

Special Meeting of the Justice Committee Meeting

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Friday, March 15, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Law and Justice Center.

Members Present: Chairman Caisley; Members McIntyre, Schafer, and Wollrab

Members Absent: Members Soeldner and Rankin

Other County Board
Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney; Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender

Others Present: Dr. Denton, Pathologist

Chairman Caisley called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Law and Justice Center. The first stop on the tour was the Coroner's Office where Ms. Kimmerling introduced the Coroner's Office staff.

Ms. Kimmerling reviewed concerns with microfilm longevity issues.

Ms. Kimmerling discussed storage and facility space needs, including the following:

- Dedicated space for doctors, which would require moving of records storage;
- Filing storage (CLEC Board keeps track);
- Conference room;
- Family meeting room;
- Dr. office; and
- Staff Luncheon area.

Ms. Kimmerling introduced Dr. Denton. She provided a background of the morgue, noting that it opened in 1990. Ms. Kimmerling pointed out that neither Champaign nor Peoria have a sink and x-ray, which the County has. She advised that with the expertise of Dr. Denton and an ideal facility, McLean County is the best choice for surrounding counties to use.

Ms. Kimmerling provided the following information:

- Death Certificate Surcharge pays for the lights;
- X-ray film will go digital;

- X-ray technicians are paid on contract per visit.

Dr. Denton advised that 900 pathologies are needed in the country and only 400 are available. There was a discussion on board certification for pathologists and the potential of accreditation requirements.

Chairman Caisley asked how soon the autopsies are performed. Ms. Kimmerling replied that autopsies are done as soon as possible.

The following information was provided to the Committee:

- State will provide DNA testing, but it can take eight months;
- Private labs will provide DNA testing in seven to ten days for a fee, usually less than \$1,000;

There was additional discussion regarding space issues, including space in the refrigeration area.

Chairman Caisley thanked Ms. Kimmerling and Dr. Denton.

The Committee then toured at the State's Attorney's Office, where Mr. Jason Chamber, State's Attorney, introduced his staff, including the Victim Witness staff. Mr. Chambers indicated that the Victim Witness staff coordinate and prepare victims for trial.

Mr. Chambers pointed out the following State's Attorney's Office needs, including:

- Victim Witness office with separate entrance;
- Office space for interns;
- Convert previous SA outer office to trial preparation room;
- Convert evidence storage space to an office

Mr. Chambers reviewed the screening process, noting that the list is received each morning. The cases are assigned by type of case.

Chairman Caisley thanked Mr. Chambers and his staff for the tour.

The Committee toured the Public Defender's Office, with the guidance of Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender.

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Chairman Caisley thanked Ms. Campbell for providing a tour of the Public Defender's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Bill Wasson
County Administrator