

Minutes of the Justice Committee Meeting

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Chuck Erickson, Members Beverly Bell, Susan Schafer, Jack Abraham, Natalie Roseman-Mendoza, Geoff Tompkins

Members Absent: None

Other County Board
Members Present: None

Staff Present: Cassy Taylor, County Administrator; Anthony Grant, Assistant County Administrator; Julie Morlock, Recording Secretary; Taylor Williams, Assistant State's Attorney

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Ron Lewis, Public Defender; Erika Reynolds, State's Attorney; Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center; Kathy Yoder, Coroner; Michael Donovan, Court Services; Matt Lane, Sheriff

Others Present: Hadley Welsch, Chief Deputy ; Jeff Kretlow, Chief Deputy; Cathy Beck, Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director, Joshua Walker, EMA Assistant Director and Brian Blomgren, EMA

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

Chairman Erickson presented the December 6, 2022, regular meeting minutes of the Justice Committee for approval.

Motion by Schafer/Bell to approve the December 6, 2022, regular meeting minutes of the Justice Committee.
Motion Carried.

Chairman Erickson confirmed with Administrator Taylor there was an appearance and recognized Ed Shimon from the National Weather Service. Ed Shimon noted the five criteria for a county to become storm ready, declared McLean County storm ready and presented Cathy Beck with a certificate and sign.

Ms. Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center presented for action a request to approve a grant agreement between the State of Illinois, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and McLean County Administration. She noted it was a continuation grant and the largest grant they receive that covers costs for personnel and fringe. Ms. Bell asked if the staff increase due to this grant included adding minority staffing. Ms. Evans indicated the grant was a continuation grant that did not add any staff but paid for existing staff.

Motion by Roseman-Mendoza/Schafer to recommend approval of a grant agreement between the State of Illinois, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and McLean County Administration.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Evans presented her monthly reports to the Committee. Mr. Tompkins asked if she had enough staff to meet the needs of the public. Ms. Evans indicated the department is mostly grant funded. She indicated they were not overstaffed, but they work to maintain and seek new grants to cover the cost of the staff they need to provide services. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions; hearing none, he thanked her.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court invited the committee members to the family treatment kickoff event January 18th noon in the Law and Justice Center. He indicated this was the start to the planning process to become one of the first family treatment courts in the state. Mr. Scanlon also noted they would be applying for a technology grant to upgrade technology in the court rooms. He noted that recent rule changes would allow for increased remote court attendance. Ms. Schafer asked who the lead was for the family treatment court planning. Mr. Scanlon confirmed it was Judge Rebecca Foley.

Chairman Erickson presented for action on behalf of Matt Lane, Sheriff a request to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between The County of Mclean, The Mclean County Sheriff and The Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority. Mr. Lane indicated this is a standard agreement with the airport authority to help them meet requirements to have law enforcement on site. Ms. Bell asked if the officers were needed because we remained at high threat level. Mr. Lane indicated it was a TSA standard and was not based on a threat level. Ms. Bell asked about the hours the two deputies work. Mr. Lane noted they work 8 hours a day, but hours of the day vary based on when there are increased departures. He stated it is mainly Monday – Friday but they do work some Sundays. He noted the two officers who work at the airport. Ms. Bell asked if they were still using a canine at the airport. Mr. Lane indicated they have not had a canine at the airport.

Motion by Abraham/Bell to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between The County of Mclean, The Mclean County Sheriff and The Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority.

Motion Carried.

Chairman Erickson presented for action on behalf of Mr. Lane a request to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the County of McLean Regulating the Use by the County of McLean of the Police Shooting Range Facility of the City of Bloomington. Mr. Lane indicated this was a yearly contract as the County does not have our own range. He noted that 25 days is minimum and City is gracious to meet needs they have to get people there for training.

Motion by Tompkins/Schafer to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the County of McLean Regulating the Use by the County of McLean of the Police Shooting Range Facility of the City of Bloomington.

Motion Carried.

Mr. Lane presented his monthly reports to the Committee. Ms. Schafer asked how many are waiting for McFarland. Mr. Lane indicated he would need to pull the numbers and could send them the figures. Mr. Tompkins asked about staffing. Mr. Lane indicated they were about 19 down. He stated they were meeting to discuss recruiting. Mr. Tompkins asked if there was anything the County Board could do to assist with recruiting. Mr. Lane indicated anything they did would not be a quick fix but they are working on it. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Ms. Kathy Yoder, presented her monthly report to the committee. Mr. Erickson asked if there were any questions. Mr. Tompkins asked about open deputy coroner position. Ms. Yoder indicated that was a part-time position she had left open and she had enough staff at this time. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any other questions; hearing none, thanked him.

Chairman Erickson presented for action on behalf of Ron Lewis and the Public Defender's Office a request to approve contracts between Michael E. Malin and Rachael Moore Perry, Special Public Defenders and the Public Defender's Office. Mr. Lewis noted contracts same as last month. Ms. Bell stated she felt it seemed to be a large caseload for the contracts and asked if that was why others had declined to continue their contracts. Mr. Lewis noted some have their own private practices and additional work and time does not fit with their business model.

Motion by Schafer/Roseman-Mendoza to recommend approval of a contract between Michael E. Malin and Rachael Moore Perry, Special Public Defenders and the Public Defender's Office.

Motion Carried.

Mr. Lewis presented his monthly report to the Committee. Mr. Tompkins asked if he had any staffing needs. Mr. Lewis indicate they are still figuring out reporting changes required by the State. Mr. Lewis indicated the compensation adjustments made through the salary study would help with retention. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. Mike Donovan, Court Services Director presented his report to the Committee. Mr. Donovan indicated the numbers are roughly the same. Mr. Donovan noted he is down several officers. Ms. Schafer asked if any went to the State. He indicated they had not. Ms. Schafer asked if State would be taking any of our employees with the changes to pretrial court services. Mr. Donovan indicated with changes being halted he was not sure the State would take any of our employees. Chairman Erickson if anyone had any additional questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk presented his monthly reports to the Committee. Mr. Erickson asked about staffing. Mr. Everhart stated he was down six employees. He stated that pay increases through the salary study had assisted bringing back some staff and he is actively recruiting. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions; hearing none, he moved to the next item.

Ms. Reynolds presented her monthly reports to the Committee. Mr. Tompkins asked about staffing. Ms. Reynolds indicated they are down three staff positions, but support staff has been

good at covering and they had a possible candidate for one of the positions. She stated with the Safety Act being stayed that may affect the workload. She noted they were down two attorney positions but one was set to start in March. Ms. Reynolds noted the salary study had been helpful with recruitment. She noted that Law School admissions, graduation and bar passing rates were all down. Mr. Tompkins thanked her for her comments on the Safety Act as it can be a passionate topic. Ms. Reynolds provided update on Safety Act and the stay. Mr. Erickson asked if we are part of appeal. Ms. Reynolds confirmed. Ms. Schafer asked if entire Act or just one portion had been stayed. Ms. Reynolds indicated some felt it covered more than others did. Ms. Reynolds indicated they felt pre-trial might be the only part covered in stay. Ms. Bell stated she was going to stay focused on this as it was personal to her. She said black and brown people are affected as they need to be out of jail to go to work to make the money to pay for bail. Ms. Bell indicated unfair to lock someone up for speeding and keep them for 180 days because they could not make bail. Ms. Schafer noted that 85% of people who are booked into jail are released quickly. Ms. Schafer noted that in McLean County they are doing a good job of getting people released quickly. Ms. Reynolds noted they have made an effort to remove non-violent offenders in jail. She stated it is not fair to those in jail and the tax payers who are paying for them to stay there. Ms. Reynolds invited any member who wanted to sit down and discuss specifics of the Act to call her. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions or comments; hearing none, he thanked her.

Chairman Erickson presented on behalf of Cassy Taylor, County Administrator a request to approve an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2022 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the General Fund.

Motion by Schafer/Roseman-Mendoza to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2022 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the General Fund.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Taylor indicated she had nothing further for the Committee to consider today. Chairman Erickson asked if anyone had any questions for Ms. Taylor; hearing none, he thanked her.

Chairman Erickson noted under other business the list of the 2023 committee meetings with the July meeting being moved to Monday, July 3rd because of the holiday.

Mr. Erickson noted Staff had narrowed down a couple of dates, January 31st or February 1st for a possible tour. After discussion, February 1st was decided. Staff indicated they would get more details out as soon as possible..

He asked if there was any other business; 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 fund total of \$403,865.30. Transfer for Sheriff department.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT
 AS OF 12/28/2022
 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Justice Committee

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0001	GENERAL FUND		\$200,882.19	\$200,882.19
0129	CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CNTR		\$15,884.92	\$15,884.92
0138	CIRCUIT CLK/OPER & ADMIN		\$1,431.01	\$1,431.01
0140	CIRCUIT CLERK AUTOMATION		\$9,751.77	\$9,751.77
0142	COURT DOCUMENT STORAGE		\$2,662.92	\$2,662.92
0143	CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION		\$1,500.71	\$1,500.71
0146	ADULT PROBATION SERVICES		\$13,883.90	\$13,883.90
0152	ASSET FORFEITURE-SAO		\$688.20	\$688.20
0155	ASSET FORFEITURE-SHERIFF		\$2,510.00	\$2,510.00
0156	IDPA IV-D PROJECT		\$21,418.71	\$21,418.71
0450	ETSB SURCHARGE FUND/E-911		\$97,815.89	\$97,815.89
0452	METRO COMMUNICATIONS CTR		\$33,939.86	\$33,939.86
0506	LAW LIBRARY		\$1,495.22	\$1,495.22
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			\$403,865.30	\$403,865.30

Motion by Roseman-Mendoza/Abraham to approve the Justice Committee bills as presented.
 Motion Carried.

Chairman Erickson stated there was no other business for the Justice Committee to consider and adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Morlock

Julie Morlock
 Recording Secretary