

## Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, February 7, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present: 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: Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator; Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services; Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner

Others Present: Mr. Eric Ruud, Assistant State's Attorney; Mr. Derick Love, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Mr. Jeff Thompson, Deputy

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the minutes from the January 3, 2005 Justice Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to approve the Minutes of the January 3, 2005 Committee Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, presented the December 2004 Coroner's Report. She noted that she will have a year-end report available in March or April. This is due to the fact that December was an extremely busy month, with most deaths occurring in the last two weeks of December. Ms. Kimmerling reported that the

Coroner's Office brought in a lot of revenue, particularly with out of county cases. She noted that McLean County autopsy numbers were down, but the cases were more difficult. Ms. Harding asked why they were more difficult. Ms. Kimmerling replied that it was partly due to personnel issues at the beginning of 2004 and partly due to the types of deaths.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked her for attending.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services and Mr. David Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center presented two items for action. The first item was a request for approval of a Juvenile Detention Bed Space Agreement with Macon County. Ms. Castleman explained that the agreement states that Macon County will use McLean County's Detention Center for all youth in need of a "residential evaluation placement" at Chestnut Health Care through the Redeploy Illinois initiative. The agreement reduces the per diem from \$110 to \$90. Ms. Casleman also explained that, due to Redeploy Illinois being a new program in Macon County, they do not have an estimate of how many youth will be detained in McLean County and the agreement does not guarantee any detention beds or the number of detention days.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend  
Approval of the Juvenile Detention Bed Space  
Agreement with Macon County.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Castleman presented the second action item, namely a request for approval to apply for a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant. She reported that this is grant money that will allow McLean County to send a team of six professionals to the National Conference on Juvenile Justice in Orlando, Florida. The conference is March 20-23, 2005. Ms. Castleman noted that there is a 10% cash match which will come out of the existing training budget.

Motion by Nuckolls/Owens to Recommend Approval to  
apply for a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block  
Grant.

Chairman Renner announced that Member Rackauskas has expressed an interest in attending the conference. Ms. Castleman replied that it may be possible, but not through the grant funding. Chairman Renner replied that was understood.

Motion carried.

Ms. Castleman presented the December 2005 Statistical Report for Court Services, noting that the end of the year statistics are currently being completed.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked them for their report.

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services presented two items for action. One was a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington to provide network access to phone calls made from the Jail. The second was an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Normal to provide network access to phone calls made from the Jail. Mr. Nelson explained that currently phone calls made from within the McLean County jail are recorded by the system through which those calls are made. The caller on each end of the conversation is made aware that their conversation may be recorded. He noted that presently these calls are recorded and placed on a CD-ROM or other media. Mr. Nelson reported that the agreement would allow these files to be transferred directly from McLean County to the Town of Normal or City of Bloomington via the network rather than requiring a physical transfer of the data via CD-ROM or other media. Mr. Nelson indicated that there is no additional cost incurred by the County in the implementation of these agreements.

Motion by O'Connor/Harding to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington and an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Normal to provide Network Access to Phone Calls made from the Jail.  
Motion carried.

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

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center distributed the year-end statistical reports and presented the Monthly Statistical and CASA reports. She reported that the Advocacy Center did first-time interviews with 178 children in 2004 as compared to 120 in 2003. The total number of children seen in 2004 was 262, which was 50% higher than last year. Ms. Larkin reported that in January 2005, the Advocacy Center was on target with what was done in January 2004. She noted that she attended a meeting with Central Regional Directors of Children's Advocacy Centers across the State and McLean County was one of the few Counties that had an increase.

Ms. Larkin reported on the CASA report. She indicated that she is waiting for assignments from the new Judge.

Ms. Rackauskas asked Ms. Larkin to mention the fund raiser. Ms. Larkin indicated that there will be some advertisements soon regarding the fund raiser, which will be held at the ISU Redbird Arena with an Italian theme.

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

Mr. Derick Love, Chief Deputy Sheriff, presented three items for action. The first item was a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Homeland Security Fund 0005 for the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Love reported that the monies had been received for Homeland Security and the Sheriff's Department is responsible for the purchase of equipment and accounting for the funds within the region. This represents the grant monies that remain from 2004.

Motion by Nuckolls/Owens to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Homeland Security Fund 0005 – Sheriff's Department 0029.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Love presented the second item, namely a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance Multi-DV Fund 0160 for the Sheriff's Department 0029. Mr. Love indicated that this is the DV Grant received from the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority, which needs to be carried over to 2005.

Motion by O'Connor/Harding to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Multi-DV Fund 0160 – Sheriff's Department 0029.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Love presented the final item, a request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between McLean County and Motorola to Implement an Interim

Emergency Radio System. Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, reminded the Committee that in early 2003 there were a significant number of radio problems and an Ad-Hoc Radio Review Committee was formed. They met from January through May of 2003, which culminated in a decision to seek Federal funding through a joint proposal with St. Clair County. Mr. Lindberg reported that the County was successful in receiving the grant and the funding would be split between McLean County and St. Clair County on a per capita basis. The grant provided \$2.2 million of Federal funding to McLean County, which was matched through local funding of \$733,000, using ETSB funds. The County then obtained a proposal from Motorola for County participation in the STARCOM21 Statewide Emergency Radio Network in February 2004.

Mr. Lindberg indicated that the County has been working with Motorola on the County's particular needs. Due to the delays in getting the Statewide project working, it became apparent that the County must address their needs more rapidly. Therefore, a Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated between Motorola and McLean County to implement an interim radio system that will be used by the Sheriff's Department and the rural police departments. This system will utilize STARCOM21 equipment in a conventional mode until the McLean County portion of the Statewide STARCOM21 system is fully activated, which is anticipated to occur later this year. The interim system will include 152 radios and 50 repeaters, at a cost of \$788,966.00, and is expected to be operational by April 1, 2005. When STARCOM21 is fully operational in our area, the same radios can be reprogrammed for continued use.

Ms. Rackauskas referred to the request memo, which stated that "the grant funds would also pay for upgrades to the MetCom consoles and enhancement to the STARCOM21 antenna sites that will be part of the Mclean County radio system." She asked if the grant funding will still be effective should Bloomington pull out of MetCom. Mr. Lindberg replied that Bloomington has not participated in any development of this system and has no interest in the system. He noted that Bloomington was invited to participate numerous times, but they declined.

Mr. Owens asked if the rural fire and police will be faced with costs in the future. Mr. Lindberg replied that the interim system includes rural police agencies, but rural fire agencies are on a low frequency band and have opted not to change to 800 MHz radios. He noted that there is \$375,000.00 included in the grant to update all of the pager systems for the rural fire agencies. Mr. Lindberg stated that the Town of Normal Fire Department will be on the 800 MHz radios and equipment will be put on the antenna towers in order to accommodate them.

Mr. Lindberg indicated that once STARCOM21 is fully operational, there will be a modest annual subscription cost for every functional STARCOM21 radio that a rural police station might have. He indicated that every rural police department was educated on the grant specifications and radio maintenance fee, which kicks in when STARCOM21 is fully operational. The maintenance fee is \$100 per year per radio. Mr. Lindberg reported that the interim system is expected to be operational by April 1, 2005.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between McLean County and Motorola to Implement an Interim Emergency Radio System.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner introduced the MetCom issue for discussion. He asked the Committee if anyone had listened to any of the 911 tapes that are in contention by Bloomington. Mr. Zeunik responded that many of the tapes were played for the MetCom Board, which consists of the Sheriff, the Police Chief of Normal, Police Chief of Bloomington, the two City Managers, Dennis Powell, the head of the Rural Fire Chiefs Association and himself, at the request of Bloomington. He reported that the majority of the tapes were reviewed in December 2003. When Mr. Cannon was asked what happened, he advised the Board of the steps taken, either in terms of further training and/or disciplinary action, to alleviate the errors. Mr. Zeunik explained that, in any dispatch center, mistakes will be made due to human error. He indicated that the issue is how the mistakes are addressed and what written protocols are changed to also address the errors. Mr. Zeunik reported that some of the problems are due to the standardization of protocols, as the protocols do not always fit with some of the agencies, such as Bloomington.

Chairman Renner mentioned that he had heard numerous rumors and allegations regarding continual mistakes by 911 dispatchers. He asked if the Sheriff's deputies have the same concerns with MetCom. Mr. Love replied that there are some concerns and will always be concerns due to human error. However, he noted that the errors they encountered have been taken care of in a timely and satisfactory manner. Mr. Zeunik agreed, noting that the dispatcher is responsible to monitor the calls, enter information in the computer aided dispatch system and provide the emergency responder with as much information as possible. It is a stress-filled, difficult environment and one which demands accuracy and constant review. Mr. Zeunik reported that Bloomington did not provide an opportunity for MetCom staff or Mr. Cannon to respond to the questions and problems illustrated on the tapes. The MetCom Board met in order to listen to the specific tapes with

which Bloomington had issues and then asked Mr. Cannon to respond. Mr. Lindberg also noted that, since January 2005, MetCom staff has spent over 40 hours copying tapes at the request of the Bloomington Police Department.

Ms. Rackauskas expressed concern that there has never been a formal complaint submitted by Bloomington. Mr. Lindberg replied that many of the items picked up on the tapes were relayed to others outside of the agency, but never submitted in a formal complaint. Mr. Zeunik explained that there is a standardized complaint process that was instituted for all agencies which MetCom serves, including a section for MetCom personnel to provide a response. Because every call that goes into MetCom is taped, a record is always available for review. If a dispatcher is rude to a caller or police agency, or makes a mistake, it is recorded and available for review. All problems brought to the attention of MetCom are investigated by the management staff and a response is forwarded back to the individual agencies or police departments. Mr. Zeunik reported that there have been incidents that have been filed by police agencies, fire departments and ambulance departments. Ms. Rackauskas asked if there were a disproportionate number of complaints coming from Bloomington versus Normal or the County. Mr. Zeunik indicated that a highly disproportionate number of complaints originate from Bloomington.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the complaints had been analyzed. Mr. Zeunik replied that specific protocols are developed for 911 calls. With enhanced 911, one of those protocols is emergency medical dispatch. The emergency medical dispatch uses a standard system, recognized across the country, to determine the severity of the call and determine the appropriate response, which requires the dispatcher to go through a standardized list of questions. Mr. Zeunik explained that one of the issues raised by Bloomington is the amount of time lost while the dispatcher is going through the questions. Bloomington would like to see emergency services dispatched immediately and the questions asked later. Mr. Zeunik noted that the difficulty is that the purpose of EMD is to know what services need to be dispatched so the resources are used properly. He indicated that Bloomington is dissatisfied with the protocols.

Ms. Rackauskas articulated her distress in relying on the news media for information regarding this issue. Further, she is concerned that the safety issue still exists for Normal and the rest of the County after Bloomington withdraws from MetCom. Mr. Zeunik responded that the issue of Bloomington withdrawing from MetCom is analogous to a divorce situation with irreconcilable differences. Bloomington simply wants out of the union.

Mr. Zeunik indicated that Bloomington does not want to be part of a Center where the employees are County employees, where the County negotiates the collective bargaining agreement, and where the employees are paid based on the County's position classification system. Further, he noted that Bloomington wants the employees to report to the Bloomington Police Department.

Mr. Owens suggested that the new radio system should alleviate many of the issues Bloomington has raised. He asked if the Bloomington City Manager and Police Chief attend the MetCom meetings. Mr. Zeunik responded that they do attend the meetings as they are still part of Metcom until the end of this year.

Ms. Rackauskas voiced her desire to have the complaints made by Bloomington be submitted to the Committee in writing. Mr. Zeunik replied that the Bloomington Council has given a reason, namely that they feel they can do a better job providing service to their citizens and, as an independent local governing body, that is a sufficient enough reason for them.

Ms. Harding suggested that MetCom should respond to the letters to the editor and calls to the City Council explaining what has been done to alleviate the problems.

Ms. Harding asked for some specific complaints. Mr. Zeunik provided a couple of examples. For instance, Bloomington Airport Tower contacted MetCom regarding a private plane that was due in and the Tower had not been notified that they had landed. The officer that was dispatched from MetCom assumed that the dispatcher was reporting a plane had crashed. Mr. Zeunik explained that the dispatcher was new in the position and had not handled a call from the FAA before and didn't understand the terminology. Therefore, the dispatch was not clear to the police officer who went to the airport and searched for a crashed plane. The Bloomington Police were displeased with the confusion. Another incident is a call came in to dispatch and the caller indicated that a family member appeared to have died. The dispatcher asked questions that were not appropriate for the situation.

Mr. Nuckolls asked if anything had changed since the last County Board meeting. Mr. Zeunik replied that, as a result of the County Board meeting, the City of Bloomington has entered into serious negotiations with the County and the Town to come to a resolution that will result in a solution that is acceptable to the City, the County and the Town, and one that ultimately ETSB will approve. The resolution will include financial, back-up capabilities and dispatch protocol issues.



Mr. Owens asked for further clarification on how the dispatch and equipment compatibility issues will be handled if Bloomington does, indeed, withdraw from MetCom. Mr. Zeunik replied that the resolution will include all of these issues and an agreement between the City, the Town, the County and ETSB. Mr. Owens asked for an explanation on ETSB. Mr. Zeunik explained that ETSB is a state-driven entity, created pursuant to State law and is very specific as to what functions it has, how it shall be appointed and who sits on the Board. MetCom is a creature of the local governments created by an Intergovernmental Agreement. He reported that ETSB controls the surcharge money, i.e. the \$1.25 per land lines and \$.75 per line for wireless calls. ETSB controls what agency can be a primary public safety answering point, which means they decide where the 911 calls will be answered.

Mr. Owens asked if the agreements would come through the Justice Committee first. Mr. Zeunik replied that, for the County government, they would go through the Committee cycle and then to the Board.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Court Administrator, presented one item for action, which was a request for approval of a contract between McLean County and Ms. Christine Egan, Attorney at Law, to serve as the IV-D Child Support Hearing Officer. He reminded the Committee that in December he reported that a Child Support Hearing Officer was resigning. Ms. Christine Egan, a family attorney, has been appointed. Mr. Scanlon indicated that this contract replaces the previous contract, as per the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the Circuit Court. Further, he noted that the Contract is contingent upon the County receiving the funds from the Department of Public Aid.

Motion by O'Connor/Harding to Recommend Approval  
of a Contract between McLean County and Christine  
Egan, Attorney at Law, to serve as IV-D Child Support  
Hearing Officer.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner thanked Mr. Scanlon.

Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad, presented a brief summary on the McLean County Rescue Squad. He stated that the donated utility vehicle has

been restored and is now in service. Mr. Books reported that the Hazmat trailer has been equipped with cabinets for storage. He noted that they conducted dive training this winter and will do black water training in the spring. Mr. Books indicated that some volunteers have taken the NIMS training, which is incident command training. He mentioned that, of the 12 members on their volunteer squad, four have either fathers or sons who have served on the Squad. Mr. Books reported that the radiator in their Rescue 51 truck is beginning to leak and parts are not available. They are going to try to have it rebuilt. Mr. Books revealed that the Rescue Squad is discussing the development of a rapid water rescue team for flash floods.

Chairman Renner thanked him for the report.

Mr. Eric Ruud, Assistant State's Attorney, presented the State's Attorneys 2005 Case Load and Asset Forfeiture Fund Reports.

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

Chairman Renner presented the 911 Administration report as submitted by Mr. Bill Gamblin and distributed at the meeting. Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the Circuit Clerk Monthly and Year-end Statistical reports as submitted by Ms. Sandy Parker. He asked if there were any questions, comments or observations. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the Public Defender Monthly Case Load Report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis. Chairman Renner asked if anyone had any comments, observations or questions on the reports. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the final December 31, 2004 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$265,453.63 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Owens/Nuckolls to recommend approval of  
the Justice Committee bills as of December 31, 2004.  
Motion carried.

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Chairman Renner presented the January 31, 2005 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$1,535,742.24 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Motion by O'Connor/Nuckolls to recommend approval  
of the Justice Committee bills as of January 31, 2005.  
Motion carried.

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With no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary