

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Member Wendt

Other County Board
Members Present: Member Metsker

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court Administrator; Ms. Lori McCormick; Director, Court Services; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner; Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender; Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk

Others Present: Mr. Rusty Thomas, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Dr. Frank Beck, ISU Stevenson Center; Mr. Pablo Eves, First Assistant State's Attorney

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

Chairman Caisley presented the Minutes of the July 1, 2014 Justice Committee Meeting and the June 17, 2014 Stand-up Meeting for approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Wollrab to Approve the Minutes of the July 1, 2014 Meeting and the June 17, 2014 Stand-up Meeting.
Motion carried.

Mr. Rusty Thomas, Chief Deputy Sheriff, reviewed the July 2014 Detention Facility Population Report. He stated that the population is holding steady.

Chairman Caisley noted that an opinion piece in the *Chicago Tribune* by Sheriff Tom Dart of Cook County was distributed to the Committee. He indicated that the article was regarding the problem of mentally ill inmates in the Cook County Jail.

Chairman Caisley stated that it shows that McLean County isn't alone in dealing with this issue.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Administrator, Circuit Court, introduced Dr. Frank Beck, from the ISU Stevenson Center. Mr. Scanlon presented a request for approval of the renewal of the contract with ISU Stevenson Center Data Analysis for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. He stated that this is the contract which the County, through the Circuit Court, maintains with the ISU Stevenson Center to provide data analysis for both the Jail and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which represents all of the criminal justice departments in the County. Mr. Scanlon advised that the contract was changed to a six-month contract last December to better reflect the state fiscal year for the ISU Stevenson Center. This contract expired on June 30th.

Mr. Scanlon indicated that approximately four years ago the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council was formed, and its most pressing need was an analysis of the population of the Jail to better understand the growth in the population, the demographics of the population, what the trends are, and how best to manage the resources available through the Sheriff's Department. The Stevenson Center has been providing this data since March 2010. Mr. Scanlon noted that they provide a report every quarter to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and a monthly report to a smaller executive body. The data is available to the Sheriff, and the County Administrator's Office. He added that it has been invaluable in managing the population and understanding the population growth. Mr. Scanlon stated that the Stevenson Center assisted with the review of the Jail and mental health needs within the Jail.

Mr. Scanlon advised that the contract remains the same as it did in December 2013 with just the change of dates. This contract is for the period July 1 – December 31, 2014.

Motion by Schafer/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of the Renewal of the Contract with ISU Stevenson Center Data Analysis for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Motion carried with Mr. Rankin abstaining.

Mr. McIntyre thanked Dr. Beck for the work they have done.

Mr. Rankin suggested that a short narrative or summary be provided with the statistics for a clearer understanding of the data.

Mr. Beck stated that this work has been intriguing and he is glad to be of service. He stated that, overall; the charts show that the Jail is increasingly being used for felonies as a percentage of the overall population, and decreasingly being used for lesser charges.

There was a brief discussion on the increase in the number of Class II felonies.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Scanlon and Mr. Beck.

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk reviewed his June 2014 Statistical Reports. He stated that there was nothing unusual in the reports.

Chairman Caisley passed around the Outside Audit of the Circuit Clerk's office, and provided a brief overview of the audit. Mr. Everhart noted that it is a clean audit.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, reviewed her Monthly Report.

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

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, introduced Mr. Seth Reynolds who is her new Chief Deputy Coroner since the retirement of Ms. Barb Nafziger. She noted that she trusts Mr. Reynolds to be responsible for the office in her absence.

Ms. Kimmerling reviewed her June 2014 Report and the Semi-Annual Financial Report. She stated that the Coroner's Office is now averaging about half of the out-of-County caseload that was experienced last year. Ms. Kimmerling noted that, on average, there are about 20-25 out-of-County cases per month, which is a normal pace within the office.

Ms. Kimmerling stated that total revenue is at \$83,604 as of the end of June. She indicated that the anticipated revenue was \$86,725 for the year. Ms. Kimmerling reported that at the half-way mark, they are only about \$125 short of the anticipated yearly revenue. She noted that she is conservative in her estimate.

There was a discussion on the anticipated growth in future out-of-County business. Ms. Kimmerling indicated that she believes the numbers will stay the same or possibly increase. She is confident that the out-of County business will not decrease. Ms. Kimmerling stated that Adams County and Hancock County would like to have the County provide their services.

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

Ms. Kim Campbell, Public Defender, presented her Monthly Report. She distributed a corrected report that shows that attorney Carey Luckman is carrying a case load of 17 for the year and not 10.

Ms. Wollrab asked what the status is of caseloads. Ms. Campbell replied that three new murder cases came in recently. She stated that the conflict cases continue to be high. Ms. Campbell noted that the felony numbers are down from the increase of last year, but just back to a normal rate.

Ms. Schafer asked if the data from Mr. Beck, that 80% of the Jail population is for felonies, affects the Public Defender's load. Ms. Campbell replied that it does make an impact because 80% of those will be Public Defender clients. She added that the Class II felonies from last year are mainly burglary cases, including retail thefts.

Ms. Wollrab asked if there is a possibility that the Public Defender's Office would request more staff in the next budget cycle. Ms. Campbell replied that she submitted a new position request for an attorney in conjunction with the Courts.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Campbell.

Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, presented the Children's Advocacy Center report and the CASA Report. She indicated that CAC is on par with last year. Ms. Brucker stated that CASA has eight newly trained volunteers, and from January through the end of June, CASA volunteers have donated 4,520 hours, which is on par with about 9,000 donated hours by the end of the year. She added that a new CASA training class begins the end of August.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Brucker.

Mr. Pablo Eves, First Assistant State's Attorney, presented a request for approval of the renewal of an Illinois Department of Children & Family Services Contract. He stated that this is for prosecution of Juvenile Abuse and Neglect cases. The contract runs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Mr. Eves indicated that this was a form that was re-written, unilaterally, by the State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. He advised that Attachment A, "Attorney Acknowledgement," will be signed by the State's Attorney for the Board Packet.

Motion by Soeldner/Rankin to Recommend Approval of the Renewal of an Illinois Department of Children & Family Services Contract.

Motion carried.

Mr. Eves reviewed the State's Attorney Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He advised that the monthly caseload is on par with the general 2014 projected cases.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Eves.

Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, reviewed the Justice Committee critical personnel position requests received by the County Administrator's Office through June 25, 2014. All positions listed below are budgeted and funded through the end of FY 2014.

Sheriff

1) Request to fill 1.0 FTE Deputy Patrol Officer

The Sheriff's has one vacant Deputy Patrol Officer Positions. The vacancy is the result of a resignation. The Sheriff cannot meet minimum staffing for all shifts with the current number of deputies and must require deputies to work overtime to fill any gaps. The Sheriff must have all positions filled to meet minimum staffing for all shifts. This position must be filled to insure public safety.

2) Request to fill 1.0 FTE Control Operator Position

The Sheriff has one vacant Control Operator position. Employees in this position are responsible for all internal security of the jail, surveillance of the facility, operation of gates and controls, and monitoring the entire Law and Justice Center for fire control and courtroom security. The responsibilities for this position include, but are not limited to: Verifying authorization of all persons entering the jail, monitoring inmate movement through visual monitors, coordinating emergency aid in crises situation, answering phone calls, preparing reports. In addition, employees in this position are required to check time schedules for work release prisoners and periodic prisoners to ascertain compliance with court orders; complete paperwork for bonding out of prisoners; and other duties as needed. This position must be filled to meet minimum staffing required to maintain jail security.

Motion by McIntyre/Schafer to Recommend Approval of the Critical Personnel Hiring Requests.

Motion carried.

Mr. Soeldner noted that the City of Lexington has hired a new Chief of Police and asked how long will the County's agreement be in effect with Lexington. Mr. Wasson replied that Lexington has asked that the Agreement be retained for a period of one month (30 days) while the new chief acquaints himself with the office, the community and the department personnel. He anticipates that at the end of that period the agreement will be terminated.

Ms. Wollrab suggested that a conversation be held on how to make our government more accessible to the public by allowing the public to speak at the beginning of Committee and Board meetings for just a few minutes. She asked how the rule can be changed that requires people to request to speak five days prior to a meeting. Mr. Wasson replied that that recommendation would go to the Rules Subcommittee. He stated that, if a Board member has interest in a modification of the County Board Rules, they need to submit a request, in writing, to the Chairman of the Board. The Chairman would then call a meeting of the Rules Subcommittee to evaluate a modification to the Rules.

Chairman Caisley concurred with Ms. Wollrab's suggestion.

Mr. Rankin advised that there is a logic in the current process of having someone request to speak. He noted that he is committed to allowing people to speak, but he recognizes that some divisive issues could bring in 20-30 people wanting to speak, which could be difficult to manage. Mr. Rankin asked if it is difficult for a community member to find where the rules are of addressing a Committee. Mr. Wasson replied that the County Board Rules are on the County website. He added that it is always possible to put more directions on the top of the website to make it easier. Mr. Wasson also pointed out that, at the request of any Board member or by a majority vote, anyone can be heard without prior written request.

Ms. Wollrab noted that it might be possible to get more interest in the County Board if it met at a time that did not conflict with work schedules.

Chairman Caisley presented the July 31, 2014 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$974,647.86 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Motion by Wollrab/Rankin to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills and transfers as of July 31, 2014 as transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Caisley asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary