

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Rackauskas; Members McIntyre, Schafer, Rankin, Wollrab and McKibbin (5:23 p.m.)

Members Absent: None

Other County Board
Members Present: None

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present:

Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender; Sheriff Mike Emery, Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services

Others Present: Ms. Margie Jordan, Children's Advocacy Center (CASA); Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center

Chairman Rackauskas called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the minutes from the October 2, 2012 Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to Approve the Minutes of the October 2, 2012 Meeting.
Motion carried.

Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, reviewed the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. She noted that Ms. Margie Jordan is also available to provide an update on CASA.

Ms. Brucker distributed information on all of the fees and fines that Children's Advocacy Centers receive state-wide and all of the County funds that are provided to CASA programs state-wide.

Ms. Brucker also handed out information on the "Stop the Cycle of Abuse" information, which is a program where people are riding westward to raise awareness for child abuse victims.

Ms. Brucker reported that the CAC statistics are on par with October of last year. She indicated that, through the month of September, the CASA volunteers donated 7,375 hours of advocacy for children, which is an average of 811 hours per month.

Ms. Jordan advised that the McLean County CASA program just created a "Life Book" program that chronicles a child's life. She noted that many of the children in foster care have great gaps in their life. Ms. Jordan stated that beginning January 1st every child that is advocated for by CASA volunteers will receive a life book and the volunteer will work with them to fill in the pages so that when they are adults they will have memories and pictures of their childhood experiences. She indicated that the McLean County CASA program is the only one in the state providing this program.

Ms. Jordan stated that the 40th CASA training class was sworn in last night.

Chairman Rackauskas pointed out that Mr. John McIntyre wrote an editorial in the *Pantagraph* in support of the CASA program and requested that McLean County residents remember the "Blue Kids" of Mclean County when they contribute to worthy causes.

Mr. Rankin advised that there is a program called "Suffer-fest" where individuals are videotaped riding their spin bikes for 10 hours straight doing ten videos in a row. He indicated that he reached out to the creator of the Suffer-fest and asked if there would be a way to do this on a mass scale as a fundraising effort for CASA. Mr. Rankin stated that he has received a lot of support for this effort. He expects that as much as \$5,000-\$10,000 can be raised for this project. Mr. Rankin noted that this fundraising effort will take place in January.

Ms. Wollrab asked if CASA will have a "Blue Kids" Christmas trees again this year. Ms. Brucker replied that 14 County Departments have volunteered to have trees in their offices.

Mr. Rankin asked for an explanation of the wide differences in fees and fines revenue in McLean County. Ms. Brucker stated that the Ordinance was enacted in 2008 locally, which was only five months of collecting during that year. The history of collection as follows:

- 2008: \$51,000 (five months only)
- 2009: \$110,000
- 2010: \$85,000
- 2011: \$24,000

Mr. Wasson advised that at the end of 2010 there was a court case that ruled that the County could not apply this fee to each and every case without an order by the Court. Mr. Wasson noted that an effort has been made to assure that those steps have taken place. He advised that we still have the challenge of decreasing fee and fine revenue across the board. Mr. Wasson added that this coincides with the economic downturn as well.

Ms. Eisner stated that as of October, \$37,486.50 had been collected. She noted that this is compared to \$82,180 that was actually assessed, which indicates that part of the problem is in collection of the fees. Ms. Brucker indicated that it could also be that people may have a period of time in which to pay the fees. She added that things are actually better this year than they were last year.

There was a discussion on the fees and fines that Children's Advocacy Centers receive state-wide relative to the differences in fees that have been collected in some of those counties, as well as how fees are distributed when they are received.

Mr. Wasson stated that increasing fees is an option that the County should fully evaluate before making a determination.

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

Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender, presented her Monthly Caseload Report. She pointed out that felony numbers continue to rise.

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

Sheriff Emery reviewed the Jail Population Report. He noted that the population continues to hold very well. Sheriff Emery advised that the Jail just finished its 14th month of not having to house out any inmates.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the 2012 Jail Inspection Report from the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDC).

Chairman Rackauskas referred to the IDC's concern with the overcrowding in certain areas of the facility depending upon classifications. Sheriff Emery responded that it may have been overcrowded on that day at that minute. He indicated that prisoners need to be placed in a variety of different areas in the jail. Sheriff Emery stated that it is a constant shuffle of moving inmates around for various reasons. He noted that inmates with severe mental health issues are kept in the booking area on mattresses on the floor because they need constant supervision.

Sheriff Emery indicated that the Jail Inspector recognizes the improvements that have been made in the Jail, including training, administration, mental health efforts and programs provided to the inmates.

Sheriff Emery advised that adequate facilities for mental health inmates will continue to be a concern in the future.

Chairman Rackauskas asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Sheriff Emery. He indicated that his request for an NIC assessment specialist to come in from the Department of Justice has been approved for a mental health assessment on the Jail. The specialist will be on-site in early December.

Ms. Wollrab asked if the funding for the "Story-book Program" will be reinstated in the future. Sheriff Emery replied that the Jail has a variety of existing and new programs.

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

Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney, reviewed his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He pointed out that the numbers are up this year. Mr. Chambers noted that some of the increase may be the result of a number of backlogged cases that Mr. Dozier completed.

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

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, reviewed her monthly report. She noted that numbers continue to be high.

Ms. Kimmerling reported that, in September, Dr. Yeoman took the final portion of her Board Certification exams and passed both components and is now a Board Certified Forensic Pathologist. Ms. Kimmerling noted that the County now has two pathologists. She added that Dr. Yeoman passed the exams on the first time.

Ms. Kimmerling advised that the October numbers will be even higher than September.

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

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented a request for approval of an Addendum to the Loomis Armored Car Services Agreement. He advised that Loomis Armored US, LLC (LA) provides armored car services for the office of the McLean County Circuit Clerk. Mr. Everhart noted that the current Agreement expires November 1, 2012. He indicated that the Addendum extends the current Agreement for one (1) year, through November 1, 2013.

Ms. Wollrab asked if there is an increase in the cost. Mr. Everhart replied that there is no increase in cost.

Motion by Wollrab/Rankin to Recommend Approval of
an Addendum to the Loomis Armored Car Services
Agreement.
Motion carried.

Mr. Everhart reviewed his September 2012 Statistical Reports and the Third Quarter 2012 Statistical Reports. He stated that there was nothing unusual to point out in the reports.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, presented her Monthly reports.

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

Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, advised that several budgets, for a multitude of reasons, were either tentatively approved last month or asked for further review at this meeting. The first one is the Circuit Clerk Court Automation Fund – 0140-0015. Mr. Wasson stated that a modification was made on the FY'2013 Recommended Budget, as follows:

- Unappropriated Fund Balance 0400.000 has been increased from \$0.00 to \$17,472.00.

Mr. Wasson explained that this is the balance and increase of “Transfer to Other Funds” 0999.0001 from \$74,891.00 to \$92,363.00. He indicated that this change balances the budget.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to recommend tentative Approval of the Circuit Clerk Court Automation Fund – (0140-0015) FY'2013 Recommended Budget as amended.
Motion carried.

Mr. Wasson stated that the second item is the Court Services Probation Services Fund -0146-0022. He advised that, after a recommendation of this budget and in reviewing the budget application to the state for this fund, it was identified that when the telephone service expense was removed, \$3,500 was incorrectly placed in Administrative Surcharge 0778.0002. Mr. Wasson indicated that the \$3,500 should have gone into Non-Contractual Services 0773.0001. This change will zero out the Administrative Surcharge and increase Non-Contractual Services from \$10,000 to \$13,500.

Motion by Wollrab/Schafer to recommend tentative Approval of the Court Services Probation Services – (0146-0022) FY'2013 Recommended Budget as amended.
Motion carried.

Mr. McKibbin arrived at the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Mr. Wasson stated that the next item under consideration is the Sheriff's Department Court Security Fund 0141-0029. He noted that the question asked at the October meeting is whether we are levying at the maximum rate for the Court Security fees. Mr. Wasson advised that the answer is that the maximum rate is being levied.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to recommend tentative Approval of the Court Services Probation Services – (0141-0029) FY'2013 Recommended Budget as submitted.

Motion carried.

Mr. Wasson indicated that the next item to be considered is the Children's Advocacy Center 0129-0062. He stated that the budget includes one Reclassification recommendation in the Children's Advocacy Center. Mr. Wasson noted that there will be one more reclassification to be considered in the Coroner's Office.

Mr. Wasson advised that the PAM Scores are the basis for the County's compensation system. He reviewed the request for a reclassification in the CAC and his recommendation to that request. Mr. Wasson reported that there are a large number of case managers that work in the CAC, but there is no designated supervisor other than the Department Head. The request is for an increase in classification from a Case Manager 8 to a Case Manager 10. Mr. Wasson stated that the Administrator's Office's recommendation is to reclassify the position to a Program Coordinator 10 as it best fits within the evaluation system.

Mr. Wasson indicated that the CAC reclassification will provide the employee with a 5% increase in salary. He added that there are funds in the budget to cover the two reclassification recommendations. Mr. Wasson stated that there were eight requests for reclassifications across all County Departments and four reclassifications are being recommended (these two, one in the Treasurer's Office and one in the Highway Department).

Ms. Wollrab pointed out that Page 82 of the Summary, 401.0001 General Property Tax should be corrected to say "...decreases from \$138,622 in the FY'2012 Adopted Budget to \$136,708..." and not "...increases from..."

Ms. Wollrab asked where will the salary increase amount come from. Mr. Wasson replied that there are other revenue lines that will accommodate the salary increase.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to recommend tentative Approval of the Children's Advocacy Center – (0129-0062) FY'2013 Recommended Budget as amended.
Motion carried.

Mr. Wasson advised that the final budget to reconsider is the Coroner's Office 0001-0031. He explained that this reclassification request is to change an Office Support Specialist 1 to an Office Support Specialist 2. Mr. Wasson stated that the change in this position has been dramatically impacted by the change in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the requirements of the Coroner's Office to respond on a regular basis to requests for information related to deaths. He noted that this position has been required to use the new FOIA system, to work with these requesters, to make an analysis on each request and determine what information can be provided. The added responsibility in that position exceeds the anticipated role of an Office Support Specialist 1.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to recommend tentative Approval of the Coroner's Office (0001-0031) FY'2013 Recommended Budget as amended.
Motion carried.

Chairman Rackauskas presented the October 31, 2012 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$995,631.44 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills as of October 31, 2012, 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 McIntyre/Schafer to Recommend that the Justice Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:45 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary