

## Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Chuck Erickson, Members Randall L. Martin, George Wendt, Susan Schafer, Sharon Chung, Logan Smith, Hannah Beer (All by remote attendance)

Members Absent: None

Other County Board  
Members Present None

Staff Present: Ms. Camille Rodriguez, County Administrator, Ms. Cassy Taylor, Assistant County Administrator, (in person attendance); Ms. Julie Morlock, Recording Secretary; Ms. Cathy Dreyer, Assistant County Administrator; Chris Spanos, First Assistant State's Attorney – Civil Division; (via remote attendance)

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Mr. Jon Sandage, Sheriff, Mr. Brian McEldowny, Interim Public Defender, Mr. Michael Donovan, Court Services; Ms. Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Don Knapp, McLean County State's Attorney, Mr. Bradley Rigdon, First Assistant State's Attorney, (all via remote attendance).

Others Present: None

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

Chairman Erickson presented the minutes of the March 2, 2021 regular meeting for approval.

Motion by Chung/Wendt to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion Carried. Roll call vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Chairman Erickson confirmed public comments.

Dr. Carla Campbell Jackson of the NAACP stated they supported HB3653 and they value every life and want everyone to be treated with common respect. She stated that they support law enforcement and NAACP have family members serving in law enforcement. She asked that the County Board cease and desist presenting misinformation regarding this bill. She stated that she hoped all could work together to support a bill that is good for our police officer and residents.

Ms. Willie Holton Halbart – resident of Bloomington and former employee of Illinois Department of Correction. She stated she has a genuine respect for law officers. She stated officers put their life on the line every day and HB3653 only

strengthens justice system and helps provide equality and justice for all. She stated that major flaws have been uncovered in the past year and stated that it should be about justice for all and she feels that the Bill will help with basic human rights, equality, and justice for all. She stated she felt there had been a lot of misinformation given about the Bill. She went over some of the items listed in the Bill. She recommended that prior to passing resolution the Committee do due diligence as to what the Bill entailed.

Mr. Zachary Gettrich stated that unfortunately HB3653 does not get rid of qualified immunity but another House Bill had been proposed to get rid of it. Mr. Gettrich stated last month he had characterized qualified immunity as protecting unreasonable behavior and Mr. Spanos indicated that was incorrect. Mr. Gettrich state he had been quoting law professors last month. He further stated that officers in recent violent acts would probably get qualified immunity. Mr. Gettrich provided cases regarding qualified immunity and why qualified immunity was granted in those cases. He stated Sheriff had inmates in solitary confinement to help prevent spread of COVID for months he length of time in solitary fell under the definition of cruel and unusual punishment.

Ms. Kathleen Yoder, Coroner presented her monthly report. Chairman Erickson asked if the Committee had any questions hearing none, he thanked her.

Mr. Don Knapp, State's Attorney presented his monthly reports. He noted DUIs are up but that numbers were similar to pre-COVID. He stated that other numbers are about average. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions, hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. Michael Donovan, Director of Court Services presented for action a request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the YWCA of Mclean County. He stated the YWCA contacted him about an MOU with regard to a grant. Ms. Schafer asked if grant for us or for them. Mr. Donovan stated it was a grant for them and this MOU would be for referrals to them.

Motion by Wendt/Chung to recommend approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the YWCA of McLean County.

Motion carried. Roll call vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Mr. Donovan presented his monthly reports. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions, hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk presented his monthly reports. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. Ron Lewis, Public Defender, presented their monthly report. Chairman Erickson congratulated him on his appointment. Mr. Lewis stated he looked forward to serving and thanked Mr. McEldowney for his work in the interim. Mr. McEldowney agreed with Mr. Knapp

that numbers seemed to be average numbers. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any comments or questions; hearing none, he thanked them.

Ms. Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center, presented for action a request to approve an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2021 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance. Ms. Evans indicated this was a combination of revenue they had received from grants that needed to be added into 2021 budget.

Motion by Martin/Schafer to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2021 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance.

Motion Carried. All members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Ms. Evans presented her monthly reports to the Committee. She noted that April is child abuse awareness month and went over some of their partnerships to promote prevention. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions, hearing none, he thanked her.

Ms. Rodriguez indicated Jon Sandage, Sheriff, was unable to attend the meeting tonight but would try to answer any questions or forward them to him. Ms. Chung asked about plans for future clinics at the jail and plans to increase the number of inmates signed up for vaccinations. She also asked for information about solitary confinement ending as she had read article that stated the Sheriff had been allowing people to gather. Ms. Rodriguez indicated she would pass those questions along. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions, hearing none, he moved to the next item on the Agenda.

Ms. Rodriguez, County Administrator indicated she had nothing to present to the Committee this month.

Chairman Erickson asked Mr. Spanos to provide information on Tort Immunity. Ms. Chung stated qualified immunity was not an issue in the Bill just passed by the Illinois General Assembly, so she was not sure why they were discussing this today. She stated that she felt discussion was in poor taste considering the very public trial going on and the fact that today was an election day where the time of Committee members could be better spent encouraging people to vote. Mr. Erickson state that it was a bipartisan request as he received questions from both sides of the aisle about qualified immunity and tort immunity. He stated people asked for the State's Attorney to give more information on it before they would vote on the resolution previously presented to the Committee. He stated that even as of day before the meeting he received a phone call from Democrat Board member with questions about matter. Mr. Erickson stated that he tried to answer some of the questions and explain why I had put this on the agenda, but hoped information presented by Mr. Spanos would further help to answer questions..

Mr. Spanos shared a power point with the Committee. He provided information from Federal and State law on qualified immunity as well as what had been presented in the Bill and other proposals in the legislature. Mr. Erickson asked Mr. Spanos to provide copy of presentation to the Committee. Mr. Spanos stated he would. Mr. Erickson thanked Mr. Spanos.

Chairman Erickson asked if there was other business or communication to come before the Committee, hearing none, he moved to payment of the bills.


Chairman Erickson presented bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor with a Prepaid and Fund Total of \$845,786.28.

**MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**  
 AS OF 3/30/2021  
 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

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**Justice Committee**

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0001	GENERAL FUND		\$314,238.73	\$314,238.73
0129	CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CNTR		\$21,182.28	\$21,182.28
0138	CIRCUIT CLK/OPER & ADMIN		\$1,932.78	\$1,932.78
0140	CIRCUIT CLERK AUTOMATION		\$4,877.22	\$4,877.22
0141	COURT SECURITY		\$10,463.54	\$10,463.54
0142	COURT DOCUMENT STORAGE		\$11,845.89	\$11,845.89
0143	CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION		\$744.99	\$744.99
0146	ADULT PROBATION SERVICES		\$8,152.85	\$8,152.85
0152	ASSET FORFEITURE-SAO		\$1,410.17	\$1,410.17
0155	ASSET FORFEITURE-SHERIFF		\$100.00	\$100.00
0156	IDPA IV-D PROJECT		\$23,527.68	\$23,527.68
0171	CHILDREN'S WAITING ROOM		\$5,793.27	\$5,793.27
0450	ETSB SURCHARGE FUND/E-911		\$285,992.66	\$285,992.66
0452	METRO COMMUNICATIONS CTR		\$153,044.08	\$153,044.08
0506	LAW LIBRARY		\$2,480.14	\$2,480.14
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			\$845,786.28	\$845,786.28



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Martin/Chung to approve the Justice Committee bills as transmitted by the County Auditor with a prepaid and fund total of \$845,786.28.  
 Motion Carried. Roll call vote. All members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Chairman Erickson presented transfers for approval

Motion by Wendt/Chung. To recommend approval of the Transfers.  
 Motion carried. Roll call vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Chairman Erickson asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee; hearing none he adjourned the meeting at 5:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Julie A. Morlock*  
 Julie Morlock  
 Recording Secretary