

Minutes of the Justice Committee Meeting

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, February 7, 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; Cathy Dreyer, Assistant 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

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

Chairman Erickson presented the January 3, 2023, regular meeting minutes of the Justice Committee for approval.

Motion by Abraham/Roseman-Mendoza to approve the January 3, 2023, regular meeting minutes of the Justice Committee.

Motion Carried.

Chairman Erickson confirmed with Administrator Taylor there was an appearance. Ms. Taylor indicated Zachary Gettrich had requested to speak but was not present.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court thanked them for attending the tour and encouraged them to reach out with any questions. Mr. Scanlon provided an update on the AOIC Technology Grant including possible amount and items that would be purchased. Ms. Schafer asked him to confirm equipment was available so the work would be completed by the June deadline. Mr. Scanlon confirmed the equipment was available.

Chairman Erickson presented for action on behalf of Matt Lane, Sheriff a request to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Illinois, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the County of McLean. Mr. Lane noted this was a yearly grant that helps cover payroll, benefits and utilities. Mr. Abraham asked how much of the funding went to preparedness. Mr. Lane indicated he did not have the breakdown but could provide that separately.

Motion by Bell/Abraham to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Illinois, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the County of McLean
Motion Carried.

Chairman Erickson presented for action on behalf of Mr. Lane a request to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean, the City of Lexington and the McLean County Sheriff. Mr. Lane indicated the Mayor of Lexington reached out for support as they were down officers, he noted that Lexington had hired part time officers and this contract was to fill in day and evening shifts. He noted that the deputies would sign up for shifts. Ms. Bell asked if it would be one specific officer. Mr. Lane indicated they would post the times needed and deputies could sign up for shift and receive overtime pay that Lexington would pay. Ms. Bell asked him to confirm they would not cover more than 40 hours a week. Mr. Lane confirmed. Mr. Erickson asked if this would affect staff levels at the County. Mr. Lane confirmed would not affect minimum staff requirements. Mr. Abraham asked if this would be on their off time. Mr. Lane confirmed they would sign up for overtime outside of their regular shifts.

Motion by Schafer/Abraham to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean, the City of Lexington and the McLean County Sheriff
Motion Carried.

Mr. Lane presented for information an update on the program with Heartland to provide GED services at the jail. Mr. Lane presented his monthly reports to the Committee. He noted numbers have gone up slightly. Mr. Tompkins thanked him for tour that he provided to the Committee. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions or comments; hearing none, he thanked him.

Chairman Erickson thanked all the department heads for their time and information provided during the tour.

Ms. Kathy Yoder, presented her monthly report to the committee. She noted suicide numbers are up and encouraged reaching out to those who might be struggling. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions; hearing none, thanked her.

Chairman Erickson presented for action on behalf of Ron Lewis and the Public Defender's Office a request to approve a Service Agreement between SIU Healthcare and McLean County. Mr. Lewis indicated the current workload for mental health evaluations had increased so this would provide assistance to the current psychiatrist.

Motion by Tompkins/Roseman-Mendoza to recommend approval of a Service Agreement between SIU Healthcare and McLean County.
Motion Carried.

Mr. Lewis presented his monthly report to the Committee. He noted end of the year numbers look higher which is an example of how the changes in record keeping established by the Court has affected reports but noted workload is still the same. Ms. Schafer asked about if he had

been able to fill his vacancies. Mr. Lewis indicated several positions had been filled, but there were still two vacancies. Ms. Schafer asked if those vacancies could be filled with contract attorneys. Mr. Lewis indicated one of the positions was not a good fit for a contract attorney, but he was looking at all options for those positions. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Chairman Erickson presented on behalf of Mr. Mike Donovan, Court Services Director a request to approve the Swank Motion Pictures, Inc. Public Performance Licensing Agreement for Correctional Institutions. Mr. Donovan indicated the contract was a renewal contract that allowed them to show current movies at the Juvenile Detention Facility.

Motion by Abraham/Roseman-Mendoza to recommend approval of the Swank Motion Pictures, Inc. Public Performance Licensing Agreement for Correctional Institutions.
Motion Carried.

Mr. Donovan presented his report to the Committee. Ms. Schafer noted that because of the recent drug court graduation more spots would open. Mr. Donovan encouraged members to attend a graduation. Mr. Donovan went over numbers and capacity they have for drug court. He noted they had been in discussions with the Court about increasing capacity. Chairman Erickson asked if anyone had any additional questions or comments; hearing none, he thanked him.

Chairman Erickson presented on behalf of Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk a request to approve a Debt Collection Agreement with PayCourt Innovative Financial Recovery. Mr. Everhart indicated the agreement would assist them in collecting older debts. He noted they have invoices total over a million dollars would like to try to recover some of those funds. Mr. Tompkins asked how much the collection agency retain as their fee. Mr. Everhart indicated the fee would be charged to the debtor and the principle would come to the office.

Motion by Bell/Abraham to recommend approval of a Debt Collection Agreement with PayCourt Innovative Financial Recovery.
Motion Carried.

Mr. Everhart presented his monthly reports to the Committee. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Ms. Erika Reynolds, State's Attorney presented her monthly reports to the Committee. Ms. Schafer noted the numbers show more felonies and asked how much time those cases take and what impact that has had on staffing. Ms. Reynolds indicated the standard felony does not take much more time than standard misdemeanor. She noted they usually do not go to trial within the same year as they are charged because the negotiations are more serious and the discovery is more involved. She indicated they are down three in the office. She noted last year went to job school fair and students were asking how many of the days of the month they could work from home, did not want anything less than \$85,000 as a starting attorney and wanted a guarantee of employment months before taking the Bar which would put a hold on the position in her office and leave her understaffed until the student could practice law. She noted they

continue having issues competing with private sector and other public sector areas. She noted it is difficult to sell being Attorney as the role is seen as connected with law enforcement and people do not want to get into that sector. She stated before they would have benefit of have school debt paid after working in public sector for 10 years, but students now think of it as a regular bill they will have to pay and so that is not an incentive to work in the public sector. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions or comments; hearing none, he thanked her.

Ms. Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center presented for action a request to approve a Contract for Services between DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board and McLean County Children's Advocacy Center. She indicated continuation grant that covers the expenses for that office. Mr. Erickson asked how much of her office is funded by grants. Ms. Evans indicated they are about 75% funded by grants. Mr. Abraham asked how satellite office compares to the offices they have at McLean County. Ms. Evans indicated they have been able to furnish similarly, but it is smaller.

Motion by Bell/Abraham to recommend approval of a Contract for Services between DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board and McLean County Children's Advocacy Center.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center presented for action a request to approve a Cooperative Agreement between 2023 Award Recipient and National Children's Alliance. Ms. Evans indicated this is a yearly grant that focuses on providing training for teens and will also cover the cost to send members of State's Attorney Office, Children's Advocacy Center and Sheriff's office to a crime against children conference.

Motion by Schafer/Abraham to recommend approval of a Cooperative Agreement between 2023 Award Recipient and National Children's Alliance.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center presented for action a request to approve a Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Grant Agreement between Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and McLean County Children's Advocacy Center. Ms. Evans indicated this grant will fund the second annual event at the zoo where 200 people can get into the zoo and then there will be booths set up that will provide information on ways to keep children safe.

Motion by Roseman-Tompkins to recommend approval of a Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Grant Agreement between Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and McLean County Children's Advocacy Center.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center presented for action a request to approve a Contract Agreement between McLean County Children's Advocacy Center and Fox Valley Technical College. Ms. Evans indicated this is a group that will provide the training mentioned before.

Motion by Tompkins/Bell to recommend approval of a Contract Agreement between McLean County Children’s Advocacy Center and Fox Valley Technical College.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Evans presented her monthly reports to the Committee. She indicated numbers were lower in 2022. She indicated State numbers were down too. She noted they conducted 40 forensic interviews in January which was an increase. Ms. Bell asked how many minorities they see. Ms. Evans indicated that she would provide her with updated numbers for the entire 2022 year. Ms. Evans thanked them for coming and appreciated the interest and questions they asked. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions; hearing none, he thanked her.

Ms. Taylor indicated she had no action items for the Committee to consider today. Ms. Taylor indicated they would have stand up to address a change order for the electronic door scans previously approved. Mr. Tompkins indicated he was glad to see the agenda on the screen and branding as he felt it made the room look professional. Chairman Erickson asked if anyone had any questions for Ms. Taylor; hearing none, he thanked her.

Chairman Erickson 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 \$1,061,280.66 as well as end of the year transfers included in the packet.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

AS OF 1/30/2023

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Justice Committee

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0001	GENERAL FUND		\$398,404.70	\$398,404.70
0129	CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CNTR		\$18,772.29	\$18,772.29
0138	CIRCUIT CLK/OPER & ADMIN		\$3,312.30	\$3,312.30
0140	CIRCUIT CLERK AUTOMATION		\$11,228.33	\$11,228.33
0142	COURT DOCUMENT STORAGE		\$47,851.41	\$47,851.41
0143	CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION		\$831.32	\$831.32
0146	ADULT PROBATION SERVICES		\$18,711.60	\$18,711.60
0152	ASSET FORFEITURE-SAO		\$2,111.28	\$2,111.28
0154	SHERIFFS DONATION FUND		\$104.99	\$104.99
0155	ASSET FORFEITURE-SHERIFF		\$121.00	\$121.00
0156	IDPA IV-D PROJECT		\$20,782.96	\$20,782.96
0450	ETSB SURCHARGE FUND/E-911		\$137,654.14	\$137,654.14
0462	METRO COMMUNICATIONS CTR		\$399,563.87	\$399,563.87
0506	LAW LIBRARY		\$1,830.47	\$1,830.47
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			\$1,061,280.66	\$1,061,280.66

Motion by Roseman-Mendoza/Schafer to approve the Justice Committee bills and transfers as presented.

Motion Carried.

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Chairman Erickson stated there was no other business for the Justice Committee to consider and adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Morlock

Julie Morlock

Recording Secretary