

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean Board met on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 4:30 PM in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Member Present: Chairman Caisley; Vice Chairman Rankin; Members McIntyre, Wendt, Cavallini, Metsker, and Schafer.

Members Absent: None

Other County Board

Member Present: None

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Carla Barnes, Public Defender; Mr. Will Scanlon, Court Administrator, Circuit Court; Dr. Kathy Davis, Coroner; Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Jon Sandage, Sheriff

Others Present: Mr. Greg Allen, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff's Department; Mr. Jim Tusek, Public Defender's Department

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

Chairman Caisley presented the Minutes of the May 5, 2015 Justice Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Rankin/Schafer to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2015 Justice Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

Ms. Patricia Marton, Community Member, addressed the Committee regarding legislative sessions she had attended in Springfield. She discussed Bills that were passed to address the concerns the legislators have for their constituents. Ms. Marton discussed and provided examples regarding the Heroin Crisis Act, the Bill removing privacy restrictions regarding troubled students and the Bill regarding increased penalties for financial and physical abuse against the elderly.

Ms. Marton mentioned Senator Martinez's comments regarding the community care program and how it must not be cut because this would have negative effects for the elderly. Ms. Marton quoted Senator Martinez. "We are not corporations, we are

government. We must help the most vulnerable members of our population.” Ms. Marton thanked the Board for promoting similar programs.

Ms. Marton stated that she hoped for extreme care in the choice of administrative positions. She stated that with the planning of extensive and costly building projects we need good people in these positions. She also stated she felt supervision of these positions should be mandatory. She stated that most of the work is done behind closed doors in committee meetings and the trustees, who are supposed to keep an eye on matters, are kept informed by employees and not Administrators because these positions are away doing other jobs. Ms. Marton further recommended the economist article called, “Going off the Rails”. Ms. Marton thanked the Board for their assistance and their time.

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

Chairman Caisley stated Ms. Judy Brucker was not present at the meeting but that her report was on file for the committee members to review.

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented his monthly reports.

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

Ms. Carla Barnes, Public Defender presented her report monthly report.

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

Mr. Jon Sandage, Sheriff, presented his monthly report.

Chairman Caisley asked if anyone had any questions of the Sheriff.

Ms. Metzker asked for a status update on the recruitment of additional deputies.

Mr. Sandage stated they had done the orientation portion, but they still have five or six positions to fill. Mr. Sandage indicated that the McLean County Sheriff’s Merit Commission notified them that the written and physical agility test have been ordered and will be administered on the same day to establish our list.

Ms. Metzker thanked him for the update.

Chairman Caisley asked Mr. Sandage if they had anyone currently in the academy.

Mr. Sandage indicated they currently have two individuals at the Police Training Institute in Champaign and two individuals at the State Policy Academy in Springfield. An additional candidate will start in July.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director of Court Services presented her monthly report.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any questions about Court Services or the Juvenile Detention Center. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. McCormick.

Mr. Don Knapp presented the report for the State's Attorney office.

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

Ms. Kathy Davis presented her monthly report.

Chairman Caisley asked if any questions.

Mr. Wendt inquired about deposits and fees that were on the report, differences in the numbers and dates these represented.

Ms. Davis indicated the numbers were to current date.

Mr. Wendt asked about mortgage fees and how they relate to autopsies.

Ms. Davis explained that numbers are down from other counties as they have not had a need for as many autopsies. Ms. Davis stated she has a concern that Mike Burke and Jody Bernard are not seeking re-election and the individuals who replace them might decide to go with Callahan in Grundy County. She indicated they are looking at ways to secure those services.

Mr. Wendt stated a concern about adjusting the budget for the department based on these numbers.

Mr. Cavallini asked how we entice someone to come here and use the McLean County facilities.

Ms. Davis indicated that you bid but is it not a formal process. She also indicated situations such as the one we have with our pathologist who is also the same pathologist Grundy County uses come up. They have to find ways to keep the pathologist in McLean County full time.

Ms. Schafer asked about report and how the numbers are listed, i.e. probable accident and then have stated deemed natural. Ms. Schafer indicated it was confusing to try to figure out how cases are counted and reported and asked for clarification as to where the numbers come from.

Ms. Davis indicated that she had been looking at the report to try to determine how numbers were counted before her. Ms. Davis went ahead to explain the report. Ms. Davis indicated they were going to modify the report to make it easier to understand.

Ms. Metzker asked when she thought the Coronor's office would change the report. She also asked if Ms. Davis would define the report so that anyone in the future could look at the report and determine where the numbers came from.

Ms. Davis indicated that she hoped to have a new format next month and that with a goal that the report would be easier to understand in the future.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any further questions.

Mr. Wasson spoke to the budget question raised by Member Wendt. He stated that budgeted amounts are for the year and this is a report through April. However, the report does not identify fees that are due to us but have not been collected yet. He stated that the reimbursement for services on autopsies from outside counties usually has a 30 to 45 day delay in payments upon invoice. Second, a large portion of the revenue for outside autopsies goes to expenditures such as services and supplies that are associated with those autopsies. If in fact this trend in usage by outside counties continues, we will be able to take action on the expenditures side of the budget without impacting Ms. Davis' operations for county services.

Mr. Wendt acknowledged that it would not be as out of balance if there would not be the expenses associated with outside autopsies.

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

Will Scanlan, Circuit Court Administrator presented for action the renewal of a grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The grant deals with mandatory arrest policies, training regarding standard domestic violence protocol and arrests, bond decisions and arrests, training of law enforcement agencies and training for some social service agencies that come in contact with victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Scanlan indicated the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority granting process is delayed and that this grant actually began April 1, 2015 and runs through March 31 of 2016. He indicated that most of it outlines the certifications that we do to follow federal law and there is very little to the grant other than the training protocol.

Motion by Wendt/Rankin to recommend approval of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICIIA) Arrest Grant for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council.

Discussion

Ms. Metzker asked if this was in arrears then as the document indicates May 7, 2014.

Mr. Scanlan indicated that dates on the document will be updated when we get the approved form.

Ms. Metzker asked if they had already done the training and if they did the training because they knew the grant was going to come up or because they needed the training regardless of the grant.

Mr. Scanlan confirmed that yes they had already done some training in April and agreed that they did it because they needed to do the training regardless, but also because they knew the grant was going to come up.

Ms. Metzker asked for confirmation that the funding would be used for the protocol development training, domestic violence protocol and elder abuse.

Mr. Scanlan confirmed.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any further questions.

Vote Motion carried.

Chairman Caisley stated that the next item up for action was an agreement between the McLean County Bar Association and the Circuit Court.

Mr. Scanlan indicated that the Circuit Court employs a person under a grant through the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts to conduct data collection for juvenile abuse. He stated that the grant pays for a majority of one person's time. Mr. Scanlan stated that the Bar Association expressed a willingness to cooperate with the Court and the County in order to get some ongoing clerical assistance for their membership recruitment, minutes to meetings and sending out the Bar Association's Newsletter, so in 2008 they added those services to make it a full time position. He indicated that the duties and the hourly rate have remained the same since 2008. Mr. Scanlan indicated they discussed with the McLean County Bar Association how many hours they believed they would use over time and the rate they found reasonable. He stated they took the hourly rate but not the benefits and came to the agreement of \$13.95 for the quarter. He further explained that this is 7½ hours per week for 12 weeks during the quarter and that if there are 13 weeks in the quarter they do not get charged extra because of accrued holiday or vacation. The only update to the contract that is currently in place is the dollar amount.

Motion by Wendt/Cavallini to recommend approval of the agreement between McLean County and McLean County Bar Association updating hourly rate of pay and amount of clerical services provided.

Discussion

Mr. Wendt asked why the benefits were not figured in to the hourly rate.

Mr. Scanlan explained that the grant from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts covers the benefit amount, so there is no need to add that into this agreement. He indicated that if the grant is not renewed then they would need to reconsider that decision.

Ms. Metsker wanted confirmation of what was being funded by the grant and what date the grant was funded through.

Mr. Scanlan indicated that the grant funds a part-time position but full-time benefits. The agreement funds the other part of the position making it a full-time position. Mr. Scanlan confirmed that the grant is funded through September 30, 2017 and that it is a five year renewal.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any further questions or discussion.

Vote Motion Carried

Mr. Scanlan indicated he had two things for information. Mr. Scanlan indicated the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services contract that had funded an attorney acting as an administrative hearing officer for child support hearings ends on June 30th. He stated that the Circuit Court will absorb that time by reassigning a judge one day a week to that call. Mr. Scanlan indicated that the other two portions of the child support enforcement grant are for the State's Attorney child support enforcement program in the circuit clerk personnel and both of those continue in fiscal year 2016. Mr. Scanlan stated that because the rate of pay for jurors increased on June 1 to \$25 for the initial day and \$50 for the second day they are trying to offset the increase in cost by no longer paying for mileage and only paying juror's meals for those in deliberation. Mr. Scanlan indicated he spoke with Jury Commissioner, Jason Dazey and the next jury call will follow the higher rate. He indicated that after three or four months they might need to make a budget adjustment based on the increased fees, but they are trying to keep the budget neutral.

Ms. Metsker asked how they were actually going to absorb the child support work through the Circuit Court.

Mr. Scanlan indicated that a judge will devote less time to one type of case load and more time to child support cases. He stated that Judge Yoder, Judge Reynard and Judge Hill will all see increased time handling of child support cases rather than divorce cases and then Judge Matthew Fitton will now come to McLean County 5 to 6 days a month instead of 3 days a month to pick up the remaining cases.

Ms. Metsker asked for clarification that the judges were picking up cases on their current pay.

Mr. Scanlan confirmed. He further indicated that getting a hearing for a divorce case will probably take longer so the judges can pick these cases up. He explained that post-decree and family cases that involve children add a lot to the work load of the judges.

Ms. Metsker asked about the percentage of new cases involving children.

Mr. Scanlan indicated that at least 75% of divorce cases and 90% of Family cases (parents were not married), involve children. He confirmed there are about a 1,000 divorce and family cases a year.

Chairman Caisley asked if there were any further questions or comments, hearing none he thanked Mr. Scanlan.

Chairman Caisley asked Mr. Wasson if there was any other business for the Committee.

Mr. Wasson indicated there was not.

Chairman Caisley presented bills as of June 1, 2015 with a Prepaid Total of \$389,109.98 and a transfer item in the amount of \$666.40 within a program of the State's Attorney's Office.

MCCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT AS OF 6/1/2015 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND PAGE 1 OF 30

Justice Committee

Table with 5 columns: FUND, FUND TITLE, PENDING TOTAL, PREPAID TOTAL, FUND TOTAL. Lists various fund categories like GENERAL FUND, CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CNTR, etc.

Handwritten signature of William T. Caisley, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Cavallini/Rankin to approve the presented bills. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Julie A. Morlock

Julie A. Morlock Recording Secretary