

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, October 7, 2002 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 Sommer, Members Johnson, Emmett and Renner

Members Absent: Members Pokorney and Kinzinger

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk; Mr. Charles Reynard, State's Attorney; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, E-911; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender; Ms. Jane Engblom, Jury Commission

Members of the
Public Present:

Ms. Carol Reitan, Institute for Collaborative Solution, Inc.;
Ms. Barbara Stuart, League of Women Voters

Chairman Sommer called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

Chairman Sommer placed the Justice Committee minutes for September 9, 2002 on file as presented.

Ms. Beth C. Kimmerling, Coroner's Office, was not present to discuss the Coroner's Monthly Report for August 2002.

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk's Office, presented the Statistical Reports for the month of August, 2002. Justice Committee members did not have any questions about the Statistical Report for Ms. Parker.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Court Services Department, was not present to discuss the Court Services and the Juvenile Detention Center Monthly Statistical Reports.

Mr. Renner asked Mr. Zeunik to confer with Ms. Castleman regarding further information on cost estimates and discussion with the judges regarding Electronic Monitoring. Mr. Zeunik stated that he would relay this request to Ms. Castleman and ask her to update the Justice Committee at the next meeting. Mr. Renner commented on the fact that the population in the jail has spiked to nearly 270 per the report he receives from the Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center, was not present to discuss the Children's Advocacy Center Monthly Statistical Report.

Mr. Emmett referred to the Asset Forfeiture Fund Report provided by the State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Emmett noticed that a \$10,000.00 expenditure was made by the Sheriff's Department last month. What type of expenditures can be made with funds from the Asset Forfeiture Fund. Mr. Zeunik explained that the Asset Forfeiture Fund can be used for any type of drug enforcement or drug intervention activities that occur in the Sheriff's Department. In the Sheriff's Department, the funds can be used for undercover type of investigations or for the purchase of equipment related to drug enforcement or intervention. Mr. Zeunik noted that the McLean County Sheriff's Department was part of the round-up of outstanding warrants, along with the U.S. Marshall's Office and the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Department. Mr. Zeunik stated that he will research this issue further, since he does not know the specifics on what was actually purchased with the funds and report back to the Justice Committee.

Mr. Charles Reynard entered the meeting.

Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Reynard why September's filing numbers were so much higher than August 2002. Mr. Reynard answered that he was not aware of the actual figures on the report and that he would research this issue and report back to the Justice Committee.

Chairman Sommer referred to the Asset Forfeiture Fund balance. Chairman Sommer asked if the annual transfer of funds was made in July as scheduled. Mr. Reynard answered that as of this date, no transfer of funds had been made. Mr. Reynard stated that a deposit of approximately \$5,000.00 was made into the Asset Forfeiture Fund last month. Mr. Reynard commented that he would be amenable to making a reasonable transfer into the General Fund, leaving a cushion in the account for the \$1,300.00 per month expenses before the next Justice Committee.

Mr. Zeunik asked Mr. Reynard to explain the status of the position with the Department of Children and Family Services Contract for the Children's Advocacy Center. Mr. Reynard explained that the position has not been filled because it has been difficult to secure an interested party. Mr. Reynard stated that there is one person who would be qualified for the position that is still weighing the possibility of accepting the position in January 2003. The funding being offered for this position falls below the level of expertise being requested. Chairman Sommer asked if there was a time frame for filling the position and still meet the terms of the grant. Mr. Reynard answered that it is a contract position that have been started as early as July 2002, so there is no deadline at this time that he is aware of.

Mr. Reynard presented a Contract for the Traffic Attorney position contract for the Justice Committee to consider. Mr. Reynard explained that today he received notice by the current contractor that he would be leaving for a similar position in Tazewell County. Mr. Reynard stated that a former Assistant State's Attorney is interested in doing some traffic contract work for the State's Attorney's Office. This contract would be replacing

personnel presently in the position, not initiating a new position. Chairman Sommer noted that this could be considered for an action item to be handled in a Stand-Up meeting before the County Board meeting. Chairman Sommer asked if the compensation noted in the new contract would be the same as the present contract. Mr. Reynard answered that the proposed contract's compensation will be reduced by \$5,000.00. The proposed contract is for \$30,000.00 annualized with a cut back in the amount of work that the contractor is responsible for. Mr. Reynard stated that this contract tries to accommodate the fiscal resources available and still partially provide the services needed. This position is of enormous importance to the ability of the traffic division to function. Mr. Reynard explained that if the single remaining full-time petty traffic prosecutor is required to handle the workload of the present traffic contractor, another resignation would occur.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Administrator, E-911/ETSB, presented the Status Report for the E-911 System. Mr. Gamblin noted that the number of error rate has decreased to less than 400. Even though the department continues to work on the errors a state of equilibrium is being reached. The department is at a point where new errors due to new construction, annexation changes, etc. match corrected errors. Mr. Gamblin referred to the negative number of errors documented for the month of August. Mr. Gamblin explained that due to an audit of past records, corrected errors that had not been marked as "corrected" were discovered.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender's Office, presented the Monthly Caseload/Disposition Report. Members of the Justice Committee had no further questions for Ms. Davis.

Ms. Jane Engblom, Jury Commissioner, discussed the Jury Statistics for the Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2002. Ms. Engblom informed the Committee that a new option for jurors to check their reporting instructions has been established through the internet at www.mclean.gov/jury.

Sheriff Dave Owens, Sheriff's Department, was not present to updated the Committee on the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report.

Mr. Renner wondered why the jail population increased dramatically. Mr. Emmett noted that the persons recently arrested during the drug sweep taskforce were held at the McLean County Jail. Mr. Zeunik explained that most of the warrants issued during the sweep, were issued by the McLean County State's Attorney's Office. Because of the number of warrants and the number of agencies that were involved, the ESDA Operation Room in the basement of the Law and Justice Center was converted into a booking area to process the people. In a lot of the cases, the individuals were able to make the set bond, but there were quite a few that were incarcerated.

Mr. Zeunik referred to Page 39 of the agenda. Mr. Zeunik noted that the funds reserved for the housing of inmates out-of-county was budgeted at \$60,000.00 for the year. As of the end of September 2002, the County had spent \$41,000.00 for housing County

inmates out-of-county. With the continuing number of people being housed out-of-county, the out-of-county fund will probably be totally used up.

Mr. John M. Zeunik, County Administrator, suggested that the Justice Committee schedule additional meetings for review of the Fiscal Year 2003 Recommended Budget.

After some discussion, the Justice Committee decided to meet on October 24, 2002 and October 28, 2002, at 5:00p.m. in Room 700 to discuss the Fiscal Year 2003 Budget.

Chairman Sommer presented transfers and bills, as presented by the County Auditor, for review and approval by the Justice Committee.

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Motion by Emmett/Johnson to recommend approval
of the transfers and bills as presented by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman
Sommer adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski
Recording Secretary
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