

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, September 10, 2001 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 Pokorney, Renner and Johnson

Members Absent: Members Emmett 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; Ms. Shawn Walker, Director MetCom; Mr. Charles Reynard, State's Attorney; Ms. Beth C. Kimmerling, Coroner; Sheriff Dave Owens, Sheriff Department; Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Administrator, E-911; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

Chairman Sommer called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. Hearing no objections, the minutes of the August 6th and August 21st, 2001 meetings were approved and placed on file as presented.

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, reviewed the Monthly Statistical Reports for the Circuit Clerk's Office with the Committee.

Ms. Joan Naour, Correctional Health Services, was not present to review the Fiscal Year 2001 Second Quarter Report for the Correctional Health Services.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center, briefly discussed the Monthly Statistical Reports. Ms. Larkin expressed her gratitude to the Committee for the new facilities in the 200 West Front Street Building. She informed the Committee that an Open House is scheduled for the future and Committee and County Board members will be invited.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Administrator, E-911, presented the Status Report for the E-911 System. Mr. Gamblin stated that compared to last month's report, many of the tasks have been 100% completed. The task shown at 99% in the report indicate where the error report from Verizon is expected to be received by next week. The errors were first confirmed in the E-911 Department and were sent to Verizon so they can perform a service audit change. The database will always contain about 500 errors because there are lines that for some reason or another cannot be reconciled. Once every line has been

identified, and Verizon completes their confirmation, then E-911 will move forward with the Illinois Commerce Commission to receive the order to operate and the training of personnel will begin at MetCom.

Mr. Renner asked if every possible step would be taken to guarantee that those 500 errors do not represent human numbers getting shut-off the system. Mr. Gamblin stated that every step would be taken to insure that this does not occur.

Mr. Renner asked why there has been so much problem with the wireless system. Mr. Gamblin explained that the wireless system will not be started until the enhanced 911 system is up and running. Wireless calls are presently handled under phase zero. Phase zero means that the wireless call comes into the MetCom Center, and handled by a Telecommunicator that transfers the call to a seven digit emergency number.

Mr. Gamblin stated that Phase I will be instituted six months after the enhancement. Phase I entails the cell tower locations, cell face locations, and wireless longitude and latitude angles. Under Phase I, the phone number, the cell site and the location of the call, if the caller is able to provide their position, will be available. Phase II, scheduled a year after Phase I is completed, would aid in the triangulation of the longitude and latitude for wireless calls without the caller having to actually provide this information.

Chairman Sommer asked what is the timetable for Wireless Phase I and Phase II. Mr. Gamblin answered that Phase I is scheduled to be completed by June 2002 and Phase II by December 2003. Mr. Pokorney noted that the schedule Mr. Gamblin just mentioned would probably depend on the completion date of the enhancement of E-911.

Mr. Pokorney asked for clarification of the Verizon report that Mr. Gamblin is waiting for. Mr. Gamblin explained that Verizon receives an error data report from E-911, Verizon keys this information into their database. If things don't match up, the errors are returned to E-911 where the staff would determine what caused the error.

Mr. Pokorney asked when was the estimated date for Mr. Gamblin to obtain this information from Verizon. Mr. Gamblin answered that he was informed that the information would be to E-911 by September 26th. Mr. Pokorney was amazed that it has taken over six weeks for Verizon to return this information. Mr. Gamblin stated that a letter will be sent to Verizon with a firm request for a speedier return of data information.

Ms. Johnson stated that once E-911 receives the listing by the 26th of September, how long will it take to make corrections. Mr. Gamblin stated that it would take his department about 3 to 4 days.

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Chairman Sommer stated that training would begin after the enhancement system is up and going. Mr. Gamblin explained that the equipment required for the training has been installed at MetCom. Training would occur on October 10th on site in order to provide full-time personnel coverage for MetCom.

Chairman Sommer asked if a level of maintenance would be maintained in order to keep the number of error message below the 1% point. Mr. Gamblin stated that the Illinois Commerce Commission requires that an error rate of less than 1% be maintained at all times. Chairman Sommer asked what is the number of errors that would never be corrected. Mr. Gamblin stated around 400 telephone numbers. This may be due to factors such as: adding of new telephone services, moving to new locations, and new telephone companies and systems used by them. Of the 400 telephone numbers, there would be numbers that will never be corrected because they are data lines and lines like train conductor's telephone boxes, etc. E-911 will know where these data lines are, but can't clear them because they aren't part of the telephone company system.

Mr. Pokorney asked what the absolute drop-dead date is for the start-up of E-911 system. Mr. Gamblin guessed it would be the week of November 6th, 2001. This date is based on the response from Verizon on the error messages they are correcting. Mr. Gamblin will keep in contact with Mr. Zeunik with regards to this issue.

Ms. Shawn Walker, Director, McLean County Metro Centralized Communications Center, reported on the status of EF Johnson 800 MHz Radio System. Ms. Walker summarized that the McLean County 800 Mhz system was installed in 1997. It consists of three (3) simulcast repeater sites: one site located in downtown Bloomington, one site at Arrowsmith and one site at Lexington. The system serves the public safety departments of the Town of Normal, City of Bloomington and McLean County, in addition to numerous city and county public service departments. The mobiles and portable radios have not been serviced since they were put into operation. Ms. Walker stated that the primary problem with the portable radios was due to where the radios were being held when used. The portable radios were designed to be at face level when used, not at hip level like the officers are carrying them now. Ms. Walker explained that when the portable is worn at the hip, the body is between the antenna and where the transmission is supposed to go and serious degradation may occur. Had the system been designed for the portable to be used as they are actually being used, a significant number of additional tower and receivers sites would be needed.

Ms. Walker stated that on April 3rd, E.F. Johnson team met with City and County officials and officers from the public safety areas to discuss various problems the system users were experiencing. After the meeting, the E.F Johnson team spent time driving

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through all parts of the county testing coverage and audio quality. The tests were conducted using Viking Cm Radios provided by the County. The team also visited the three simulcast sites to verify equipment operation and status. The E.F. Johnson team made the following observations: 1) Muffled transmit audio – Audio in the transmission coverage area of Bloomington tower distorted. 2) Sporadic scratchy audio – in some calls

to the consoles, the noise floor is high. 3) Simulcast noise along Highway 9. 4) No coverage at OSF St. Joseph's Hospital and the basement of the Normal Police Department. 5) Dead spots in the town of LeRoy. 6) Portable access problems in Funks Grove. 7) Spotty portable handshakes in Bloomington and Normal. 8) Long handshake times. 9) Audio dropping completely during a call. 10) Handshakes completed but no one hears the call. 11) Portables lose programming. 12) Local service provider had turned off repeater #3 at Arrowsmith only. 13) No preventive maintenance has been done on the subscriber equipment since purchase. 14) Audio quality within Lexington and Arrowsmith capture zones is excellent. 15) Audio quality is poor within Bloomington site capture zone. 16) An interfering carrier was found in the Northwest part of the county. 17) Portables and the system as a whole, are tuned as NPSPAC, which is a 12.5 KHz spacing instead of the normal 25 KHz. 18) T-1's link the 3 simulcast sites. 19) The microwave dishes on the Arrowsmith tower shade the receive antenna on that tower. 20) Transmit audio level of some users was very low.

Ms. Walker outlined the study's opinion for improving the 800 MHz radio system. The options are: 1) Do not investigate any further complaints regarding the performance of McLean County's 800 MHz radio system and do not make any upgrades or changes to the system. Ms. Walker stated that this option is unacceptable. 2) Abandon the current 800 MHz system and revert back to either VHF or a UHF system. Mr. Walker stated that conversion to VHF or UHF system would be difficult due to the lack of frequency availability in both spectrums. 3) Abandon the E.F. Johnson 800 MHz system and move to another vendor. Ms. Walker explained that since the current radio system is proprietary in nature, most, if not all, infrastructure and equipment would have to be replaced. The Motorola bid in 1996 was \$3 million. 4) Abandon the E.F. Johnson 800 MHz system and move to 700 or 900 MHz system. Ms. Walker explained that although frequencies are available in both spectrums, such a move would mean essentially abandoning our current system and starting from scratch. This option should be investigated further only if a decision is made to scrap the entire E.F. Johnson system and move to another vendor. 5) Investigate the statewide 800 MHz system being implemented by Motorola. Ms. Walker stated that this may be a workable solution and deserves further investigation. Motorola

would provide the infrastructure for a new 800 MHz system and any agency using the system would pay for the service and equipment rental. This may be the most cost-effective option available. Ms. Walker warned that when making a decision on this issue, a number of details have not yet been finalized.

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Ms. Walker stated that since her last report of July 31st, 2001, the following steps have occurred. 1) On August 20-21, 2001, an engineer from E.F. Johnson conducted a propagation study of the current radio system. This study was needed to determine weaknesses in coverage and to develop a future plan of action. Complete results of this study will be presented to the MetCom Ops Board on September 20th, 2001. 2) On August 30, 2001, Verizon worked on a large group of T-1 lines that included the lines for the Bloomington tower site. The work caused disruption in the timing between towers, rendering the system unusable. 3) As a result of past problems and incident, the Normal Police Department made the decision to switch to their 400 MHz conventional radio back-up system. In addition, Bloomington Police Department was making plans to re-license some of their expired 400 MHz licenses to use as a back-up system. 4) On September 10th, 2001, MetCom received a draft copy of the results of the propagation study from E.F. Johnson. The draft provided a list of prioritized recommendations for system improvement. The recommendations range from the addition of receiver sites around McLean County to the addition of four (4) new tower sites. No costs are available at this time. A complete report will be presented to the MetCom Ops Board on September 20, 2001 for action.

Mr. Pokorney asked for clarification of the term “voter” used in the document. Ms. Walker explained that a voter takes the transmitted signal, determines which tower would best relay the strongest transmission and relays it there.

Mr. Pokorney stated that the suggestions and corrections don't show the problem to be the system. Ms. Walker stated that the propagation study draft letter she received today stated that the system may actually be the problem.

Chairman Sommer asked if the propagation study suggested the saturation of voters or towers be concentrated to Bloomington-Normal area or the entire County. Ms. Walker noted that the busiest area by far is Bloomington-Normal. The rationalization would be to take care of the Bloomington-Normal issue first.

Mr. Pokorney stated that he would like to see a copy of the propagation study draft letter Ms. Walker received this morning. Ms. Walker will have those documents available to the Committee.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, was not present to discuss the Monthly Caseload and Disposition Report for the Public Defender's Office.

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Mr. Charles Reynard, States Attorney's Office, discussed the request for Approval of a Contract for Personal Services with Ms. Kristin Krsek, attorney at law. This contract attorney is paid from the Asset Forfeiture Fund.

Chairman Sommer asked Mr. Reynard if he agreed upon transfer of \$60,000 from Asset Forfeiture to the General Fund. Mr. Reynard stated that the report presented to the Committee in their agenda does not reflect the transfer of the Asset Forfeiture Funds.

Chairman Sommer reminded the Committee and Mr. Reynard that the contract being requested was contingent on the transfer of the asset forfeiture funds. This item can be reviewed and discussed as a "Stand-Up" item before the County Board meeting once there is proof of the fund transfer.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner, discussed the Monthly Statistical Report for the Months of July and August, 2001. Ms. Kimmerling informed the Committee that the three inquests performed in July were ruled accidental, two of those were motor vehicle related. In August, there were eight inquests, one was ruled a homicide, two were suicides, five were accidental, two being motor vehicle related and two from the Chenoa plane crash.

Dave Owens, Sheriff's Department, discussed the request for Approval of the Illinois Department of Transportation Safety Grant Application. Sheriff Owens stated that IDOT offered McLean County the opportunity to renew McLean County's traffic safety grant. This agreement was first entered into with IDOT in October 1999, and has successfully completed two years of hire back funding to run five traffic safety campaigns in McLean County. The campaigns targeted safety topics including enforcement of DUI, speed, seat belts and child restraints. The IDOT grant reimburses personal expenses for hiring back officers in each campaign. IDOT also pays the officer's fringe benefits and Social Security, all totaling approximately \$30,000. Travel expenses are given at a rate of \$.34 per mile of patrol (\$8,600). This year, the grant will buy a radar unit valued at \$1,819.00 and a training conference valued at a \$1,000.00. The grant funding runs from October 1st to September 30th of each year.

Motion by Pokorney\Renner to recommend approval of Illinois Department of Transportation Safety Grant Application.

Motion carried.

Sheriff Owens updated the Committee on a newspaper article regarding Tazewell County's Computer Program that aids in the search for missing kids. This system allows the Sheriff's Departments to fax a photograph of the missing child. The Sheriff stated that

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he has applied for the grant and the Sheriff's Department fund would have to provide \$500.00. Once the Sheriff receives documentation regarding this grant, he will inform the Committee further.

Mr. Renner asked why there was such a large decrease in the summer jail population. Sheriff Owens did not expect this decrease, but the timing worked out to the benefit of the department because the department has been short-staffed for some time. Perhaps, the reason for the decrease could be due to the publicizing of the over-crowding in the jail and the judicial system has taken this into account when serving sentences or it could simply be a cycle that the County is going through.

Mr. Pokorney asked if LZT Associates have responded to the questions proposed by the County Board some time ago. Mr. Pokorney asked if the County owes any money to LZT Associates. Mr. Zeunik stated that LZT Associates have been paid in full.

Mr. Zeunik advised the Committee that the last contact with LZT was shortly after they made their final presentation. At that time, they were asked to review the methodology used in their study. LZT Associates indicated that they had discussed this issue with their consultant in Denver, Colorado, and were assured that the methodology was the standard methodology that was being used. McLean County advised them that the methodology was not being questioned, but were questioning the data that went into the methodology and how, by them using certain data sets, the linear regression analysis caused a higher number than necessary. Mr. Zeunik noted that he pointed out that the methodology they used was based on data, pre-1991 before the additions to the jail (2 new direct suspension pods) were opened. The space study was contracted to study the present facility. This information was pointed out to them and the Administrator's Office has not heard back from LZT Associates.

Chairman Sommer suggested that a follow up letter be submitted to LZT Associates. Mr. Zeunik stated that his office would do that.

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

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Integrated Justice Information System, presented a general status report on work orders with TRW for the Integrated Justice Information System. Mr. Nelson stated that Work Order #6 is in regards to system change requests on bug fixes and enhancements to existing code. Work took place regarding the bug fixes and enhancements to a large number of reports; additional functions related to citations were

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added to the program; additional record sheet functions and enhancements related to payee options for refunds and overpayments in the Clerk's office were added. Notifications were added. Additional information regarding date entry problems and enhancements related to restitution, bonds and case information was collected. These changes will be made available in EJS 6.0, scheduled for delivery in December. The amount invoiced to date is \$103,597.70 with a remaining balance of \$253,587.10. Work Order #7 refers to the Livescan System. Minimal work has begun on this work order. There is an analyst in Denver, Colorado, reviewing the specifications. Despite multiple recommendations to the local project manager for more information, this analyst has not submitted a review to Information Services. Invoices on this account amount to zero at this time and the remaining balance is \$116,098.00. Work Order #8 refers to Probation\Court Services. The McLean County Court Services Department has done an outstanding job of providing the necessary information to begin development. The department has had representatives in attendance at each meeting and shown the ability to reconsider work flows and business processes. All the requirement documents regarding development have been constructed, have approved the Court Services and authorized for implementation. The only outstanding issues are the scope of reports which will be provided by TRW vs. developed in-house by McLean County. This is a required document for Work Order #8. The invoices paid out amount to \$15,831.20 and the balance remaining is \$705,596.30. Work Order #9 regarding the Automated Dispositional Reporting (ADR) incurred an initial draw down of \$35,000, which was mistakenly reported as \$40,000, was received from the grant and all the paperwork has been completed. The invoices from this line are zero at this time and the remaining balance is \$139,616.00.

Mr. Nelson noted that McLean County will be represented at the Bureau of Justice SEARCH Conference in October of 2001, addressing the topic of outsourcing. McLean County will also feature the IJIS Project at the Illinois Digital Government Summit being held in Springfield, Illinois, on October 9th and 10th.

Mr. Zeunik addressed the scheduling of Justice Committee Meetings regarding the FY'2002 Recommended Budget. The Recommended Budget will be presented to the County Board next Tuesday. The Justice Committee needs to schedule additional meetings in order to discuss budget matters due to the time restrictions on the agenda of

the regular meetings. In the past, three additional meetings have been scheduled to address this issue, between September 18th when the recommended budget is presented to the County Board and November 20th, when the County Board adopts the budget for Fiscal Year 2002. The next Justice Regular Meetings are on October 1st and November 5th.

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Chairman Sommer recommended having an extra meeting on October 8th at 5:15 p.m. and October 22nd at 5:15 p.m. The Committee concurred with the Chairman's recommendation.

Chairman Sommer presented the bills as reviewed and recommended by the County Auditor, for the approval of the Committee.

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Motion by Renner\Pokorney to approve the bills as presented by
the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman
Sommer adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski
Recording Secretary

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