

## **Minutes of the Justice Committee Meeting**

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, April 4, 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

Members Absent: Member Geoff Tompkins

Other County Board  
Members Present None

Staff Present: Cassy Taylor, County Administrator; Cathy Dreyer, Assistant County Administrator; Julie Morlock, Recording Secretary; Chris Spanos, First Assistant State's Attorney – Civil Division; Taylor Williams, Assistant State's Attorney

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

Others Present: None

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

Chairman Erickson presented the March 7, 2023, regular meeting and February 1, 2023 and February 16, 2023 special meeting minutes of the Justice Committee for approval.

Motion by Abraham/Bell to approve the March 7, 2023, regular meeting and February 1, 2023 and February 16, 2023 special meeting minutes of the Justice Committee.

Motion Carried.

Chairman Erickson recognized Gina Martin and Debbie DeVito with Gift of Hope. Ms. Martin recognized the work the coroner's office does assisting families. Ms. Martin noted April is organ and tissue donation month and indicated there are approximately 104,000 people at any given time on the organ donor waiting list. Ms. Martin read and presented Ms. Yoder with a plaque and thanked Ms. Yoder and her staff for all the work they do. Ms. Yoder thanked them for the recognition. She stated Gift of Hope is a great program that she and her staff are honored to work with to do what they can to save lives. Ms. Schafer thanked Ms. Yoder and her staff. She noted her mother received a liver transplant and because of that she lived an additional 22 years. Ms. Schafer encouraged members and others to spread the word about the program and to consider being an organ donor as it not only benefits those who receive the donation but their family members.

Chairman Erickson confirmed with Administrator Taylor there were no appearances by members of the public.

Matt Lane, McLean County Sheriff presented his monthly report to the Committee. Mr. Lane stated they have eight inmates waiting on evaluation and several that have been determined not fit to stand trial who should have been moved but remain in the County's facility. He noted they also have several who have been sentenced to DOC but DOC has not accepted yet. He further noted several that should have been transferred to DOC are charged with local offenses. Mr. Erickson indicated that Finance Committee will be considering the Correction contract and asked if that would assist with employment numbers. Mr. Lane indicated wage increase and several other benefits would benefit recruiting. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any other questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Kathy Yoder, McLean County Coroner presented her monthly report to the committee. Ms. Yoder thanked them for allowing her and her team to be recognized by Gift of Hope. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he thanked her.

Ron Lewis, McLean County Public Defender presented his monthly report to the Committee. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Mike Donovan, Court Services Director presented his report to the Committee. Chairman Erickson asked if anyone had any questions or comments; hearing none, he thanked him.

Don Everhart, McLean County Circuit Clerk presented for action a request to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Heartland Community College to provide traffic safety school. Mr. Everhart turned it over to Mr. Scanlon who noted the Court is involved in the contract as they assign traffic school, but the Circuit Clerk is currently the contact office. Mr. Scanlon indicated this is part of plea agreements for court supervision and as such they are working to shift the contract to the Circuit Court from the Circuit Clerk as of July 1. Mr. Scanlon noted there is no financial component to the contract. He also noted they are trying to move to more virtual components for the class. Ms. Bell asked about the virtual components they would offer. Mr. Scanlon indicated this would allow individuals to take the class from home or on their phone, or if they do not have internet access then individuals could take the class from a separate area at Heartland Community College.

Motion by Abraham/Roseman-Mendoza to recommend approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Heartland Community College to provide traffic safety school.

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. Reynolds indicated their recent 7/11 hire passed the bar. She indicated the passing rate for the Bar was 43% which is significantly lower than in the past. She noted that because of this lower rate there would still be a shortage of available attorneys to fill staffing needs. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions or comments; hearing none, he thanked her.

Chairman Erickson presented on behalf of Ms. Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center Director a request to approve an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2023 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance (CAC). Ms. Evans indicated this was to add grant funding they had received into their budget.

Motion by Abraham/Roseman-Mendoza to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal year 2023 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance (CAC).

Motion Carried.

Ms. Evans presented her monthly reports to the Committee. She reminded the Committee that April is child abuse prevention month. She noted events for the month had been posted on the website. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions; hearing none he thanked her.

Chairman Erickson presented on behalf of Mr. Will Scanlon, Circuit Court a request to approve a contract with Thomson Reuters (West Publishing) for online legal research services. Mr. Scanlon thanked Mr. Spanos and Ms. Williams for work on this issue. Mr. Scanlon noted this would provide services for multiple departments and approximately 85 users. He went over the three components including online legal research, patron access in the McLean County law library and access to the CLEAR database (collection of legal and public databases) which assists the Sheriff office to find persons of interest including victims or those who have outstanding warrants. Mr. Scanlon went over the cost of the contract. Ms. Schafer asked him to confirm the dollar amount. Mr. Scanlon noted the costs in the contract. Ms. Schafer asked him to confirm going with option 3. Mr. Scanlon confirmed. Mr. Scanlon confirmed it would be a three-year contract as they felt new products would be more accessible in the next few years. Ms. Bell asked if they felt there would be more AI used for legal research in the future. Mr. Lewis indicated that possibility was a long way away. Mr. Erickson asked if they were still teaching traditional research methods. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Scanlon confirmed. Mr. Abraham asked if the number of users allowed would meet our needs. Mr. Scanlon confirmed it more than met our needs.

Motion by Schafer/Bell to recommend approval of a contract with Thomson Reuters (West Publishing) for online legal research services.

Motion Carried.

Chairman Erickson indicated there were no action items from Cassy Taylor, County Administrator.

Ms. Taylor indicated she had no information items for the Committee today. 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. Ms. Bell recognized the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr..

Chairman Erickson presented bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor with a prepaid fund total of \$640,361.55.

**MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

AS OF 3/30/2023

**EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND**

**Justice Committee**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>FUND TITLE</b>	<b>PENDING TOTAL</b>	<b>PREPAID TOTAL</b>	<b>FUND TOTAL</b>
0001	GENERAL FUND		\$241,250.89	\$241,250.89
0129	CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CNTR		\$24,807.05	\$24,807.05
0138	CIRCUIT CLK/OPER & ADMIN		\$4,117.79	\$4,117.79
0140	CIRCUIT CLERK AUTOMATION		\$7,227.17	\$7,227.17
0142	COURT DOCUMENT STORAGE		\$837.54	\$837.54
0143	CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION		\$759.39	\$759.39
0146	ADULT PROBATION SERVICES		\$15,753.35	\$15,753.35
0148	SCAAP-JUSTICE BENEFITS		\$4,134.90	\$4,134.90
0152	ASSET FORFEITURE-SAO		\$594.25	\$594.25
0154	SHERIFFS DONATION FUND		\$8,761.00	\$8,761.00
0155	ASSET FORFEITURE-SHERIFF		\$10,914.41	\$10,914.41
0166	IDPA IV-D PROJECT		\$29,247.39	\$29,247.39
0170	NEUTRAL SITE CUSTODY EXCH		\$9,333.32	\$9,333.32
0450	ETSB SURCHARGE FUND/E-911		\$115,238.04	\$115,238.04
0452	METRO COMMUNICATIONS CTR		\$166,012.82	\$166,012.82
0506	LAW LIBRARY		\$1,372.24	\$1,372.24
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			\$640,361.55	\$640,361.55

Motion by Abraham/Schafer to approve the Justice Committee bills and transfers as presented.  
Motion Carried.

Chairman Erickson stated there was no other business for the Justice Committee to consider and adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie A. Morlock*

Julie Morlock  
Recording Secretary