

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 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, Wendt, Schafer, and Metsker

Members Absent: Member Cavallini

Other County Board
Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator; Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Judith LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator; Mr. Don Knapp, First Civil Assistant State's Attorney; Ms. Jessica Woods, Civil Assistant State's Attorney

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Ms. Carla Barnes, Public Defender; Sheriff Jon Sandage; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney; Ms. Kathy Davis, Coroner; Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center

Others Present: Ms. Cathy Waltz, Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Center; Ms. Barb Nafziger, Coroner's Office, Ms. Patricia Marton, Community Member

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

Chairman Caisley presented the Minutes of the December 2, 2014 Justice Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Metsker/McIntyre to Approve the Minutes of the December 2, 2014 Justice Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Ms. Patricia Marton, Community Member, addressed the Committee regarding a recent meeting she had with Mr. Dontae Latson who is a member of the Human Relations Commission and CEO of the YWCA. She indicated that this could be an important step in the creation of interest of concerns regarding the lives of older people in our community.

Ms. Marton stated that Mr. Latson suggested putting together stories, possibly on video, showing the contributions of the elderly in order to create an awareness of situations both positive and negative in their lives. She noted that this could be done with the assistance of the YWCA and other pertinent organizations, such as League of Women Voters.

Ms. Marton indicated that Mr. Latson is sensitive to the needs of older people because he was raised by his grandmother. She stated that this could also include the so-called "hidden crimes" that she mentioned earlier. Ms. Marton noted that although Assistant Bloomington Police Chief Kenneth Bays told her that the number of measured crimes against older people is minimal, Ms. Tasha Davis of Neville House added later that older people are frequently included in reports to her and her organization, and would probably include PATH as well.

Ms. Marton advised that Mr. Latson encouraged her to continue gathering information for a proposal on the strengthening of employment procedures which she will then present to Mr. Wasson and to the County Board eventually. She added that Mr. Latson made an interesting comment about employment as he has been looking for a vice president of his organization for some now but he hasn't found a suitable match, so he is doing all of the work himself.

Ms. Marton thanked the Justice Committee for its support, assistance and suggestions.

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

Ms. Carla Barnes, Public Defender, reviewed the Public Defender's Office Monthly Caseload Report. She noted that there are no significant changes in the report.

Mr. Rankin noted that the previous Public Defender often reminded the Committee of how over-burdened the Public Defender's office is and he wondered if that is still an issue. Ms. Barnes replied that, although the caseloads are heavy, they are maintaining the caseload and are not over-burdened.

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

Sheriff Jon Sandage reviewed the December 2014 Detention Facility Population Report. He advised that arrests are picking back up after the holiday.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, presented a request for approval of an Agreement between the McLean County Probation and Court Services (MCPCS) and SMART START Company for S.M.A.R.T. Mobil Breath Alcohol Testing System. She stated that this is the same type of breath alcohol monitoring system we are using with offenders in Drug Court/Recovery Court and those that have alcohol issues now, but this one is cheaper at \$4.00 per day with no hookup fee. Ms. McCormick stated that the office will continue to adhere to an offender pay model unless grant funding and/or probation fees can be used to offset the cost of \$4.00 per diem.

Ms. Schafer asked if this change is the result of going out looking for another vendor. Ms. McCormick replied that she met this vendor at a Probation Problem-solving Courts Conference. She noted that the reason it is cheaper is because the company is the actual manufacturer and it is not going through another company.

Ms. Metsker asked if the contract with the other company was completed. Ms. McCormick replied that they will continue using Secure Alert as well because they use the GPS bracelet and some people need to be monitored closely.

Motion by Wendt/Rankin to Recommend approval of an Agreement between the McLean County Probation and Court Services (MCPCS) and SMART START Company for S.M.A.R.T. Mobil Breath Alcohol Testing System.

Motion carried.

Ms. McCormick presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2014 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Fund 0001 General Fund, Court Services Department 0022-0024 and 0022-0093 (AOIC Salary Reimbursement for Recovery Court).

Motion by Schafer/McIntyre to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2014 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Fund 0001 General Fund, court Services Department 0022-0024 and 0022-0093 (AOIC Salary Reimbursement for Recovery Court).

Motion carried.

Ms. McCormick presented her monthly reports.

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

Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney, stated that the Deferred Prosecution program through the State's Attorney's Office will be changing in January, 2015. Previously, individuals facing minor misdemeanors were referred by the State's Attorney's Office to a program wherein if the individual completed the program, their cases were dismissed or not charged. Mr. Chambers indicated that the program was administered by a third party, but the program will now be run internally through the State's Attorney's Office going forward.

Mr. Chambers advised that the advantages of operating the program in-house include increased control over what the program entails and the ability to fully off-set operational expenditures of the program with the associated fee revenue.

Mr. Chambers stated that a fee will be assessed by the Deferred Prosecution Program with consideration to type and nature of the offense. The most commonly assessed fee is expected to be \$350 with a range up to \$700. These fees will be deposited in a general fund revenue line for the State's Attorney's Office, as was outlined in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget and will support the operation of the Deferred Prosecution program and provide some additional revenue.

Ms. Schafer asked if this will have an effect on the workload in the Office. Mr. Chambers replied that the 2015 Budget included a position for someone to administer this program.

Mr. Wendt thanked Mr. Chambers for bringing this program into the State's Attorney's Office. He asked who sets the fees. Mr. Chambers replied that he will set the fees and they will be \$350, \$450 and \$700, but most of them will be \$350.

Mr. Chambers reviewed the State's Attorney Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report.

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

Ms. Kathy Davis, Coroner, reviewed her November 2014 Report.

Ms. Davis advised that she has begun to develop a Suicide Prevention Program, which should be up and running in the next few months. She also noted that plans are being made to hire a Chief Deputy.

Ms. Davis stated that the Coroner's Office just completed their first ALS procurement and just received a call to perform brain tumor procurement through the same ALS Foundation. She explained that the procurements are for research purposes.

Mr. Wendt asked who pays for the surgery procurement. Ms. Davis replied that the County actually gets paid up to \$1,500 from the Foundation that conducts the research. Ms. Nafziger indicated that the County received \$1,350 first the procurement that was done. Ms. Davis noted that Dr. Scott Denton did the first procurement pro bono, but he will be paid in the future as the process of procuring several different parts of the body is lengthy. She advised that her desire would be for the Coroner's Office to be the hub in Illinois for procurement.

Chairman Caisley pointed out that despite the opening of the Sangamon County Morgue, the out-of-County caseload for autopsies has held up pretty well.

Mr. Wendt congratulated Ms. Davis for taking on the procurement project.

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

Ms. Judy Brucker, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, reviewed the Children's Advocacy Center report and the CASA Report. She advised that for the CASA Program, the year ended with 75 active CASA Volunteers providing advocacy for 145 children, which was 8,808 hours of advocacy.

Ms. Brucker noted that, at the end of the year, 221 children were provided services through the Advocacy Center, which is about 15% less than last year.

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

Chairman Caisley stated that Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, was ill and unable to attend the meeting. He noted that the Circuit Clerk's reports are available in the packet. Chairman Caisley pointed out the number of eminent domain cases that are being filed, which are due to the pipeline.

Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, thanked the Sheriff's Department, the Highway Department, Facilities Management, City, Town and Township crews who were out last night keeping the roads and facilities open in this winter weather condition.

Chairman Caisley presented the December 31, 2014 Justice Committee bills and transfers for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$502,095.66 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Ms. Schafer asked that the transfer forms include the name of the Department rather than just the department number. Mr. Wasson noted that the transfer was for the Public Defender's Office. He indicated that he will request that the Auditor include the name of the Department on the transfers.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Wasson noted that Dewberry/Goldman & Associates continue to work on the operation and staffing requirements of the alternatives that they have provided to us. It is hoped that a more complete report will be received in the near future.

Chairman Caisley advised that the mental health film that was previously shown at the Normal Theatre is being repeated on Sunday afternoon in Presser Hall at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Minutes of the Justice Committee

January 6, 2015

Page 7 of 7

Chairman Caisley asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary