

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, February 6, 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, Harding and O'Connor

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:

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA; Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator-11th Circuit Court; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration

Others Present: None

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the January 9, 2005 minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Owens/Harding to approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2006 Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner informed the Committee that there has been continued concern by community members on the design of the Law and Justice Center in regard to adequate space for Drug Court. He stated that Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman of the Property Committee, met with Ms. Carol Reitan and advised her that the Law and Justice Center remodeling plans allow for flexibility and will provide the opportunity for changes in the future if and when necessary.

Mr. Zeunik added that Ms. Bostic prepared a letter to Ms. Reitan in response to her concerns. He stated that he will obtain a copy of the letter and put one in the Justice Committee members' mailboxes.

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Chairman Renner presented the December, 2005 Monthly Caseload Report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender. He asked if there were any comments, questions or observations by the Committee. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the December, 2005 Statistical Reports and the 4th Quarter Statistical Reports as submitted by Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk. He asked if there were any comments, questions or observations by the Committee. There were none.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented his Monthly Caseload Report, noting that there is nothing out of the ordinary in the report. He asked if anyone had any questions on his report.

Mr. Yoder advised the Committee that one of his top three major crime attorneys resigned to take a position with a private firm. He stated that he is now searching for a highly-skilled attorney to fill that position. Ms. Rackauskas asked what is the general salary range for that position. Mr. Yoder replied that the position is an Assistant State's Attorney IV and the salary range is mid-fifties to mid-eighties.

Mr. Yoder indicated that the other Assistant State's Attorneys have taken on additional cases until the position can be filled.

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

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, presented the Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center and the CASA Report. She asked if there were any questions on the report. There were none.

Ms. Larkin announced that one of the Children's Advocacy Center employees, Ms. Kathleen A. Patterson, was just accredited with a National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Credentialing Program at an intermediate level with designations of Child Abuse Intervention Specialist and Sexual Assault Intervention Specialist. She stated that to receive this accreditation, Ms. Patterson needed to complete 4,000 hours of experience in child law and child sexual abuse and receive letters of reference.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Larkin for her report.

Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, Emergency Management Agency (“EMA”), reported that the County has received the \$225,000.00 Mobile Command vehicle supplied by the Department of Homeland Security. He stated that they are currently conducting volunteer training.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if they will provide tours of the vehicle. Mr. Hawk replied that they are planning on a field trip and an open house. He indicated he would like to show the vehicle to Board members during a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Mr. Hawk stated that he also plans to make arrangements with the mayors of the area communities to drive the vehicle to each community so that the citizens can see the vehicle and understand how it will be used.

Mr. Hawk reported that two support teams have been created with the combination of the former Rescue Squad and the E.S.D.A. team, namely the Technical Support team (formerly the Rescue Squad) and the Operational Support Team (E.S.D.A.). He stated that each team has 14 members who will respond to incidents within the County. Mr. Hawk advised that they train together every Thursday night and are effective teams. He stated that parts of each of these teams, along with other fire departments in the County, have formed a 20-man Search and Rescue team to search for missing people.

Mr. Hawk indicated that E.M.A. has planned a full-scale exercise on February 18 dealing with a plague incident, such as a bird flu epidemic. He noted that there will be up to 200 volunteers who will go through a mock SNS (Strategic National Stockpile) to distribute medications. This exercise will include the Health Department, Coroner’s Office, Police, Fire, EMS, FBI, TSA, Illinois State University (ISU) Student Health Services, ISU College of Nursing, ISU Department of Health Sciences, Illinois Wesleyan School of Nursing, State Farm Medical Services, Country Companies Medical Services, Cub Scouts and many other volunteers.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator-11th Circuit Court, presented a request for approval of a Contract between McLean County and J. Brian Goldrick, Attorney at Law, to serve as the “Contract Guardian Ad Litem.” He explained that a Guardian Ad Litem attorney serves as a representative for the interests of a child in proceedings in the Juvenile Court. Mr. Scanlon reported that having a Contract Guardian Ad Litem has reduced the expense on appellate work and has assisted in resolving cases sooner and with less conflict.

Motion by Nuckolls/Owens to Recommend Approval of
a Contract between McLean County and J. Brian
Goldrick, Attorney at Law, to serve as “Contract
Guardian Ad Litem.”

Motion carried.

Mr. Scanlon informed the Committee that he provided a statistical report on court filings to the County Administrator's Office and the Board Chair, and it will be posted on the Website. He stated that McLean County had about 6,000 additional cases over last year.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions for Mr. Scanlon. Hearing none, Chairman Renner presented the Detention Facility Population Report for January, 2006 as submitted by Sheriff Dave Owens. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the Court Services Monthly Caseload Reports for December 2005 as submitted by Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services. He asked if there were any comments or questions. Ms. Rackauskas commented that the ages of detained minors are getting younger and younger.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional comments or questions. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Kimmerling to present her action item.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, presented a request for Approval to apply for a County-owned Credit Card, with a maximum credit limit of \$2,500.00, to be used by the Coroner's Office. She stated that the County Auditor recommended that she pursue obtaining a departmental credit card. This recommendation was based upon the number of times the Coroner's Office requested to use the County credit card. Ms. Kimmerling noted one specific instance in December of 2005 when she realized she needed to spend a \$1,000.00 donation from the McLean County Funeral Directors Association and wanted to purchase a camera. She indicated that the County's credit card was already at its limit and was not available to purchase the camera. Ms. Kimmerling advised that it was a very difficult experience trying to purchase the camera.

Ms. O'Connor asked if the credit card limit should be more than \$2,500.00. Ms. Kimmerling replied that she believes \$2,500.00 is a sufficient figure.

Motion by Rackauskas/O'Conner to Recommend approval to Apply for a County-owned Credit Card to be used by the Coroner's Office.

Ms. Harding asked what is the maximum amount on the County credit card. Mr. Zeunik replied that he did not know but he suspected it was very low. Ms. Kimmerling added that she thought the limit was \$3,000.00.

Motion carried.

Ms. Kimmerling reviewed her Monthly Report for December 2005. She noted that December caseloads are similar to previous months. She reported that the Coroner's Office was able to meet and exceed their revenue projections.

Ms. Kimmerling advised that she intends to present a 2005 Year End Report in April.

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

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration presented his November, 2005 Status Reports. He informed the Committee that the new updated 911 equipment is being staged at this time. Mr. Gamblin reported that they are currently making sure all of the equipment is working, training of the telecommunicators will be conducted on March 7th and 8th and they will be going on line with the new equipment on March 9th.

Mr. Gamblin stated that the new equipment will allow 911 to do a number of things, including:

- Isolate wireless calls from wire line calls,
- Provide the address information to the telecommunicator,
- Provide better networking with the voice-over IP

Mr. Gamblin indicated that another reason for the upgrade is that, next year, Verizon (merging with MCI and changing its name to Verizon Business) is going to offer the capability of interconnection with other select routers. This means that 911 can run lines into its PSAPs so that, if the local selected router goes down, it will still be possible to function based on a nationwide data base. Mr. Gamblin noted that the Bloomington nationwide router will be located in Florida.

Mr. Gamblin informed the Committee that he will be attending a conference called TDC (Technical Development Conference) regarding 911 and telephone systems. Some of the things that will be discussed include:

- Intelligent Highway, which is when vehicles can tell you when and where they have had an accident. This is an initiative put forward by the Federal Highway Agencies.

- A National 911 Network, which is an initiative where 911 calls can be transferred to any PSAP within the United States in order to be answered should an area's communication go down.
- Communication for the hearing impaired.

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

Mr. Owens announced that he will not be available to attend the Justice Committee Meeting on March 6th as he will be attending the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Ms. O'Connor mentioned that she may be out of town as well. Other members of the Committee indicated that they will be at the meeting, which should provide a quorum.

Chairman Renner presented the final December 31, 2005 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$309,261.80 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, 2005.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner presented the January 31, 2006 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$1,554,828.91 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Owens/Harding to recommend approval of
the Justice Committee bills as of January 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 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary