

Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, August 6, 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 Emmett, Renner, Kinzinger and Pokorney

Members Absent: Member Johnson

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: Mr. Jim Wahls, ESDA Director, Mr. Curtis Hawk, Assistant Director, ESDA; Mr. Charles Reynard, State's Attorney; Ms. Beth Carlson, Coroner; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Court Services; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Administrator, E-911

Members of the

Public Present: Mr. Jack Porter, League of Women Voters Alternatives to Incarceration Committee

Chairman Sommer called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. Hearing no objections, the minutes of the July 24, 2001 meeting were approved and placed on file as presented.

Mr. Jim Wahls, Director, E.S.D.A., updated the Committee on the department's monthly activities. Mr. Wahls stated that the 1963 Metro van that the ESDA department has had for many years was sold for \$805.00 to a collector. The van had only 11,000 miles on it and was still in mint condition. The \$805.00 was deposited into the General Fund. Mr. Wahls notified the Committee that ESDA transferred a pick-up truck from the Parks and Recreation Department. It is a 4-wheel drive vehicle with a diesel engine and is better suited for ESDA's needs. All that this truck needs is a paint job.

Mr. Wahls reported that the National Weather Service was looking for repeater sites throughout Central Illinois for the new tone-alerting Early Detection Weather Radios. Through a grant from Illinois First, radios could be purchased and provided to McLean County. Mr. Wahls made them aware of the five tower sites available in the County. McLean County's highest site is a 412 feet tower near the Nords. Mr. Rod Palmer, National Weather Service in Lincoln, looked at the sites available in McLean County. He liked the Nords' site because it provided better security, better accessibility and has a back-up generator on site. As of yet, Mr. Wahls is not aware of a signed contract between the Nords and the National Weather Services. Regarding the grant funding to purchase

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radios, Mr. Wahls discussed McLean County's interest of applying for a grant to purchase the radios. Mr. Tom Zimmerman, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, asked for a list agencies in the community that could use the early detection radios. Mr. Wahls compiled a list consisting of schools, daycare centers, nursing homes, government agencies, media and other area facilities that have a large gathering of people. Mr. Wahls will present a grant request for 200 Early Detection Radios estimated at around \$7,000.00. Once these radios are purchased and installed, the schools and other local agencies will receive the severe weather alert notification simultaneously.

Chairman Sommer asked if the Justice Committee needs to approve the grant application. Mr. Zeunik stated that the Committee does not need to approve the grant application at this stage.

Mr. Wahls informed the Committee regarding a federal government program being recommended called a Vulnerability Terrorist Accessment for McLean County. Mr. Wahls stated that two meetings have occurred where the Sheriff's Department, local Police Departments, Illinois State Police Department, ESDA Directors, Fire Chiefs have participated. The goal of this program is to determine the vulnerability, threat potential, risk capability and response capabilities for McLean County. A form has been provided to aid in the outlining of determinations for McLean County. Mr. Wahls stressed the fact that there may be terrorists groups already in McLean County, but the specific names and information regarding these groups will not be divulged to ESDA or the public. McLean County just needs to know the number of buildings that may have the potential for a terrorist attack. For example, State Farm, with such a large number of employees, could be a target but based on the group rating provided by this program, State Farm earned a 20% risk factor. Mitsubichi, because of the foreign ownership, earned a higher percentage. The major point was to identify the different facilities and assign them a risk percentage. Mr. Wahls stated that more information regarding the vulnerability of McLean County would be available within a few months. Mr. Wahls reminded the Committee that ESDA does have an annex in the County disaster manual that addresses terrorism. Confirmed risk sites have not been documented and this is a task that will be achieved with this program. The County would be involved with these types of incidents because it may require the evacuation of citizens and problems or issues associated with it.

Mr. Curtis Hawk, Assistant Director, E.S.D.A., clarified that the list will identify sites by priority numbers, not names. This list and information will not be available to the public.

Mr. Wahls mentioned that two exercises are planned for this fall. One of the exercises will be in conjunction with the Clinton Power Station in DeWitt County, on

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August 28, 2001. The Clinton Power Station is under new ownership, so the exercise has been moved up a year in order to familiarize the new company. The other exercise is with the McLean County Disaster Council on September 22, 2001 at the airport.

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

Motion by Kinzinger\Emmett to approve the bills as presented by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

Chairman Sommer noted that Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center, was not present. The Monthly Statistical Reports. have been included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Administrator, E-911, addressed the Committee regarding the 911 Tasks List and Status Report. Mr. Gamblin stated that some of the items in the Tasks List have been completed and many others are up to 90% completion. Many of the not completed items will reach completion once all the equipment is connected. Mr. Gamblin stated that he spoke with the Illinois Commerce Commission today and by Wednesday, August 8, 2001, he should receive information regarding the date of the hearing on the E-911 license. Mr. Gamblin noted that the "small communities" categories in the status report will decrease because in the following week a Metcom representative will be discussing error issues with the communities.

Mr. Gamblin advised the Committee that he will be attending the Mayor's monthly meetings with Mayor Figel in order to update them on past issues and to keep them informed. Mr. Gamblin stated that the 50% items in the status report should be completed once the equipment is fully installed and the telecommunicators are trained on the equipment. The last two items, the wireless testing and the wireless training, will not begin until six months after the enhanced 911 has been turned on as mandated by the Federal Communications Commission. This would provide wireless 911 service in McLean County. This would complete Phase I, which should provide tower location and telephone number of the wireless caller. The idea being that anyone dialing 911 within McLean County, whether wireline or wireless, would reach the communication center. Phase II will be implemented in the latter part of next year, and will provide latitude and longitude locations of the cellular 911 caller.

Mr. Gamblin informed the Committee that the Error Resolution Report was received and it documented 6,057 errors. Within the last two weeks, the 6,057 errors have been reduced to 1,700 errors. Mr. Gamblin explained that the high number of errors was based on different spellings of names, streets, avenues, etc. The information has to be an exact match or it is considered an error. Mr. Gamblin stated that his staff will visit all of the communities in order to clarify the errors. Mr. Gamblin stated that the goal of Metcom is to reach 981 errors or less, based on the Illinois Commerce Commission requirement of a less than 1% error rate of the 98,100 lines in McLean County. Mr. Gamblin feels that the 981 goal should be reached by the end of August.

Mr. Renner asked if the September 25th deadline would be reached. Mr. Gamblin answered that he will be able to tell the Committee the deadline date after the August 24th meeting with Verizon. Mr. Gamblin explained that worst case scenario, if there is a delay, it would be a short delay. Mr. Gamblin explained that the 900 error numbers would decrease to 400 error numbers rather quickly. Another issue that Mr. Gamblin presented to the Committee regarded the fax machine numbers. These types of numbers are very hard to track down and document.

Mr. Pokorney expressed his frustration with the delays incurred with this project. It seems that all of the delays are external issues than can't be controlled by ETSB. Mr. Pokorney asked why can't there be a set date and everyone stick to it. Mr. Gamblin explained that this project deals with five different telephone companies, different County records, and street records. Mr. Pokorney inquired into the number of staff working on correcting the addresses. Mr. Gamblin stated that there are three staff people currently working on these corrections. One is a field work person, and two work in the office inputting the corrected information. The hold ups have occurred because of problems with the outside agencies involved with this project not by the County staff.

Chairman Sommer noted that Ms. Shawn Walker, Director McLean County Centralized Communications Center, was not present. She provided an informational report regarding the E.F. Johnson 800 MHz Radio System.

Mr. Renner asked if Ms. Walker will be available at the September Justice's meeting. Mr. Zeunik stated that she will be in attendance for the September Justice's meeting. She is attending a scheduled conference this week.

Chairman Sommer opened discussions concerning the Public Defender's monthly statistical reports. Ms. Davis was not present at the meeting.

Chairman Sommer noted that Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, was not present. The Circuit Clerk's quarterly and monthly reports were included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Charles Reynard, States Attorney's Office, addressed the Committee regarding the request for approval of a contract for Professional Services between McLean County State's Attorney and the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor. Mr. Reynard stated that this contract is for the services of a Full-Time Assistant State's Attorney to prosecute drug related cases and to render all necessary legal services for drug related civil forfeiture and seizure proceedings for McLean County.

Motion by Pokorney\Renner to recommend approval of a contract for Professional Services between McLean County State's Attorney and the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor. Motion carried.

Mr. Reynard discussed a request to approve a contract for additional paraprofessional services for the State's Attorney's Office with Ms. Diana Zadorskaya. She will replace Alisa Ittner, who is leaving to attend law school. Mr. Reynard explained that the purpose of this personal service contract is to provide paraprofessional services commencing August 6, 2001 and continued until terminated. Ms. Zadorskaya is a Russian citizen and owns a visa and work permit documentation. She completed her Master Degree at the University of Illinois.

Motion by Kinzinger\Emmett to recommend approval of a Contract for Additional Paraprofessional Services in the State's Attorney's Office with Ms. Diana Zadorskaya. Motion carried.

Chairman Sommer discussed the Asset Forfeiture Reports and the distribution of Asset Forfeiture funds at this time. Mr. Reynard indicated that he is recommending the transfer of \$60,000.00 be made into the General Fund at this time. This transfer amount will pay for the theoretically related expenses for which the fund transfer commitment was made during last year's budget cycle.

Chairman Sommer asked Mr. Reynard if Mr. Zeunik discussed the discrepancy between the Auditor's funds and the amount received. Mr. Reynard stated that he did discuss this matter with Mr. Zeunik. Chairman Sommer recommends making a motion to approve this transfer.

Motion by Renner\Pokorney to recommend the distribution of \$60,000.00 to the General Fund from the Asset Forfeiture Fund. Motion carried.

Mr. Reynard added further information regarding Asset Forfeiture Fund. Mr. Reynard recognized that the activity in this fund has not been as high as expected. Mr. Reynard stated that he recently visited with the head of the State Police Drug Task Force. The projected activity by the State Police is considerably higher than the past, thus the Asset Forfeiture Fund should increase accordingly.

Mr. Reynard discussed the copy of a study done by the National Institute of Justice, July 2000 Report, regarding several studies on the arrest on "Intimate Partner Violence," the

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basic Domestic Violence Program instituted in McLean County. It supports the law enforcement's efforts to arrest in Domestic Violence cases. The study shows that across five measures of repeat offending, arrest is associated with less repeat offending in all five measures that the research studied. The study suggests that there is a causal relationship between what the community is doing, starting at the level of arrest. The study documents that what logically follows from arrest, is a decrease in the number of "Intimate Partners" homicides, as well as repeat offenders.

Chairman Sommer found it interesting that the media accentuated terminal violence against "Intimate Partners." Mr. Reynard stated that arrest have increased over the period of time that McLean County has participated in this program. The prosecution rate has tracked the incidents of arrests. In 1992, 50 domestic battery cases were documented, in the year 2000, 625 domestic battery cases were documented. A Police Officer must make an arrest if there is probable cause to believe that a crime of violence has been committed. Probable Cause is defined as: 1) Probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed and 2) and Probable cause to believe that a known individual actually committed the crime. Substantial evidence has to be present. In order to make an arrest, there is a need for a report from the victim, another witness or perhaps an admission from the suspect.

Chairman Sommer invited Ms. Beth Carlson-Kimmerling, Coroner, to address the Committee. Ms. Carlson discussed the June monthly reports. Ms. Carlson stated that June was a busy month for the Coroner's Office. There were six inquests in the month of June, 1 was undertermined, 2 were accidental and 3 were suicides.

Chairman Sommer noted that Sheriff Owens was not present. The Monthly Sheriff had a Population Report for the Detention Facility was included in the agenda packet.

Chairman Sommer invited Mr. Dave Goldberg, Court Services Department, to discuss a request for approval of a Grant Application to the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts. Mr. Goldberg stated that a request for approval to apply for a Federal grant was provided and approved by the County Board last month. The Administrative Office of Illinois Courts provided incorrect information concerning the grant. There are three significant changes: 1) a \$35,000 limit on Federal award. 2) Limitations on the types of purchases, and 3) a 10% County match of \$3,880.00. Mr. Goldberg proposes the use of the Juvenile Court Services Probation Fee Fund for the County's match obligation.

Chairman Sommer commented that Mr. Goldberg mentioned the need for an additional vehicle. Mr. Goldberg stated that with the Juvenile Detention Center being in a remote

location, and sometimes having to be in two different places in one day, the Center has been in the position of borrowing vehicles from other departments. Chairman Sommer explained that the capital cost would be covered in the grant except for the matching fund part.

Motion by Pokorney\Emmett to recommend approval of a Grant Application to the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts.
Motion carried.

Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that work continues on the Probation Module which is the largest piece of work to be completed under the present work order. The Integrated Justice Information System will be featured at the SEARCH National Conference in October. SEARCH is a national association that focuses on criminal justice activities. McLean County has been represented on the State of Illinois County Digital Government Task Force and there will be a Digital Government Summit meeting in Springfield this fall.

Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that the Justice Committee meeting for September falls on the 3rd, which is the Labor Day Holiday. The Justice Committee decided to hold the next Justice Committee meeting on September 10, 2001 at 5:15 p.m.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Sommer adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski
Recording Secretary