

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, November 4, 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, Soeldner, and Wendt

Members Absent: None

Other County Board
Members Present: Member Metsker

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator; Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Amy Brooke, Human Resource Assistant; Mr. Don Knapp, First Civil Assistant State's Attorney

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Carla Barnes, Public Defender; Ms. Jeanene Payne, Director, Correctional Health Services; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

Others Present: Mr. Seth Reynolds, Chief Deputy Coroner, Coroner's Office; Ms. Kathy Waltz, Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Greg Allen, Superintendent of the Jail; Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court Administrator

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

Chairman Caisley presented the Minutes of the October 7, 2014, October 8, 2014 Justice Committee Meeting, and the September 16, 2014 Stand-up Meeting for approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to Approve the Minutes of the October 7, 2014 and October 8, 2014 meetings and September 16, 2014 Stand-Up Meeting.
Motion carried.

Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney, Criminal Division, presented a request for approval of a Resolution approving McLean County's continued participation with the State of Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Office. If we have a conflict we refer to them. He explained that this is the annual contribution. There is no change in the amount due this year.

Mr. Chambers reminded the Committee that once the criminal cases are completed at the trial level, and defendants wish to appeal their cases, the Appellate Prosecutor's Office handles the appeals at the first appeal level and also if they continue to the Supreme Court. Mr. Chambers estimated that it would have taken two to three prosecutors to cover the work load provided by the State of Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Office.

Motion by McIntyre/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of a Resolution approving McLean County's continued participation with the State of Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Office.

Motion carried.

Mr. Chambers presented a request for approval to renew a Law Enforcement and Prosecution-Based Victim Assistance Program Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The grant funds the Victim Witness Coordinator. Mr. Chambers reminded the committee of the work that is done through the Victim Witness Grant: support of victims, aiding victims in accessing needed services, what restitution they might be asking for, assisting with Orders of Protection when needed. Mr. Chambers noted that the Crime Victim's Rights Amendment to the Constitution is being voted on today. This would require notification of victims if an offender is being released from prison.

Motion by Soeldner/Schafer to Recommend Approval to Renew a Law Enforcement and Prosecution-Based Victim Assistance Program Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Motion carried.

Mr. Chambers reviewed the State's Attorney Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. September was not necessarily a spike. Earlier in the summer the office had fallen behind in the felony filing and in September Mr. Chambers encouraged catch up and the office screened more cases.

Mr. Chambers referred to a Critical Hiring request which Mr. Wasson would present later in the meeting. He stated that it is to replace a States Attorney III who is transferring to the Office of the Public Defender.

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

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

Chairman Caisley noted that it was interesting that 36 of our residents have departed for the Department of Corrections during the month. We are up high for the year. Apparently there is quite a bit of unlawful activity.

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

Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court Administrator, presented a request for approval of the renewal of agreement with Children's Home & Aid. He stated that this is an agreement for the Children's Home & Aid to operate the Children's Waiting Room in the McLean County Law and Justice Center. This agreement dates to Fiscal Year 2007, where the County Board agreed to an increase in the civil filing fee of \$5.00. Mr. Scanlon advised that, annually, this fee generates approximately \$33,000 in fee revenue. There are no additional expenditures from the General Fund for the operation of this program.

Motion by Wollrab/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of
the renewal of Agreement with Children's Home & Aid.
Motion carried.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

Ms. Wollrab asked Mr. Scanlon to describe the benefit of the Children's Waiting Room to the court.

Mr. Scanlon noted that before the Children's Waiting Room, it was not unusual for children to be left unsupervised in the hallways and that parents were sometimes pulled from proceedings to deal with the children during protracted cases. Having unsupervised children in the halls where all manner of cases were waiting to be heard posed a potential threat to the children.

Mr. Scanlon stated that at times parents could be uncooperative in the case and things may become heated. If the children are in the court room, they would have to witness confrontations. He also shared that at times parents would bring children to court in an effort to manipulate the court into refraining from sentencing them to jail time. While this was not an effective strategy, the Children's Waiting Room means that children do not have to witness distressing situations. If a parent is sentenced to jail time, the children can be released to family members or DCFS if needed.

Mr. Scanlon noted that they are currently averaging more than two Orders of Protection a day. They are on track for 650 for the calendar year.

Mr. Rankin pointed out that the Children's Waiting Room was being funded through a fee added to a court filing fee. He asked if there was any indication that the fee was insufficient.

Mr. Scanlon responded that the fee can only go up to \$8.00 by statute. He stated that the funding is currently sufficient for the hours that the court is open. He has not heard from the Children's Foundation that it is insufficient.

Mr. Wendt clarified that the Children's Waiting Room is currently providing enough hours to meet the needs of the court.

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

Ms. Carla Barnes, Public Defender, reviewed the Public Defender's Office Monthly Report.

Mr. McIntyre thanked Ms. Barnes for her correspondence.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval of a SAMHSA Funding-Agreement for continued Service from Chestnut Health Systems. This is refunding and does not represent any additional monies. They are accessing unused monies from the first three years of the grant.

Motion by Rankin/Soeldner to Recommend Approval of
a SAMHSA Funding-Agreement for continued Service
from Chestnut Health Systems
Motion carried.

Ms. Schafer asked what the impact would be on Drug Court and Recovery Court when it comes to next year when the funds are exhausted.

Ms. McCormick shared that they have been diligently working to make sure that clients are signed up for insurance or Medicaid. Much of the costs associated with Drug Court would be paid through those means.

Chairman Caisley inquired as to the financial impact of housing out of county youth at the Juvenile Detention Center. Is the County losing money by taking in juveniles from other counties?

Mr. Wasson stated that the Juvenile Detention Center runs with minimum staff required for the facility and the same number of staff would be required if only McLean County youth were held there. We have seen a significant increase in revenue which should come to the County this year and next year from AOIC for staffing reimbursement. It is not 100% but it is much closer to what it was in the last twenty years.

Mr. Wendt asked about how much out other counties were charged.

Ms. Waltz stated that the charge for juveniles in the circuit is \$85 a night. Out of our judicial circuit the charge is \$115 a night. We are raising these to \$88 and \$118 at the first of the year. Ms. Waltz noted that there has been an increase in youth from Tazewell. This is a result of Peoria County no longer accepting out of County youth.

Ms. McCormick reviewed her monthly reports.

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

Sheriff Mike Emery presented a request for approval of a 2015 Contract between Heartland Community College and McLean County Sheriff's Office for GED Courses at the McLean County Detention Facility. Sheriff Emery noted that there is no increase in the terms of the contract.

Motion by Wendt/Soeldner to Recommend Approval of
a 2015 Contract between Heartland Community College
and McLean County Sheriff's Office for GED Courses at
the McLean County Detention Facility.
Motion carried.

Ms. Schafer shared that the fees for the GED have gone up. She asked if this had impacted the number of people taking the GED.

Sheriff Emery said that it had not had an impact. The inmate is not charged for anything related to taking the GED. The cost is absorbed through inmate commissary funds..

Mr. Rankin asked if they had seen less recidivism as a result of inmates obtaining their GED.

Sheriff Emery stated that this had not been officially tracked but was more anecdotal. He said that it is a question which may be proposed to Dr. Beck.

Sheriff Emery presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean and the City of Bloomington for

Centralized Booking. He noted that he is also submitting the same request for the Town of Normal and Illinois State University.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean and the City of Bloomington for Centralized Booking.

Ms. Wollrab abstained.

Motion carried.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean and the Town of Normal for Centralized Booking; to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean and the Illinois State University for Centralized Booking.

Motion carried.

Chairman Caisley noted that the request for approval of a Contract between the County of McLean and Jacqueline Mathias for Life Skills Instruction has been pulled from the agenda.

Sheriff Emery presented a request for approval of a contract with Ms. Ruth Chin for inmate Chaplain Services. Sheriff Emery noted that Ms. Chin provides counseling and conducts religious services. Sheriff Emery noted that the contracted for Chaplain Ruth Chin reflects a 3% increase to \$13,000 for the year.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of a Contract with Ms. Ruth Chin for Inmate Chaplain Services.

Motion carried.

Sheriff Emery reviewed the October 2014 Detention Facility Population Report. He stated that the current population has been running between 230-250 inmates with no inmates housed out.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. McIntyre expressed a thank you on a personal and a committee level to Sheriff Emery. He stated that he appreciated the actions that the Sheriff has taken to save the County money.

Sheriff Emery thanked Mr. McIntyre for the kind words and stated that he has appreciated the assistance and support of the administrator and the committee. People are now informed and progress has been made over the years. He stated that he was blessed to be Sheriff.

Mr. Wendt also expressed his appreciation for the job Sheriff Emery has done over the years.

Mr. Rankin stated that Sheriff Emery's leadership was ingenious and that Sheriff Emery did not settle for what has always been done. Mr. Rankin appreciated that the Sheriff has always treated everyone with respect.

Chairman Caisley stated that Sheriff Emery is going out with a flourish as the population is 21 inmates less than the maximum population of the jail.

Ms. Schaefer thanked Sheriff Emery for pushing the community to look at mental illness. It started with the jail but has impacted the entire community.

Sheriff Emery expressed appreciation that the committee has taken the issue of mental illness seriously. He wished the committee the best of luck in the decisions that will need to be made in the next few months.

Mr. Soeldner expressed appreciation for Sheriff Emery's willingness to allow outside people to come and look at the jail. This could have been an opportunity for criticism but there haven't been any. Sheriff Emery is well respected.

Ms. Wollrab thanked Sheriff Emery for his concern for the jail population and rehabilitation.

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

Chief Deputy Coroner Seth Reynolds, reviewed the September 2014 Report. Mclean County reported deaths remain in line with last year or just slightly above. Out of County cases remains average. We have met or exceeded the projected revenues.

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

Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, reviewed the Children's Advocacy Center report. She noted that there are currently 88 children receiving CASA support from 44 CASAs. Through the end of September they donated about 6500 hours of advocacy. There were five new CASAs sworn in last week.

On the CAC side of things the numbers are down slightly through the end of September. The numbers in October are back up again.

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

Mr. Wasson updated the committee on the review of the budget. He stated that budgets for the departments have been tentatively approved. Corrections have been made to Children's Advocacy Center Budget has been corrected in two lines. On the revenue side of the Child Protection Network 0410-0001-0001 the 2015 has been updated from \$54,853 to \$73,128. There was a correction regarding part-time employee salaries. This item was corrected from the \$14,277 to \$32,552. These reflect previously discussed modifications last month.

Mr. Wasson stated that the transition for the County Sheriff at the beginning of next year has been reviewed. It has been determined that it will be budget neutral.

Mr. Wasson stated that the overall budget is about \$80,000 away from being able to have the tax rate remain the same at the current EAV. Other committees have expressed a desire to use unencumbered special funds to achieve maintenance of the tax rate at the current level.

Mr. Wendt asked if some of the unencumbered funds had increased.

Mr. Wasson stated that some unencumbered funds had increased in special revenue funds with dedicated revenue sources. He cautioned that it will be extremely difficult to replicate this process in the future if not impossible due to increasing cost.

Mr. Wasson shared that there is a possible revenue option from unbudgeted funds in the States Attorney's Office. These are asset forfeiture funds. He is still speaking with Mr. Chambers about this.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any doubts regarding the final figures for the offices overseen by the Justice Committee.

Mr. Rankin stated that the trusts each of the department heads that all of the budgets are all bare bones. He expressed concern that at some point "we are kicking the can down the road."

Mr. Wendt stated that the County took in more money this year than last year. This is due to the value of real estate going up. He stated that we currently have the second highest property tax in the state of Illinois.

Mr. Wasson expressed that we are not as dependent of sales tax as other counties in Illinois as we do not have a public safety sales tax as most of the urban counties do.

We reduced our projection on sales tax revenue for 2015 based on our experience this year. Counties that rely on sales tax are experiencing significant challenges. In this case, it is beneficial to us to rely on property tax.

Ms. Wollrab stated that the budget has been a continual process of cutting back and cutting back and not increasing even where costs have increased. It is razor thin. She is comfortable with where it is now.

Mr. Rankin stated that he understands the notion of no raise in anything anywhere. He stated that negotiations do not start by putting a gun to someone's head. If raising taxes has to happen it has to happen. He shared that we all recognize that it is the price we pay to live in an incredible community. Mr. Rankin stated his belief that we are doing an incredible job with the money that we have.

Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator, reviewed the Justice Committee critical personnel position requests received by the County Administrator's Office through October 28, 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 Position. 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.

State's Attorney's Office

- 1) Request to fill 1.0 FTE Assistant State's Attorney III

The State's Attorney's Office has one vacant Assistant State's Attorney III position, which is the result of a resignation. This position oversees, supervises and coordinates the work of staff attorneys in the felony division of the State's Attorney's Office; conducts charge review of arrests, new felony cases and probation violation referrals to assess potential division activities; serves as a resource to county law enforcement agencies regarding felony procedures; accepts major case assignments; screens cases for assignment; conducts research of related court decisions, gathers evidence through interviewing witnesses and reviews pertinent legal matters pertaining to cases; prepares legal briefs; meets with defense attorneys; develops strategy, arguments and testimony showing burden of proof; prosecutes felony cases in court.

Motion by Soeldner/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of
the Critical Personnel Hiring Requests.
Motion carried.

Mr. Rankin broached the subject of budget rules and critical hiring. He asked if there was a way to expedite the process rather than voting on critical hiring. This is the prerogative of the department head. He does not want to encroach upon a department head's autonomy.

Mr. Wasson stated that the County Board can modify County policy at any time in the year.

Ms. Eisner suggested that if the committee desires these to just be in the packet and to vote without explanation we can dispense with any explanation we can do that.

Mr. McIntyre voiced that he would rather vote as the committee is currently doing.

Ms. Shafer shared that this is Ms. Wollrab's last Justice Committee meetings. She has appreciated severing on Justice with her and has appreciated Ms. Wollrab's questions and insight.

Ms. Wollrab shared that she has enjoyed serving on the committee.

Mr. Wasson shared that Ms. Wollrab will be joining the Board of Health.

Mr. Soeldner also expressed appreciation of Ms. Wollrab. He appreciated her level head and her ability to ask hard questions.

Mr. Rankin and Chairman Caisley echoed those sentiments.

Chairman Caisley presented the October 31, 2014 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

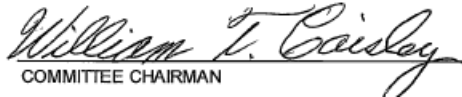
PAGE 1 OF 31

AS OF 10/24/2014

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Justice Committee

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0001	GENERAL FUND		\$597,384.70	\$597,384.70
0129	CHILDRENS ADV/OCACY CNTR		\$19,652.89	\$19,652.89
0138	CIRCUIT CLK/OPER & ADMIN		\$3,500.45	\$3,500.45
0140	CIRCUIT CLERK AUTOMATION		\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
0141	COURT SECURITY		\$6,863.75	\$6,863.75
0142	COURT DOCUMENT STORAGE		\$5,570.73	\$5,570.73
0143	CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION		\$2,625.04	\$2,625.04
0146	ADULT PROBATION SERVICES		\$338.36	\$338.36
0152	ASSET FORFEITURE-SAO		\$802.18	\$802.18
0155	ASSET FORFEITURE-SHERIFF		\$5,208.42	\$5,208.42
0156	IDPA IV-D PROJECT		\$26,619.01	\$26,619.01
0160	MULTIDISCIPLINARY DV GRNT		\$21,778.95	\$21,778.95
0170	NEUTRAL SITE CUSTODY EXCH		\$4,167.00	\$4,167.00
0171	CHILDRENS WAITING ROOM		\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
0450	ETSB SURCHARGE FUND/E-911		\$238,374.28	\$238,374.28
0452	METRO COMMUNICATIONS CTR		\$105,132.03	\$105,132.03
0506	LAW LIBRARY		\$142.72	\$142.72
			<hr/>	
			\$1,045,410.51	\$1,045,410.51


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Soeldner/Rankin to Recommend Approval of the Justice Committee Bills and transfers as of October 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 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Brooke
Recording Secretary