

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, January 8, 2007 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 Butler

Members Absent: Members Rackauskas and Selzer

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; Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk; Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender; Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Commission; Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services

Others Present: Rev. Thomas Shea

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the December 4, 2006 Committee minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Harding/Owens to approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2006 Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented his Monthly Caseload Report, the Asset Forfeiture Fund Report and a Drug Caseload Update, which he distributed. Mr. Yoder indicated that there was nothing out of the ordinary in the Monthly Caseload Report. He reported that the Drug Caseload Report shows a very busy year in 2006 and he predicted that this will continue to increase this year.

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

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, presented the Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and the CASA Report. She noted that year-end reports are not yet completed. Ms. Larkin reported that the CAC had a 27.7% increase in first-time interviews in 2006 as compared to 2005 and a 40% increase from 2005 to 2006 in total interviews. She indicated that the CAC will be fully staffed on January 22nd for the first time since August 30th. Ms. Larkin reminded the Committee that the Tip-A-VIP Fundraiser is scheduled for February 3rd at the Center for Performing Arts.

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

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk presented her November, 2006, Statistical Reports. She asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

Chairman Renner clarified that most Departments will not have their year-end reports available until February or March.

Sheriff Mike Emery presented the McLean County Detention Facility Report for November 2006.

Ms. Harding asked if the Justice Committee will be sent a daily population report as had been done in the past. Sheriff Emery responded that he will send a copy to all members of the Justice Committee on a daily basis.

Sheriff Emery stated that the Grand Jury Inspection Report includes observations made by the Grand Jury when they inspected the McLean County Adult Detention Center on December 15, 2006. Sheriff Emery pointed out the following concerns expressed by the Grand Jury, as follows:

- Need to install security cameras in the kitchen.
- More space is needed in the female section of the Jail.
- The two-vehicle sallyport is inadequate for the volume of traffic received.

Sheriff Emery advised that he will be putting a security camera in the kitchen. He noted that the space issue for female inmates will be addressed with the current renovation project. Sheriff Emery stated that there is currently space for 30 female inmates and the renovation will provide space for 41 female inmates. He pointed out that the average population is 30 female inmates.

Sheriff Emery stated that a bottleneck is caused when outside agencies come into the sallyport area with prisoners that need to be booked. He reported that there is sometimes an hour plus wait in the sallyport area. Sheriff Emery advised that he is looking at ways to expedite the process. He also indicated that the renovation project should help alleviate the congestion by expanding the jail booking area and the holding area.

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

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, reviewed her Monthly Report. As a refresher for members of the Committee and for the benefit of Mr. Butler who is new to the Committee, she explained how to read the report, noting the following:

- “Cases” are the number of deaths that are reported to the office when an investigation is started.
- “Autopsies” is specifically the autopsies performed for McLean County.
- “Out/County Autopsies” are services provided to outside Counties. This figure has decreased because other Counties are opening their own morgues.
- “Inquests” are the number of inquests that are conducted.
- “Copy fees” generate revenue through the Freedom of Information Act.
- “Morgue Fee” is the fee charged to other Counties that use the morgue facilities.
- “Reim/Services” is a revenue line item for groups who use the morgue to do tissue procurement.
- “Paid to Facilities Mgt” is the fee paid to Facilities Management from the revenue collected in the Morgue. Facilities Management cleans the morgue after an autopsy.
- “Funeral Director Assn. Gift” is a grant that was received from the Funeral Director’s Association in the amount of \$1,200.00.

Ms. Kimmerling indicated the next section of the Report shows the November death investigations that include autopsy and follow-up. She noted that the numbers in this section should add up to the number of autopsies conducted in the month that is being reported.

Ms. Kimmerling pointed out that there are several open death investigations. She added that she does her year-end report when all open cases have been cleared. Currently, there are 21 open cases for 2006. Ms. Kimmerling stated that one reason there is such a large number of open cases is due to the back-up at the

toxicology labs, including the State Lab and a private lab in St. Louis, which is running behind in excess of ten to twelve weeks. She indicated that she is looking at another private lab, NNS, which has guaranteed a quicker turn-around time and comparable fees.

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

Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender, presented a request for approval of a contract for a Special Public Defender with J. Jason Chambers, Attorney at Law. Ms. Davis advised that Mr. Chambers was previously a lead attorney in the State's Attorneys Office and is going into private practice.

Motion by Owens/Harding to Recommend Approval of
a Contract for Special Public Defender with Mr. J.
Jason Chambers, Attorney at Law.
Motion carried.

Ms. Davis reviewed her Monthly Caseload Report.

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

Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Commission, reviewed her Annual Report. She reported that there were 127 jury trials in 2006 as compared with 91 in 2005, for an increase of 36 cases. Ms. Brand indicated that she expects that this increase in cases will continue. She stated that they are trying to cut down the time the jurors spend waiting for trials to begin. Ms. Brand reported that the mileage to jurors increased January 1st to 38 cents from 32½ cents due to the increase in gas prices.

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

Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the FY'2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the purchase of a used truck from the Richmond Fire Department. He noted that this vehicle will replace two outdated trucks (one is a 38 year old truck and the second is a 22 year old truck) that are beginning to cause problems.

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Mr. Owens asked if Mr. Hawk will sell the trucks. Mr. Hawk replied that he is considering the options on disposing of the trucks. He advised that they could be stripped down and sold "as is" with a statement that they are trucks only and not response vehicles.

Mr. Owens asked how long it would take to receive the new vehicle once he receives approval. Mr. Hawk responded that the vehicle is ready to be picked up at any time.

Motion by Owens/Butler to Recommend Approval of an
Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the
FY'2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget
Ordinance for the Purchase of a Vehicle for EMA.
Motion carried.

Mr. Hawk indicated that he will have an annual report prepared for the next Justice Committee meeting.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Hawk.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, presented her Monthly Report. She stated that there is nothing outstanding to point out in the Report.

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

Chairman Renner presented the December 31, 2006 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$1,907,579.63 and a Fund total that is the same.

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

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Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary