

## Minutes of the Justice Committee Meeting

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 2, 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 Geoff Tompkins, Susan Schafer, Jack Abraham, Natalie Roseman-Mendoza

Members Absent: Member Beverly Bell

Other County Board Members Present: None

Staff Present: Cassy Taylor, County Administrator; Cathy Dreyer, 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; Suzanne Montoya, Court Services; 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 confirmed with Administrator Taylor there were no appearances by members of the public.

Chairman Erickson presented the Consent Agenda including the April 4, 2023 regular meeting minutes and bills in the amount of \$535,092.17 for approval by the Committee.

### MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

PAGE 1 OF 28

AS OF 4/28/2023

#### EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

**Justice Committee**

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0001	GENERAL FUND		\$250,969.15	\$250,969.15
0129	CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CNTR		\$50,193.19	\$50,193.19
0138	CIRCUIT CLK/OPER & ADMIN		\$2,969.76	\$2,969.76
0140	CIRCUIT CLERK AUTOMATION		\$13,331.61	\$13,331.61
0142	COURT DOCUMENT STORAGE		\$1,640.40	\$1,640.40
0143	CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION		\$1,099.03	\$1,099.03
0146	ADULT PROBATION SERVICES		\$4,862.02	\$4,862.02
0152	ASSET FORFEITURE-SAO		\$3,240.56	\$3,240.56
0155	ASSET FORFEITURE-SHERIFF		\$110.00	\$110.00
0156	IDPA IV-D PROJECT		\$21,615.47	\$21,615.47
0170	NEUTRAL SITE CUSTODY EXCH		\$2,333.33	\$2,333.33
0460	ETSB SURCHARGE FUND/E-911		\$116,977.24	\$116,977.24
0452	METRO COMMUNICATIONS CTR		\$63,687.51	\$63,687.51
0506	LAW LIBRARY		\$2,062.90	\$2,062.90
			\$535,092.17	\$535,092.17

Minutes of the Justice Committee

May 2, 2023

Page 2 of 3

Motion by Roseman-Mendoza/Abraham to approve the Consent Agenda including the April 4, 2023 regular meeting minutes and the bills in the amount of \$535,092.17

Motion Carried.

Chairman Erickson indicated Kathy Yoder, McLean County Coroner could not be present but her monthly report to the committee was in the packet. He asked members to reach out to Ms. Yoder or Administration if they had any questions.

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.

Suzanne Montoya, Court Services Director presented her report to the Committee. Ms. Schafer and Mr. Erickson welcomed her to the Justice Committee. She thanked them. Chairman Erickson asked if anyone had any questions or comments; hearing none, he thanked her.

Chairman Erickson indicated that Mr. Don Everhart, McLean County Circuit Clerk was not present but his monthly and quarterly reports to the Committee were in the packet. He asked members to reach out to Mr. Everhart or Administration if there were any questions.

Ms. Erika Reynolds, State's Attorney presented her monthly reports to the Committee. Ms. Reynolds indicated they were still having issues with recruiting including a neighboring county offering higher entry salaries to try to compete with McLean County. She indicated they are still able to recruit because McLean County is where people want to work and live. Mr. Erickson asked how they are addressing the issue. Ms. Taylor noted they are handling matters on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Reynolds indicated she is not comfortable hiring people at higher wages than current employees who have worked with McLean County for several years. Mr. Tompkins asked about ethics of poaching other attorneys. Ms. Reynolds indicated no rules or laws against it. Ms. Reynolds also noted lower numbers of graduating law school students and individuals passing the Bar have not helped the issue. Ms. Reynolds indicated Illinois changed criteria on bar and other states have lowered the rate it takes to pass so students go to other states to take the Bar and practice. Mr. Tompkins asked if there was anything the Committee or Board could do to assist with this problem. Ms. Reynolds indicated she is in active conversations with Administration. Mr. Erickson agreed best thing at this point would be to allow Administration and Ms. Reynolds to work together to try to find solutions to the situation. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any further questions or comments; hearing none, he thanked her.

Ms. Molly Evans, Children's Advocacy Center Director presented her monthly reports to the Committee. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions on her reports. Hearing none, he asked if she had anything further for the Committee. Ms. Evans noted an opportunity for a grant came in after the packet was distributed and she was hoping to put it through this month as she would be gone next month to a conference. She indicated the grant would cover supplies for their prevention programs. Mr. Erickson indicated this would be presented to the Committee as an action item at a Stand-up meeting. Ms. Evans also

indicated they were hoping their new facility dog would be starting with them this week. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any questions; hearing none he thanked her.

Chairman Erickson presented on behalf of Matt Lane, McLean County Sheriff a request to approve a First Amendment to Intergovernmental Grant Agreement with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Lane indicated this would provide for additional funding.

Motion by Abraham/Schafer to recommend approval of the First Amendment to Intergovernmental Grant Agreement with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Motion Carried.

Mr. Lane presented his monthly reports to the Committee. Mr. Lane updated the Committee on inmate numbers and noted they still have two inmates to be transferred to Illinois Department of Correction, sixteen parole holds and ten waiting for transfer to the state mental health facility. Mr. Lane provided an update on staffing noting they have seven in training, ten tentative offers pending background checks and eight more applications. Mr. Abraham indicated last month there was a public speaker that spoke to staffing and asked if the information provided was accurate. Mr. Lane indicated information was not correct as staffing numbers are based on the layout of our jail. Mr. Lane noted that changes in laws might reduce numbers of inmates but he could not speak to how long those numbers would stay down. Mr. Tompkins asked for an update on moving inmates back to McLean County that are being housed in other facilities. Mr. Lane indicated he needed time to train new corrections officers before he can consider bringing inmates back to the facility. He stated he hoped they would be able to bring some back in the next two to three months. Mr. Tompkins asked him to confirm the need to recruit and train several more corrections officers before the jail would be fully staffed. Mr. Lane confirmed. Chairman Erickson asked if there were any other questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Chairman Erickson indicated there was nothing on the agenda for Mr. Scanlon and moved to the next item on the agenda.

Ms. Taylor indicated she had no items for the Committee today. Chairman Erickson asked if anyone had any questions for Ms. Taylor; hearing none, he thanked her.

Under Other business the Committee discussed moving the date and time of the July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Consensus of the Committee was to have it on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Erickson stated there was no other business for the Justice Committee to consider and adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie A. Morlock*

Julie Morlock

Recording Secretary