

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, October 9, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman George Gordon, Members George Wendt, Carlo Robustelli, Randall Martin, Dave Selzer, Scott Murphy and Susan Schafer

Members Absent: None

Other County Board
Members Present None

Staff Present: Mr. William Wasson, County Administrator; Mr. Don Knapp, First Civil Assistant State's Attorney; Mr. Eric Schmitt, Administrative Services Director, and Ms. Julie Morlock, Recording Secretary;

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Judy Brucker, Children's Advocacy Center; Kathy Davis, Coroner; Ms. Carla Barnes, Public Defender Office; Jon Sandage, Sheriff

Others Present: Greg Allen, Chief Deputy Sheriff;

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and declared a quorum.

Chairman Gordon stated there were no minutes to be approved.

Chairman Gordon confirmed with Mr. Wasson there were no appearances by members of the public.

Chairman Gordon presented on behalf of Don Everhart and the Circuit Clerk's office a request to approve an On-Line Access Agreement between the Secretary of State and McLean County. Mr. Wasson stated that Mr. Everhart received notice that we needed to enter into this to retain access to the Secretary of State's information systems. He stated that the Civil Division reviewed the contract and is satisfied with language and staff will continue to review coverages.

Motion by Selzer/Wendt to recommend approval of an On-Line Access Agreement between the Secretary of State and McLean County.
Motion Carried.

Mr. Wasson presented the Children's Advocacy Center – CAC 0129-0021, Children's Advocacy Center – CASA 0129-0097, and the Children's Advocacy Center – Multi-County Services 0129-0101 budgets for review and approval. Mr. Wasson stated that the major change in this budget is the increase in funding regarding the VOCA grant, which has

allowed them to expand services and hire additional staff for the next three years. Mr. Martin asked about the 2006 Dodge Caravan and if we need to look to replace this vehicle. Ms. Brucker explained that expenses for this vehicle come mainly out of the multi-county line as it is used to drive to the Livingston, DeWitt County offices. She stated that the vehicle was a donation from the Sheriff from a forfeiture several years ago. Mr. Robustelli asked about the Court fees and why we are at \$16.50 when we are allowed to go up to \$30.00. Ms. Brucker indicated that she has wanted to go up to \$30.00 but last year it was only raised \$1.50 to the \$16.50. Mr. Wasson stated that many factors contribute to the decision to not raise it to \$30.00 including the fact that if we increase this fee then other fees will likely not be paid in full and finally, making sure the fees charged can be paid by the individuals. Mr. Wasson stated that the Supreme Court is requesting fee and fine reform and if their proposal goes through then the fees would be handled at the State level and we would probably see local fees fall farther down the list of fees that are collected. Ms. Schafer asked if there were any reductions in force for this department. Mr. Wasson stated that there were not.

Motion by Selzer/Wendt to recommend approval of the Children's Advocacy Center – CAC 0129-0021, Children's Advocacy Center – CASA 0129-0097, and the Children's Advocacy Center – Multi-County Services 0129-0101 budgets.

Motion Carried.

Mr. Wasson presented the Coroner's Office (0001-0031) budget for review and approval. Mr. Wasson stated that the Department has a reduction in seasonal/occasional personnel. He stated that the office utilizes seasonal/occasional for after hours, weekend and holiday coverage. Mr. Wasson stated there have been decreases in out of county autopsies and so this adjustment can be made.

Motion by Wendt/Selzer to recommend approval of the Coroner's budget (0001-0031).

Motion Carried.

Mr. Wasson presented the Public Defender's Office – 0001-0021 budget for review and approval. Mr. Wasson stated that the recommended budget includes a reduction of 1.0 in full time and a .32 increase in seasonal/occasional. He stated that this will allow assistance at lower cost and the Public Defender's office will utilize contract services. Mr. Wasson also pointed out an error in the Public Defender's budget, which would change the 724.0001 investigation expenses line from \$12,500 to \$27,500. Mr. Wasson stated that Ms. Barnes has worked hard to obtain grants to assist with funding but want to make sure we have enough funds in the budget to cover expenses should those grants not be acquired. Mr. Robustelli asked the title of the reduced FTE. Mr. Wasson stated it is Defense Investigator. Mr. Robustelli asked for confirmation that we added contract services last year to help with caseloads. Ms. Barnes confirmed. Mr. Robustelli asked how this reduction affects workload in her office and if this puts us back to where we were before adding those services last year. Mr. Wasson stated that last year we did contract services for attorney services and this is for an investigator. He stated that they worked to keep the attorney level staff in the Public Defender's office. Ms. Barnes confirmed that

was correct and that services would continue to be provided through contract and we would not lose an attorney.

Motion by Schafer/Robustelli to recommend approval of the Public Defender's Office – 0001-0021 budget as amended to increase .724.0001 from \$12,500 to \$27,5000.
Motion Carried.

Mr. Wasson presented the Sheriff's Department – 0001-0029 and the Sheriff's Department Court Security Fund 0141-0029 budgets for review and approval. Mr. Wasson stated that part of the budget recommendation is a reduction of a patrol officer. He stated there is a pending retirement in April that would assist with this reduction. Mr. Wasson stated they noted that across-the-board raises were left in full-time employee salary lines that needed to be removed. Mr. Wasson went over the full-time lines and the new reduced amounts. Mr. Selzer asked how reduction of patrol officer will affect services. Mr. Sandage indicated they are at full staff for patrol officers so citizens will not see a change in service. He stated he is more concerned about the two individuals finishing the academy in November and one of those individuals may have to take a position in the jail that is open until the retirement in April and hoped they would not take a job somewhere else before the retirement. Mr. Robustelli asked about the EMA maintenance line and the reduction in that amount. Mr. Wasson stated they are combining roof repair of that building with roof repair at the Animal Control, Highway, Parks buildings. Mr. Wasson stated that the work might not be completed this year but amount for repair was included in this year's budget, so the amount is reduced for next year because we do not expect a large expenditure next year. Mr. Robustelli asked how much it costs the County to put an officer through the Academy. Mr. Sandage indicated that cost is about \$3,800 and fully reimbursed by the Law Enforcement Training Standards Board. Mr. Sandage stated that uniform costs are about \$2,000. Mr. Selzer asked him to confirm that we pay salary while they are in academy. Mr. Sandage confirmed that we do pay their salary.

Motion by Robustelli/Wendt to recommend approval of the Sheriff's Department Court Security Fund 0141-0029 and the Sheriff's Department Court Security Fund 0141-0029 budgets including changes in 0503.0001 full time employee salaries.
Motion Carried.

Mr. Wasson presented the Merit Board – 0001-0008 budget for review and approval. Mr. Wasson stated that as with other appointed bodies the County Board should continue to evaluate this Commission. He stated that the Sheriff's office continues to work on reducing time for hiring individuals. Mr. Wasson stated that while the law enforcement side is up to full staff the correction staff is not. Sheriff Sandage discussed staffing challenges in the Department.

Motion by Murphy/Schafer to recommend approval of the Merit Board – 0001-0008 budget.
Motion Carried.


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Chairman Gordon asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee; hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie A. Morlock".

Julie Morlock
Recording Secretary