

Minutes of the Justice Committee Meeting

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, January 8, 2001, at 5:16 p.m. in Room 700 of the Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Acting Chairman Pokorney, Members Emmett, Renner, Kinzinger and Johnson

Members Absent: Chairman Sommer

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk; Sheriff Dave Owens, Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender; Mr. David Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Mr. Jim Wahls, Director ESDA; Ms. Beth Carlson, Coroner; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender's Office; Ms. Billie Larkin, Children's Advocacy Center

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

Ms. Sandra Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented and discussed the Monthly Statistical Reports and the General Report for the Circuit Clerk's Office.

Mr. Emmett asked if the "Dissolution of Marriage" number was correct. He feels that it is high. Ms. Parker explained that the dissolution of marriage number of 593 is the balance as of November 2000 for these types of cases. This is a cumulative figure. The actual number of dissolutions granted for the month was 54.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval of a contract for the Juvenile Detention Facility Physician.

Ms. Castleman explained that this contract is identical to last year's contract, with the exception of a 4% increase. This increase is consistent with the contract approved by the Justice Committee last month for similar services provided at the adult detention center. Both facilities utilized the same physician. OSF Healthcare Systems provided excellent service this past year in the form of medical services. Ms. Castleman does not foresee any changes in the excellence of service for the year 2001.

Motion by Kizinger/Renner to recommend approval of a contract for the Juvenile Detention Facility Physician as presented by Court Services Department.
Motion carried.

Ms. Castleman requested approval of a contract for the Juvenile Detention Facility Counseling Services.

Ms. Castleman explained that this contract is identical to last year's contract, with the exception of a 3% increase for services for 2001, and an increase in hours provided. The total services provided will not exceed \$22,588.00. The increase in the in-house individual counseling hours was predicated upon the effects of the Juvenile Court Act of 1999. This Act more than doubles the amount of time a juvenile may be detained at the Juvenile Detention Facility. The current amount of therapist hours was adequate to deal with short-term juveniles that present mental health problems. Ms. Cathy Vogel has provided excellent service in the past year in the form of crisis intervention and clinical consultation.

Motion by Emmett/Renner to recommend approval of a contract for the Juvenile Detention Facility Counseling Services as presented by the Court Services Department. Motion carried.

Ms. Castleman reviewed the Monthly Statistical Reports with the Committee.

Mr. Renner noted that the numbers of rented beds in the Juvenile Detention Center being used by outside counties has decreased, but the use by McLean County Juveniles has increased. Mr. Renner asked if this trend is expected to continue. Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center, explained that a plateau has been reached in regards to the renting of the bed space to other counties. In respect to the increase of bed usage by McLean County juveniles, Mr. Goldberg is not too alarmed because this increase in number, when compared to the increase in population, does not seem like a large increase.

Ms. Castleman invited the new members of the Committee to visit Juvenile Detention Facility.

Sheriff Dave Owens requested approval of a bid for Uniforms and Equipment for the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Owens explained that formal written bids were solicited on October 30, 2000 for Police Uniforms and Equipment purchases. At the formal bid opening on November 27,

2000, there was one bid opened and no vendors were present. Bids were mailed out to Ray O'Herron, Danville, Illinois; Bullseye Uniform and Police Supply, Inc., Hudson, Justice Committee Meeting Minutes
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Illinois, and to S. Harris Uniforms, of Peoria, IL. The S. Harris Uniforms Company did not submit a bid. The Ray O'Herron Company submitted a bid that met the bid specifications.

Motion by Emmett/Kizinger to recommend approval of a contract for Uniforms and Equipment for the Sheriff's Department as presented by the McLean County Sheriff. Motion carried.

Sheriff Owens reviewed the Monthly Statistical Reports with the Committee. Sheriff Owens informed the Committee that the present count of inmates is 239. Eleven of those 239 inmates are sleeping on the floor because there are no available beds. The Sheriff's Office keeps searching for open beds with other counties on a daily basis.

Sheriff Owens mentioned that he hopes to have the Sheriff's Department Annual Report to the Justice Committee in February.

Sheriff Owens invited the new members of the Committee to visit the Department and the Adult Detention Center.

Mr. Jim Wahls, Director, ESDA, presented copies of the McLean County Emergency Operations Plan for approval.

Mr. Wahls explained that this Emergency Plan is reviewed and revised every two years as mandated by the Federal Government. ESDA receives Federal Grants for ESDA salaries on a 50% matching fund basis. This Plan is broken down into different categories, such as the Sheriff, Fire Departments, and Police Departments, etc. Each of these departments have the responsibility to review and make recommendations on this plan.

Mr. Wahls explained that because this Emergency Plan book is so bulky, the Plan has been downloaded onto a CD. By downloading this information onto a CD, information is easily accessed and indexed. This way, the Health Department does not get information that does not correspond to their department. A single copy of this book cost \$42.00 to reproduce. By using the Internet and these CDs, the reproduction of this plan cost \$0.58 per copy. Information on the CD can not be altered or changed in any way. Information from the CD may be printed off as a "hard copy," but it can not be reproduced in any other way. The State is very pleased with the CD idea that McLean County has developed and is reviewing it as a cost saving factor for other counties and for the State agency themselves.

Motion by Emmett/Johnson to recommend approval of the 2001 County
Emergency Operations Plan as presented by the ESDA Director. Motion carried.
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Mr. Wahls updated the Committee on the Presidential Snow Area Declaration. Mr. Wahls stated that "the Governor of Illinois has requested a Presidential Snow Assistance Declaration through FEMA, for 23 counties based on the total snowfall for Ford County during the 3 day period of December 11th, 12th and 13th, was 9 inches, exceeding their record snowfall. McLean County did not exceed the record snowfall but exactly matched the snowfall record of 9 inches, and McLean County is contiguous to Ford County. Therefore, the State IEMA has requested that McLean County be included in the Presidential Declaration, should it be approved by the President of the United States." Mr. Wahls will keep the County Administrator informed of any further actions.

Mr. Wahls invited the new members of the Committee to visit the Emergency Operations Center.

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, reviewed the Monthly Statistics to the Committee.

Mr. Emmett asked why the large increase on the monthly Juvenile caseload. Ms. Davis stated that the actual figure on Page 41 represents a decrease in the percentage of Juvenile cases. Ms. Davis does not have a specific explanation for this statistic.

Ms. Davis invited Committee members to tour the Public Defender's Office.

Ms. Beth Carlson, Coroner, reviewed the Monthly Statistics Report presented to the Committee.

Ms. Carlson stated that it is very unique that the Coroner's Office is able to present two months worth of figures. Normally, the Coroner's Office only has time to prepare one month at a time. Ms. Carlson stated that she hopes to present the Annual Report to the Committee next month. The Coroner's reports present current figures as well as year-to-date totals in comparison to the previous year. Ms. Carlson explained that the Inquest Report gives a total number for each category but it will not give names or information other than how the death occurred.

Acting Chairman Pokorney stated that at one time there were two pathologist in the Coroner's Office. Ms. Carlson explained that Dr. Mitchell is the primary pathologist. The Office has two Board Certified Forensic Pathologists, Dr. Brian Mitchell and

Dr. Scott Denton. Dr. Mary Uckerman is the back-up pathologist, though she is not board certified. For McLean County to have two Board Certified Pathologists is a rarity because there are only 400+ Board Certified Pathologist in the country.

Acting Chairman Pokorney asked what Ms. Carlson's opinion was of having a Full Time Pathologist on staff. Ms. Carlson answered that from the County's point of view, paying
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on a contractual basis is financially best for the County. For example, the Coroner's caseload decreased this year, if there was a Full Time Pathologist on staff, the County would have paid \$100,000+, plus benefits to this person whether there is work for them or not. On a contractual basis, they receive payment on a case by case basis and no fringe benefits are paid.

Ms. Carlson invited Committee members to tour the Coroner's Office at their leisure.

Acting Chairman Pokorney stated that Mr. Reynard is not present due to an ongoing trial.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, reviewed the Monthly Statistics with the Committee. Ms. Larkin explained that First Time Interviews for the month of December total 172, this represents a 17% increase from last year. Total Children Seen, such as siblings who were witnesses, was 279. This represents a large increase compared to last year. Ms. Larkin updated the Board on CASA. The CASA Program is an all grant funded program. The CASA Program trains volunteers to advocate for children through the court system. Volunteers go through a 48 hours training course. There are about 550 children in the Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Court and there are CASAs for about 150 of them. She stated that for children being served, December's figure was 97, November's figure was 146, so this program is moving forward. One of the disturbing numbers in this report, Ms. Larkin stated, was the Total CASAs awaiting Assignment. Twenty-nine new CASAs were trained in October and November and the cases will be weeded as quickly as possible in order to reduce this number.

Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, explained the requests for transfers of money for the Children Advocacy Center in the amount of \$5,816.00 and a second transfer for Metro Communication Center for \$88,188.00. These transfers represent the movement of monies within the department's approved budget, from one line to another. The bottom line of the budget does not change.

Motion by Renner/Johnson to recommend approval of the transfers for the Children's Advocacy Center in the amount of \$5,816.00 and the Metro Communication Center in the amount of \$88,188.00 as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Kizinger exited the Justice Committee Meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Mr. Lindberg stated that there are no issues to present regarding the Integrated Justice Information System Project.

Acting Chairman Pokorney presented the bills which have been reviewed and recommended for payment to the Justice Committee by the County Auditor.

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Motion by Emmett/Renner to recommend payment of the bills as presented by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

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Hearing no objections, the minutes of the December 4, 2000 and the December 19, 2000 meetings were approved and placed on file as presented.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Acting Chairman Pokorney adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski
Recording Secretary

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