

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, September 9, 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, Kinzinger and Renner

Members Absent: Member Pokorney

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Todd Miller, Assistant State's Attorney, State's Attorney's Office; Ms. Tina Griffin, First Assistant State's Attorney, State's Attorney's Office; Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, E-911; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Chief Deputy Derick Love, McLean County Sheriff's Department

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 5:17 p.m.

Chairman Sommer placed on file the Committee minutes for August 5, 2002 as presented.

Mr. Todd Miller, Assistant State's Attorney, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the McLean County State's Attorney – Child Support Enforcement Division.

Motion by Kinzinger/Renner to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the McLean County State's Attorney – Child Support Enforcement Division. Motion carried.

Ms. Tina Griffin, First Assistant State's Attorney, discussed requests for authorization to submit grant proposals for the State's Attorney's Office for Law Enforcement and Prosecution based Victim Services Programs for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Project Safe Neighborhoods with the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Ms. Griffin stated that the State's Attorney's Office received information regarding two grant applications which are due prior to the next Justice Committee meeting. The first grant is part of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). It would fund an additional Victim-Witness Coordinator Position that would provide more in-depth services for violent crime victims, working directly with the victim advocates currently employed at the Bloomington and Normal Police Departments.

The other grant opportunity is from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and pursues the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. Ms. Griffin noted that the State's Attorney's Office is contemplating a collaborative project to prosecute gun-related crimes with Bloomington and Normal Police Departments and the U.S. Attorney's Office with a goal of reducing the level of gun violence in the community. At this time, Ms. Griffin asked the Justice Committee for authorization to submit the proposals by the stated deadlines. The proposals will be simultaneously provided to the County Board for their approval. If the proposals are approved by the grantor agencies, the State Attorney will return to the Justice Committee for final action.

Motion by Emmett/Renner to authorize the State Attorney's Office to submit grant proposals for Law Enforcement and Prosecution- based-Victim Services Programs under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Project Safe Neighborhoods with the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Mr. Kinzinger was concerned with the future of the positions requested if the funding from the State or the Federal government were cut. At that time, McLean County would have to decide if these programs are to be kept and how they will be funded.

Mr. Renner commented that the people hired under these grants must know that they are being hired using resources that may not be available for a long period of time if the grants are reduced.

Chairman Sommer stated that in the event that a grant is awarded and a point is reached where the funding will be reduced by some percentage, the reduction will not occur until the original end of the grant period. Ms. Griffin noted that both grant proposals have a time limit of 24 months, distributed a year at a time. Ms. Griffin clarified that the funding for these grants, according to the Bureau of Justice Systems Program, was approved by Congress for the 24 months. The designated amount of money has been approved in the Federal budget for this program. Mr. Renner noted that if a program is funded by federal money, the federal money won't be short-changed, the program will just be terminated.

Chairman Sommer noted that the State has been as much as three months late with payments to local governments. With the Federal government, if they decide to terminate the funding of the grant, then the people holding these positions will be discharged and the liability ends three months later.

Motion carried.

Ms. Griffin asked that the request for approval of an Implementation Plan regarding the Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for the Children's Advocacy Center and the State's Attorney's Office be deferred from the table at this time.

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented the Statistical Report for the month of July 2002. No questions presented by the Justice Committee.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Administrator, E-911, presented a Status Report for the E-911 System. Members of the Justice Committee had no questions for Mr. Gamblin regarding the Status Report.

Mr. Gamblin informed the Committee of two issues: 1) E-911 is working on a McLean County Map Book that would reflect the new E-911 addresses. Mr. Gamblin stated that Mr. Eric Ruud, Chief Civil Assistant State's Attorney has cleared this matter of any legal issues from the telephone companies. This map book will be available for County office's use and for the public; and 2) Mr. Gamblin attended a meeting in Springfield, Illinois regarding federal funding during the Emergency Management sessions. Mr. Gamblin learned that there would be money available to local governments in order to plan for and to facilitate inter-operability for services such as communications and responses. Over the next five years about 75% of the money allocated would be available to local governments for radio communications and inter-operability.

Chairman Sommer asked if inter-operability referred to communication being available across state lines. Mr. Gamblin answered that radio channels that can be programmed so anyone can respond from anywhere in the nation are being researched for future use. Mr. Gamblin stated that mainly, inter-operability within a geographical area, such as Illinois, would be a factor that will be researched. One of the big models being used and documented by the Federal government is the Fire Services' Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). This is a statewide fire mutual aid system that basically preplans responses between agencies for major incidents.

Chairman Sommer asked if there are any existing communications systems in McLean County that would qualify in the inter-operability concept. Mr. Gamblin answered that the current E. F. Johnson 800 MHz System, updated to fit user needs, would qualify. However, it has not been stated that a County has to have a current system that complies with inter-operability in order to qualify for these funds. Chairman Sommer asked if it would be a requirement that the agencies within the State of Illinois be on an exact or similar system. Mr. Gamblin answered that they would be looking at the different spectrum of VHF, UHF, 800 MHz and 700 MHz. They would look for a set of frequencies that would be sort of standardized, such as the Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel (IREACH), a channel that everyone statewide is supposed to be able to access.

Chairman Sommer asked what the time line of this program might be. Mr. Gamblin answered that based on the information given by the Department of Justice and the Homeland Security Agency, they are pushing to get the funds flowing by the first quarter of Federal Fiscal Year 2003. Chairman Sommer asked what was the amount available for distribution. Mr. Gamblin answered that the State of Illinois might be looking at \$264

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million and the total amount nationwide is \$5.6 billion. Mr. Gamblin stated that he would keep the Justice Committee informed.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner, discussed the Monthly Report for July 2002.

Ms. Kimmerling noted the changes in the monthly reports. Ms. Kimmerling stated that additional information will now be provided on Active Death Investigations, and that the Coroner's monthly reports will not include the In or Out of County Removal figures because, due to budget constraints, the Coroner's Office will restrict out of county removals to actual local areas. This is due to the fact that the Coroner's Office has only one removal van and one person who does the removing of bodies, who is also the Deputy Coroner. It is not feasible to have a Deputy Coroner traveling long distances with the only removal vehicle available.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Court Services Department, was not present tonight. There were no questions regarding her report.

Mr. Renner distributed some information regarding Electronic Monitoring Systems from Cook County that had been researched by his students.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender's Office was not available to discuss the Monthly Caseload/Disposition Report. There were no questions regarding her report.

Chief Deputy Derick Love, McLean County Sheriff's Department, updated the Committee on the Radio System. Chairman Sommer notified the Justice Committee that he met with Sheriff Owens and Mr. Sweeney regarding the radio system. The information provided in the agenda packet is for the member's review and no action is required. There will be a future meeting of the ETSB/MetCom Radio Committee, after the County Board meeting in September and before the next Justice Committee in October.

Mr. Emmett noted that Sheriff Owens mentioned a Radio Committee. Mr. Emmett was not aware of who the members of this Radio Committee were. Chairman Sommer commented that there actually is a radio committee, but does not know whom the members are. Mr. Emmett noted that on the Sheriff's report he stated "that the radio committee decided not to even consider E.F. Johnson." Mr. Emmett would like an explanation as to why E.F. Johnson was eliminated from vendors. The present discussions gear towards the building of an 800 MHz System from the ground up or looking at 400 MHz trunking systems. Mr. Emmett believes the problem this County Board is dealing with presently is due to poor communication and consideration to the long term ramifications from decisions previously made regarding this issue. Mr. Emmett would like to see members of ETSB and MetCom visit with the Justice Committee and provide some explanation as to where the funding will come from.

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Ms. Johnson agreed with Mr. Emmett's comments. Ms. Johnson pointed out that the Justice Committee asked Sheriff Owens about the Trunking of the E. F. Johnson system and on page 98 of the agenda there is mention that states "the repeater system with the E. F. Johnson system was not going to work" but previously, in the ETSB minutes, it refers to the use of the E. F. Johnson system for the repeaters. Ms. Johnson would like more explanation on this issue.

Chairman Sommer commented that he had hoped to have a report from Chenoa regarding the radio units they are testing, but was not able to get it for tonight's meeting.

Chairman Sommer feels that there is a need for better understanding of systems and programs available. There is a need to have more people in the leg of the triangle to agree to this expense and acceptance on the final solution.

Mr. Lindberg explained that the Radio Committee was organized as an effort on the part of ETSB and MetCom to bring members of ETSB and MetCom together for the focus of looking at the radios without the worry of funding and operational issues at this time. The Radio Committee is staffed by Ms. Shawn Walker and Mr. Bill Gamblin and it is made up of a total of eight members, with Sheriff Owens being the Chair. What has been presented to the Justice Committee at this time is a list of options that can be considered.

Mr. Lindberg stated that the Radio Committee is expected to make recommendations to MetCom and ETSB, who would then come to the Justice Committee. Again, the next Radio Committee meeting is schedule for after the September County Board meeting and before the next Justice Committee meeting. Mr. Lindberg will notify Justice Committee members of the exact day of the next Radio Committee.

Chairman Sommer asked the Justice Committee members if they were satisfied to wait for the recommendations presented from the next Radio Committee or was another action being considered. Members of the Justice Committee stated that they would wait to see what the next Radio Committee meeting decided.

Chief Deputy Love commented that the report presented in the agenda was for informational purposes only. The Sheriff is continuing his research and review this issue.

Chief Deputy Love referred to the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report. Mr. Renner noted that \$38,000.00 of a \$60,000.00 budget had been spent thus far for out-of-county prisoner housing. Mr. Renner wonder if there was a threshold where the County starts to contract-out or is it the mix of prisoners that dictates when a prisoner is contracted-out. Chief Deputy Love explained that increases in the number of female inmates have driven this expense. The in-house numbers could be at 210 on a Wednesday and knowing that there are ten new sentenced inmates coming in and 30 work release inmates coming back in the weekend, the decision is made who may need to be housed out-of-county.

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Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center, was not present to discuss the Monthly Report. There were no questions asked regarding her report.

Ms. Joan Naour, Correctional Health Services, was not available to discuss the Fiscal Year 2002 Quarterly Report for the Second Quarter. There were no questions asked regarding her report.

Mr. Craig Nelson, Information Services, was not present to discuss the IJIS Status Report. Chairman Sommer asked if staff time spent in the Coroner's request for IJIS services had delayed any other IJIS projects.

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

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Motion by Kinzinger/Johnson to recommend payment
of the 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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