

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday May 4, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Rackauskas; Members Wendt, Rankin, O'Connor, McIntyre and Wollrab

Members Absent: None

Other County Board
Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator; and Ms. Judith LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present:

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, Metcom; Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center; Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney

Others Present: None

Chairman Rackauskas called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the minutes from the April 6, 2010 Committee meeting and the March 16, 2010 Stand-up meeting for approval.

Motion by O'Connor/Rankin to Approve the Minutes of the April 6, 2010 Meeting and the March 16, 2010 Stand-up Meeting.
Motion carried.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner, presented her Monthly Report for March 2010. She noted that the out-of-County cases and autopsies were higher in March, while McLean County cases and numbers were down.

Ms. Kimmerling indicated that the number of inquests was also down, partly due to the increase in Coroner's Rulings. She noted that a Coroner's Ruling is when data is collected and a manner of death ruling is made without going through the inquest process.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she thanked Ms. Kimmerling.

Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, Metcom, presented a request for approval of an amendment to the ETSB Ordinance. Mr. Lindberg explained that this Ordinance, amending Chapter 22, Section 22.03-1 of the McLean County Code, deals with the composition of the ETSB Board.

Mr. Cannon advised that the ETSB Board decided to add a representative from the Illinois State University Police Department to the Board as that Department became part of the system approximately a year ago. At the last County Board Meeting, Lieutenant Bonnie Devore was appointed to the ETSB Board in the capacity of one of the three persons representing community-public safety agencies exclusive of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. Mr. Cannon indicated that ETSB felt that the composition should be changed so that the ISU Police Department would have their own identifier and would always have a representative on the ETSB Board. This adjustment would change the three person community-public safety agencies representation to a two-person representation and create the permanent representative from ISU Police Department status.

Mr. Cannon noted that two other minor changes were also made, namely:

- Change (E) from "One person engaged in directing or coordinating Emergency Medical services" to "One person engaged in providing Emergency Medical Services." ETSB felt that it better suited the needs to have someone that provided EMS services. That way, any one of the EMS agencies in the County could be the representative, which would provide a wider range of possibilities for members.
- Change (F) from "One person representing the McLean County Firemen's Association" to "One person representing Division 41 of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. This reflects the change of name from McLean County Firemen's Association to Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). MABAS is a state-wide system that the firefighters established so that they are all consistent in their systems, run plans and response to calls.

Mr. McIntyre referred to Section (H) under Board Composition that reflects that one member of the Board: "...is a member of the public who is a resident of the local exchange service territory on the basis of that person's ability or experience." He asked how that person is determined. Mr. Cannon responded that the person currently on the Board, Mr. Glen Wilson, has been on the board for many years, and he does not know how that appointment was determined.

Motion by Rankin/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of
an Amendment to the ETSB Ordinance.
Motion carried.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Cannon.

Sheriff Mike Emery distributed an additional graph to be included in his 2009 Annual Report. He indicated that the graph reflects the out-of-County housing of prisoners from 2006 through 2010. Sheriff Emery pointed out that the out-of-County prisoner housing in 2008 was inordinately high. He credits the dramatic decrease in 2009 and 2010 to the establishment of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) in June of 2009.

Mr. Rankin asked if the 2008 figures were just an anomaly or might they reach that high again. Sheriff Emery replied that, with the efforts CJCC, Drug Court and the new Mental Health Court that will begin later this month, it is unlikely that those figures will be seen again, but there are no guarantees. He noted that a lot of positive changes are being made to assist the Criminal Justice system.

Sheriff Emery stated that the Annual Report reflects that the 2009 statistics were in line with previous years. He pointed out that there was some fluctuation within some of the crimes, but mostly the statistics held steady. Sheriff Emery acknowledged that there are two ways in which the Sheriff's Department is mandated to report crime statistics, namely the Federal system and the State of Illinois system, which is more complicated. He advised that Illinois is changing the method that the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR reports) is done. The State will begin following the Hierarchy Rule, where even though one person can commit four crimes, only the serious crime will be reported. Sheriff Emery noted that this type of reporting will suggest that crime is down in Illinois. He added that this will be different from the Federal system. Sheriff Emery stated that the most accurate report would be the FBI reporting system.

Mr. Wendt asked why Illinois had a different record-keeping system than the Federal system. Sheriff Emery responded that the State has resisted adopting the Federal system for several years. He noted that there is a push on the Federal level for all states to come into compliance with the Federal system or they may begin to reduce Federal funding.

Ms. Wollrab asked for clarification of the reports. She noted that page 4 shows two murders being committed, but did not show any arrests. Sheriff Emery responded that there were two arrests. He stated that he is not sure of the accuracy of the Arrest Report and will check on the validity of the report to see why it did not reflect the arrests and report back to the Committee next month.

Mr. Rankin pointed out that the arrest trend on the "Arrest Trend for Index Crimes" graph on page 6 increased significantly over 2006-2008. Sheriff Emery attributed the increase to more cases being investigated instead of administratively closed for lack of suspects.

Mr. Rankin asked for clarification on items listed on the "Programs" graph on page 12, including the listing of "Church," and "Bibles distributed." Sheriff Emery explained that the contractual Chaplain, Mr. Tony Watson, runs a lot of programs that are religious in nature or include social service agencies. He indicated that those statistics are kept to verify that there is a need for bibles so that they will continue to be donated and distributed to inmates. Sheriff Emery added that there is a Church service on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.

Ms. Wollrab asked what is done for people who are of a faith other than Christian. Sheriff Emery responded that the service is non-denominational. He noted that Pastor Watson brings in other religious leaders when necessary. Ms. Wollrab suggested that the report reflect "Religious Service" rather than "Church Service."

Mr. Rankin pointed out that there is an increase in inmates being seen by a psychiatrist in 2005 and 2006. Sheriff Emery replied that the mental health services are administered through the Director of Health Services for the Jail, which is part of the County Administrator's Office. He noted that Correctional Officers have received more training in recognizing and being aware of individuals with mental health issues.

Mr. Wendt asked if there is a psychiatrist on staff. Sheriff Emery responded that there is a psychiatrist on contract through McLean County Center for Human Services.

Sheriff Emery advised that the number of inmates with mental health issues is likely to grow in the future due to the State of Illinois closing its mental health facilities. He noted that the booking area in the Jail is currently dedicated to housing inmates with mental health issues. Sheriff Emery indicated that there were five inmates earlier this year that were found unfit for trial and were held over in the booking area because the State had no beds. He pointed out that these individuals' next court date to see if the treatment they received in the mental health facility was working came up before the individuals ever made it to the State facility.

Mr. Rankin noted that the "Corrections Training Days" and "Training Hours" has increased since Sheriff Emery took office. He asked if the amount of training has been cut due to budget cuts. Sheriff Emery replied that the training was not cut and will continue to increase. He added that the training has been very beneficial.

Mr. Rankin asked what does the "Inmates Transported" graph on page 17 reflect. Sheriff Emery replied that many of the transfers are for inmates who are caught outside of Illinois and transported back. Other transportation reflects inmates in custody in the jail who are transported to the courtroom. Sheriff Emery noted that the institution of a video camera for custody hearings have decreased this transportation need. He added that some of the judges have expanded this program from custody hearings and bond reductions to include some family court matters.

Sheriff Emery reported that the McLean County Detention Facility population is doing very well right now.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Sheriff Emery.

Chairman Rackauskas asked that Committee members and Department Heads allow Mr. Yoder to present his report next as he has another commitment.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He indicated that the report is consistent with past reports.

Ms. Wollrab pointed out that the report show a big jump in Juvenile Delinquency. Mr. Yoder responded that the numbers this early in the year often average out over the year.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Yoder.

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Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, reviewed the Court Services Adult/Juvenile Division Statistics for March 2010, as well as the Juvenile Detention Center statistics.

Ms. McCormick reported that there were 219 police reports on juvenile delinquency in April, which is a significant increase. She noted that all of the reports come into her office first and recommendations are made as to what should happen to those individuals.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Ms. McCormick and Ms. Waltz.

Chairman Rackauskas indicated that Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, was unable to attend the meeting. She presented Mr. Everhart's First Quarter 2010 Statistical reports and the March 2010 Statistical Reports. There were no questions on the reports.

Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), presented the CAC Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. She indicated that the CAC monthly statistics show that March was a very busy month. Almost as many children were seen in March as in both January and February.

Ms. Renner noted that the CASA Report is fairly consistent.

Ms. Renner announced that the "Champions for Children Walk" is happening all over the State on Saturday, May 15th. She stated that McLean County has 45 walkers, but there are approximately 800 individuals walking across the state for other CACs. Ms. Renner indicated that the State Office instituted the "Champions for Children Walk" as a way to raise awareness of child abuse and a way to raise money. She added that 27 CAC's are conducting Walks in their own communities. Ms. Renner noted that the Walk will begin at the CAC on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. and will walk east on Grove, down the Constitution Trail and back again for a five mile round trip.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Ms. Renner.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the Public Defender's Monthly Caseload Report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender. There were no questions on the report.

Mr. Lindberg reminded the Committee that Ms. Davis will be retiring as of June 30th. The process to appoint a new Public Defender is currently being conducted.

Ms. Wollrab asked if the budget reductions will impact any of the Justice System programs.

Mr. Lindberg advised that the budget reductions were a very collaborative process. He stated that a month was spent looking for additional revenue sources, and another month was spent looking for expenditure reductions. Mr. Lindberg noted that several non-salary savings were found, including the reduction of the out-of-County inmate housing expense by about \$79,000. He reported that, finally, 24 positions, 16 of which were vacant and 8 filled positions, were affected. He stated that, had we not had the hiring freeze and the extra scrutiny, more filled positions would have been affected. Mr. Lindberg noted that one individual decided to end her career with the County, and two individuals have been referred to vacancies in a non-General Fund department.

Mr. Lindberg noted that the departments in the Justice area which are affected by the position reductions include the Court Services Department, the State's Attorney's Office and the Circuit Clerk's Office. He indicated that the number of filled positions amounted to about 1.0% of the General Fund positions overall

Mr. Lindberg stated that he did not intend for the article on County layoffs to appear in *The Pantagraph* when it did, but he was advised by colleagues who have been through this that it is best to have full and complete disclosure as soon as possible. He added that he was surprised when a reporter had contacted him regarding a rumor of County layoffs. Mr. Lindberg noted that he met with the reporter on Friday, April 30th and asked that the story be held until Monday. He indicated that he reviewed the process in detail with the reporter so that the story would be accurate. In addition, Mr. Lindberg cautioned any Department Head where they were losing an occupied position to make sure they had conversations with the employee before the story was printed.

Ms. Wollrab asked if the employees who are being let go would have any advantage over other applicants when the positions are refilled. Mr. Wasson responded that there is currently nothing in the Personnel Policies that would give those individuals preference over other applicants. He added that the experience and knowledge of the County that these individuals have would be an asset that department heads may look favorably upon in evaluating candidates. Mr. Wasson

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stated that the County will continue with a hiring freeze, so it is unlikely there will be many positions available over the next few months.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the April 30, 2010 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Pending Total of \$1,027.56 and a Prepaid Total of \$2,013,911.54 for a Fund Total of \$2,014,939.10.

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Motion by O'Connor/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills as of April 30, 2010, as transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend that the Justice Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:35 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary