

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, April 3, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner, Members Nuckolls, Rackauskas, Owens, O'Connor, and Harding

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator and Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present:

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk; Sheriff Dave Owens; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration

Others Present: Mr. Eric Ruud, First Assistant Civil State's Attorney

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the March 6, 2006 minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by O'Connor/Rackauskas to approve the Minutes of the March 6, 2006 Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Mr. Eric Ruud, First Assistant Civil State's Attorney, presented a request for approval of an Ordinance regulating the granting of Permits for Pyrotechnic Display Fireworks and Consumer Fireworks Displays. On January 1, 2006, Public Act 94-0658 became effective. Mr. Ruud explained that this Act re-wrote the Illinois Fireworks Use Act, which is the statutory authority the County uses for regulating fireworks displays in unincorporated areas. He added that the new Act replaces the old Ordinance, which removed many of the requirements the County now has in the current Ordinance and added several more. Mr. Ruud indicated that the Act creates the following:

- Two different fireworks display classifications;
- The authority for the Sheriff to do background checks on applicants;
- The requirement that rural fire chiefs pre-approve the display before permits are issued by the County;
- An obligation on the part of the State Fire Marshall to maintain a list of approved fireworks.

Mr. Ruud stated that this Act makes it no longer necessary for the County:

- To conduct its own site inspections;
- To obtain a compliance bond from the applicant;
- To act on an application within 48 hours after it is filed;
- To seek Committee approval before a permit is issued;
- To mail a copy of the permit to the State Fire Marshall.

Mr. Ruud explained that Consumer Fireworks Displays are those where individuals purchase fireworks in other states and display them in McLean County. The individual must show proof of training, proof of insurance in an amount of at least \$100,000.00 and a letter of approval from the Fire Chief. The Pyrotechnic Display Fireworks are similar to the ones seen at the parks on the 4th of July. Mr. Ruud stated that permits for these are rare. The person in charge of setting off these fireworks must have a State Pyrotechnic license, \$1,000,000.00 of minimum insurance coverage, and a letter of approval from the Fire Chief.

Mr. Ruud summed it up by stating that, while the County retains authority and the County Clerk issues the license, the inspection work and approval to set off the fireworks is done by the local Fire Chief.

Ms. O'Connor asked if the rural volunteer fire departments can authorize approval of the fireworks. Mr. Ruud replied that there is a Fire Protection District for all of McLean County and each District has a Fire Chief who can authorize the fireworks.

Mr. Owens asked if anyone has ever been penalized for setting off fireworks without the proper authorization. Mr. Ruud stated that no one has been penalized nor have there been any reports of improper use of fireworks.

Ms. Rackauskas asked how it is regulated in the incorporated areas. Mr. Ruud replied that the cities have their own fireworks ordinances.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend Approval an Ordinance Regulating the Granting of Permits for Pyrotechnic Display Fireworks and Consumer Fireworks Displays.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments on the Caseload and Asset Forfeiture Fund reports. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Ruud.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center and the CASA Report as submitted by Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented a request for approval of the renewal of a Child Support Enforcement Grant (IV-D Program) from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services – Intergovernmental Agreement No. 2005-55-007-K5. She reported that the Circuit Clerk, Circuit Court and State's Attorney each receive funding for the Child Support Enforcement program from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Ms. Parker stated that the funding remains the same as in 2005 at \$35,849.00. She noted that one position is funded from the grant.

Ms. Parker indicated that the duties of the Clerk under the grant must be performed even if the grant is not renewed.

Motion by Nuckolls/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of the Renewal of a Child Support Enforcement Grant (IV-D Program) from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services – Intergovernmental Agreement No. 2005-55-007-K5.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions on Ms. Parker's Statistical Reports. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Parker.

Sheriff Owens asked if the Committee had any questions regarding the Annual Report he submitted on the March 6th Agenda or on the February Detention Facility Population Report. There were none.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, reviewed her Monthly Report for February, 2006. She noted that February was a significantly busy month. Ms. Kimmerling noted that, since February, accounts receivables have begun to be received for morgue use.

Ms. Harding asked why February had so many cases. Ms. Kimmerling replied that there were a couple of medical deaths and several deaths attributed to drug overdoses.

Ms. Kimmerling announced that there are two outstanding cases from 2005, one of which will be cleared in April. She indicated that her year-end report should be ready next month.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Kimmerling.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, and Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center, presented the Court Services Monthly Caseload Reports for February, 2006. She indicated that there is nothing out of the ordinary in the monthly statistics. Ms. Castleman pointed out that there is a lower number of staff needed in the Adult Probation Division due to moving a position from staff to supervisor. She stated that there are now seven supervision officers and they are down one staff position.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions on the reports. There were none.

Ms. Castleman reported that the Juvenile Detention Center has received two national accreditations this past year. The first is with the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the second is with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). Ms. Castleman stated that she is very impressed and amazed with the Juvenile Detention Center facility when compared to other facilities nationwide.

Mr. Goldberg thanked the Committee, the County Board and the County Administrator's Office for their support of this accreditation process. He stated that the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) is accredited by two organizations, ACA and NCCHC. The Juvenile Detention Center is one of thirty-eight facilities in the United States to be accredited by the ACA, one of two in Illinois. Further, the JDC is one of fifty-eight facilities in the United States, one of two in Illinois, to be accredited by the NCCHC. Mr. Goldberg reported that the JDC is one of eight in the entire country with dual accreditation.

Mr. Goldberg stated that this accreditation process has been in place at the Juvenile Detention Center for eleven years.

Chairman Renner and members of the Committee expressed their appreciation of this great honor bestowed upon a very deserving Juvenile Detention Center.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if there is a way to publish an article in The Pantagraph on the Juvenile Detention Center highlighting these national accreditations. She indicated that it is important that the public be made aware of the outstanding record of the JDC.

Ms. O'Connor asked if a report can be given at the County Board Meeting regarding the two national accreditations. Mr. Zeunik replied that a report can be given at the County Board meeting on April 18th.

Ms. Castleman indicated that there are certain processes that must be accomplished in order to receive these accreditations. She reported that the program is reviewed by people coming in and going through files, the facilities and interviewing staff and youth. Ms. Castleman stated that the accreditations must be earned.

Mr. Nuckolls asked how long the process takes. Ms. Castleman replied that the ACA people came in for two days and the NCCHC people came in for one day. However, there is a great deal of paperwork that is done prior to the visits. She noted that the accreditation process is done every three years and it is a constant process to be prepared.

Mr. Goldberg reported that they just received notification of a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Funds to provide training to Juvenile Detention and Probation Officers and community based Juvenile Facilities. He explained that the application must be turned in by April 14th. Mr. Goldberg indicated that he would like to apply for the Grant and ask the Justice Committee and the County Board to approve the application, after the fact, at a Stand-up Committee meeting on April 18th prior to the Board Meeting.

Chairman Renner asked the Committee if they have any objections to Mr. Goldberg applying for the grant prior to approval on the 18th. The Committee approved.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional comments or questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Castleman and Mr. Goldberg for attending.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration, presented the 911 Status Reports for February. He stated that some of the statistics normally listed were not included on the 911 system as they recently converted to the new 911 system and some of the data still needs to be recovered. It will be presented in the future.

Mr. Gamblin reported that the new equipment is installed and functioning properly. He noted that the equipment is the same equipment that will be used by Bloomington when they come on line.

Mr. Gamblin pointed out a spike in the number of addressing errors. He indicated that these are due to the work being done with Illinois State University (ISU) as they come into the McLean County 911 system. Mr. Gamblin stated that they are beginning to assist ISU with some of their addressing errors which are reflected on the report. He indicated that these errors are not the same as the "errors" that are normally seen. Rather, they are the result of building the MSAG to include some of ISU's streets where no addresses are yet listed.

Mr. Gamblin stated that he will meet with Ms. Bonnie DeVore, his contact at ISU, to begin the process of bringing ISU into the system.

Mr. Gamblin reported that the ETSB received an order from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) for modification of the County-wide system to include Bloomington as a primary PSAP and to act as a back-up center. He stated that when the original modification was written, the ICC had some concerns, which were worked out with Bloomington through an Intergovernmental Agreement. Mr. Gamblin indicated that, on February 28th, he told the ICC to file the request for the order. At that time, he asked if the hearing could be waived and the Illinois Commerce Commission agreed. On March 22nd the order was approved and on March 24th he received the written order.

Mr. Gamblin asked that the record reflect that the ETSB continues to have control of all 911 PSAP locations. He indicated that the newspaper made a comment that Bloomington had received its order to operate a 911 PSAP. This is inaccurate. The City of Bloomington has no authority to operate a PSAP other than what is given to them by the ETSB through the Illinois Commerce Commission. Mr. Gamblin reported that there will be a walk-through, conducted by himself, a representative from Verizon and a representative from the Illinois Commerce Commission to make sure all of the issues have been addressed before the ETSB will give its final approval. Mr. Gamblin stated that he believes everything will proceed smoothly.

Justice Committee
April 3, 2006
Page Seven

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments on the 911 report. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Gamblin.

Chairman Renner presented the February Monthly Caseload report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender. He asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, presented a letter from Mr. James E. Turk, Homeland Security Grant Program Manager, regarding the STARCOM21 system. He indicated that Mr. Sweeney read the letter at the dedication ceremony held on Friday, March 17th. Mr. Zeunik stated that he wanted to share the letter with the members of the County Board as it summarizes the success of the STARCOM21 project and how it is viewed nationally.

Chairman Renner presented the March 31, 2006 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$1,709,665.76 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Justice Committee
April 3, 2006
Page Seven

Motion by Owens/Nuckolls to recommend approval of
the Justice Committee bills as of March 31, 2006.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the
Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary