order will probably not be signed until August. If no other Administrative Order is signed before then, then the number for this Order will be 14.

Mr. Zeunik noted that Paragraph 2, Page 19, of the proposed Ordinance reads, "...the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court has prepared Administrative Order 2003-13 ordering..." Mr. Zeunik suggested that this be changed to read, "...the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court will issue an Administrative Order ordering..." Mr. Zeunik referenced Item 3 in the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Zeunik suggested that "2003-13" be deleted. Mr. Zeunik stated that this change would allow the Committee to take action on this proposed Ordinance tonight, if this is what the Committee wishes to do.

Vice Chairman Kinzinger asked for clarification of the \$7.00 per drug charge. Ms. Castleman explained that the standard drug testing entails the testing for Cannabis, Cocaine, Opiates and Methamphetamines. If there is a reason to test for some other drug, further testing is scheduled.

Ms. Rackauskas wondered why there is a need to present this Ordinance at this time. Ms. Castleman answered that Court Services has been looking for this Ordinance in order to draft a DNA Ordinance. After intensive searching, the original Ordinance cannot be found.

Motion by Rodgers/Rackauskas to recommend approval of an Ordinance for the Establishment of Drug and Alcohol Testing Fees in McLean County. Motion carried.

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented a request for approval of a Quotation for Purchase and Installation of Movable Shelving Units from Retrieval Business Systems. This shelving will be used in the Traffic Division and funding for the shelving is available in the Circuit Clerk's Document Storage budget. This product would allow use of the existing shelving units on a mobile carriage. The existing shelving is in good shape and does not need replacing. Ms. Parker noted that consistent with County Purchasing Policy, they attempted to secure formal quotes from at least three companies. Because of the mixture of shelving brands in the Circuit Clerk's Office, both Aurora File Co., and Burroughs Shelving declined to quote. Retrieval Business System has proposed the Montel Shelving System that allows existing shelving to be used, regardless of brand.

Motion by Nuckolls/Rodgers to recommend acceptance of a Quotation for Purchase and Installation of Movable Shelving Units from Retrieval Business Systems. Motion carried.

Ms. Parker presented the Circuit Clerk's Monthly Statistics. Committee members did not have any questions for Ms. Parker.

Vice Chairman Kinzinger asked Ms. Parker if the Circuit Clerk's Office was handling the present working conditions. Ms. Parker answered that her staff is conducting business. Running a satellite court has been awkward because not all of the necessary files are readily available. Due to the uncomfortable conditions on the third and fourth floors, the retrieval of files is being done on a daily basis. The majority of her staff is working out of one large conference room with only two computers and two phone lines available.

Ms. Parker informed the Committee that there may be a need for a Stand-Up Meeting before the County Board to discuss and, hopefully approve a IV-D Grant from the Department of Public Aid. The contract arrived after the Justice Committee Agenda was prepared and Judge Freese was not available to review it. Ms. Parker stated that there is no change in the dollar amount of the grant. If McLean County does not apply and accept this grant money, the County still has to perform the duties associated with the program.

Mr. John M. Zeunik, County Administrator, updated the Committee on the Law and Justice Center and the Jail. Mr. Zeunik stated that the County is able to move some of the inmates back into the 108 bed direct supervision areas of the jail because full services have been restored to this area. About 66 inmates were moved back into the facility. Even though there is accommodations for 108 inmates in this part of the facility, the Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

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Sheriff needs to provide housing for any arrests made by law enforcement agencies in the

area. The Sheriff has been transporting back to McLean County only those inmates that have set court dates. This allows for some transportation savings.

Mr. Zeunik explained that the cleaning process is the only hold up to using the old linear portion of the jail that can house up to 85 inmates.

Mr. Nuckolls asked if there was a final cost for the out-of-county housing.

Mr. Zeunik answered that the average daily cost for out-of-county housing is approximately \$50.00 per day. This cost does not include transporting expenses. This expense does fall under the "Business Interruption Expense" and is covered by the insurance.

Ms. Rackauskas complimented the staff for the positive attitudes. Mr. Zeunik concurred and stated that the support and spirit of cooperation among the employees has been exceptional.

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

Motion by Nuckolls/Rodgers 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, Vice Chairman Kinzinger adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski  
Recording Secretary

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