

Minutes of the Special Justice Committee Meeting

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, October 29, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Member George Wendt

Other County Board
Members Present None

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Molly Evans, Director of the Children's Advocacy Center; Judge Rebecca Foley, Mr. Wil Scanlan, Trial Court Supervisor, Dr. Kathy Davis, Coroner, Ms. Carla Barnes, Public Defender

Others Present: Mary Whitaker, Children's Advocacy Center

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and declared a quorum. He stated there were no minutes to be approved and confirmed with Mr. Wasson there were no appearances by members of the public.

Chairman Gordon 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 indicated there was the addition of two employees through grant funding and an increase in the administrative surcharge for this department included in this Fund but not the other two Funds as this Fund receives property tax revenue. Mr. Robustelli asked them to confirm there was not a major increase in the grant amounts received compared to last year. Mr. Wasson confirmed. Mr. Robustelli asked if we are permitted to charge an indirect charge to the grantor. Mr. Wasson confirmed we can not because the charge was not part of the application. He indicated that all County Departments would be including that request in future grant proposals. Mr. Robustelli stated that given the importance of the services CAC provides to abused children and the difficulty the Board has had with funding of these programs in the past, he could not support the increase in the Administrative Surcharge for this department. He stated that he felt the funds should go to other services for children. He stated he felt there did not need to be a fee increase to provide more resources but that we just needed to decide we would not charge the fee and take the money from money from the general fund. Mr. Gordon asked Mr. Wasson to respond. Mr. Wasson reviewed the purpose of the administrative surcharge. He stated that the impact of reducing the surcharge in any one of the revenue funds would result

in need to move to another expenditure line or reduce revenue that is provided to balance the budget. He stated that the proposed budget was based on tax rate to meet needs. He said they would need to make modifications to the County Board budget and there is little capacity to make up the gap in revenue because there is little levy authority in the general fund. Mr. Gordon asked him to clarify ways to balance the budget. Mr. Wasson confirmed balance budget by increasing expenditures in another line or reduce revenue. Mr. Selzer asked if there was a way to get additional grant funding from Children's Protection Network to assist. Mr. Wasson did not feel that was an option at this time. Ms. Evans stated that the Children's Protection Network provides more funding to CASA and not CAC. Mr. Selzer asked what services were deficient because of this budget. Mr. Wasson went over services that are provided for the administrative surcharge. Mr. Selzer asked what programs could be provided additional support by returning this revenue. Mr. Wasson stated that it could be utilized for any program under the Children's Advocacy Center. Mr. Robustelli stated that grant funding is restricted funding so he wanted to put this unrestricted funding into the budget for them to utilize in an unrestricted manner. Mr. Robustelli said that he has supported the administrative surcharge in other departments because he understands need for administrative surcharge, but does not feel appropriate to charge it in this department.

Ms. Schafer stated that this topic has come up at other meetings and questioned being able to remove from one department but not others. Mr. Selzer asked Mr. Wasson to confirm that future grant applications would include a request for the administrative surcharge. Mr. Wasson agreed that expenses should be including in future grants. He stated there is not room in the general fund levy to reduce all the administrative surcharges to their previous levels. Mr. Wasson stated that most grants have been flat for a number of years, so if we apply for administrative surcharge then there is possibility that funding for services will be reduced to cover that cost. Mr. Robustelli stated it was his understanding that possible reduction in grant dollars designated for services was part of the reason we have not asked for administrative fee in grant applications. Mr. Selzer asked where the adjustment be to provide a balanced budget, if we are going to reduce the amount from this budget. Mr. Gordon further asked Mr. Wasson to confirm the process of providing a balanced budget to the full County Board. Mr. Wasson confirmed that if you reduce expenditure here or move to another line, then revenue would be reduced from the County Board's budget and the Executive Committee and County Board would need to approve an amended recommended budget.

Mr. Selzer asked if there was a substitute motion. Mr. Gordon confirmed there was no substitute motion. Mr. Robustelli stated he was confident Administration could find this money as they have found money in the past to balance the levy. Mr. Robustelli stated he would like to make a motion to reduce the budget amount by the amount of the increase to the surcharge. There was discussion on where to move the amount to balance the department's budget. Mr. Gordon asked Ms. Evans if there was another expenditure line that needed funds. Ms. Evans said they are doing what they need to, but provided example that they will have certification this year and that is not included in the budget. Ms. Whitaker agreed they are meeting grant guidelines and services but would appreciate having funds to cover things that were not in the budget such as the certification. Ms. Schafer asked if moved to contractual services if CAC had capacity with staff to provide more services. Mr.

Selzer asked what other programs those dollars could benefit from in this budget or if funds needed to be moved to another fund that had programs that needed funds. Mr. Wasson stated that they could put it in the budget balance account and then when funds were needed an emergency appropriation would need to be completed for the County Board to approved movement of those funds. Mr. Gordon asked if utilizing the budget balance account had been done before. Mr. Wasson confirmed it had. Mr. Selzer asked if that could cross budgets. Mr. Wasson stated that the only way could spend dollars in another budget is to bring a Budget Amendment before the County Board. Mr. Selzer asked them to confirm that this budget provides program services. Mr. Wasson confirmed this program budget does provide services.

Motion by Robustelli/Martin to decrease the proposed surcharge from \$18,623 to \$8,623 and put \$10,000 into the budget balance account line.
Motion Carried.

Motion by Schafer/Martin to recommend approval of the Children's Advocacy Center – CAC 0129-0021 budget as amended.
Motion Carried

Chairman Gordon presented the CASA 0129-0097 and CAC Multi-County Services 0129-0101 budgets for action.

Motion by Selzer/Robustelli to recommend the Children's Advocacy Center – CASA 0129-0097, and the Children's Advocacy Center – Multi-County Services 0129-0101 budgets for approval.
Motion Carried.

Chairman Gordon presented the Jury Commission 0001-0018 budget for review and approval. Mr. Wasson stated that he did not have any major changes to report to the Committee. Mr. Scanlan stated he did not have anything to note to the Committee.

Motion by Selzer/Robustelli recommended approval of the Jury Commission 0001-0018 Budget.
Motion Carried.

Chairman Gordon presented budgets for the Circuit Court – 0001-0016, the Circuit Court Neutral Site Custody Exchange –0170-0016 and the Circuit Court – Children's Waiting Room 0171-0016 for review and approval. Mr. Wasson stated he did not have any major comments to add to the presented budget. Mr. Scanlan stated there would be a legislative change in the middle of next year could substantially change the fine structure for criminal, traffic and ordinance violations. He said they tried to take that into consideration for this budget, but they are not sure what will actually be decided. Mr. Scanlan stated that they wanted to make sure the Committee was aware of potential changes next year. Mr. Wasson went over what the legislation proposed and stated this was also discussed when the Committee reviewed the Circuit Clerk's budget as this legislation could affect that budget. He stated he felt the County Board would have to make decisions in the future about allocations they had not had

to in the past. Mr. Wasson stated they are concerned about these changes, but had to bring the budget to them based on current information. Ms. Schafer asked about juror expenses as when the budget was constructed it was prior to events occurring that could affect the budget. Mr. Scanlan indicated there was funding for the Zimmerman trial but the cases that have happened recently were not taken into account. Judge Foley reminded the Committee that it could take a year for the new events to come to trial, so they would more than likely affect a future budget. Mr. Selzer asked where expenses for sequestering a jury would fall. Mr. Scanlan indicated that child care necessities including single parent families and families not living close to their immediate relatives has led to movement to not sequester jurors. Mr. Scanlan indicated they have not sequestered a jury in about 21 years, so would have to work with Sheriff and Administration on those expenses if that did arise.

Motion by Martin/Selzer to recommend approval of the budgets for Circuit Court – 0001-0016, the Circuit Court Neutral Site Custody Exchange –0170-0016, the Circuit Court – Children’s Waiting Room 0171-0016, and the Jury Commission – 0001-0018.

Motion Carried. Mr. Murphy abstained from the Circuit Court Neutral Site Custody Exchange and Circuit Court Children’s Waiting Room budgets.

Mr. Wasson presented the Coroner’s Office (0001-0031) budget for review and approval. He stated they were projecting a slight increase in out of county autopsies in both revenue and expenditures. Mr. Schmitt pointed out that the FTE sheet did not match the budget sheets. Ms. Schafer asked about note to increase morgue use fees. Ms. Yoder indicated that if we raise fees, the number of autopsies we provide would be reduced.

Motion by Robustelli/Martin to recommend approval of the Coroner’s budget (0001-0031).

Motion Carried.

Chairman Gordon presented the Public Defender’s Office – 0001-0021 budget for review and approval. Mr. Wasson stated there was a change in personnel changing a part-time person to full time. Ms. Barnes stated they have 4 people who assist the 14 attorneys in the office and also some work for the contract attorneys. Ms. Schafer asked how her budget would be affected by the addition of some high profile cases. Ms. Barnes indicated that the contract positions help them handle work and allow her employees to focus on the bigger cases. Ms. Barnes indicated that while they would spend time on these cases this year they would probably not go to trial until end of 2019 or early 2020.

Motion by Murphy/Selzer to recommend approval of the Public Defender’s Office – 0001-0021 budget.

Motion Carried.

Chairman Gordon indicated that the first meeting of the Justice Committee in 2019 would fall on New Year’s Day, but wanted to wait to determine date of the January meeting until after the election.

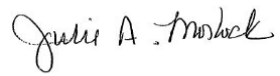
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Chairman Gordon asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee; hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Julie Morlock
Recording Secretary