

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, July 24, 2001 at 8:15 p.m. in Room 700 of the McLean County Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sommer, Members Pokorney, Emmett, Renner, Kinzinger and Johnson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Mrs. Carmen I. Zielinski, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Dave Goldberg, Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center;
Ms. Shawn Walker, Director, Metro McLean County Centralized
Communication Center

Members of the
Public Present: None

Chairman Sommer called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Hearing no objections, the minutes of the June 4, 2001 Regular Justice Committee meeting and the May 3, 2001 Joint Justice-Property Committee meeting were approved and placed on file as presented.

Chairman Sommer presented the bills that have been reviewed and recommended by the County Auditor for approval by the Committee.

Motion by Kinzinger/Pokorney to approve the bills as presented and recommended by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

Chairman Sommer informed the Committee that discussion on Item 4-A-1a will be delayed until the end of the meeting. Chairman Sommer also noted that Information Items such as the monthly reports would be carried over to next month's Justice Committee meeting unless the Department Head was present.

Chairman Sommer addressed Item 4-B-1a, a request for Approval of a Contract for a Special Public Defender with Mr. Patrick O'Rourke.

Motion by Johnson\Pokorney recommending approval of the Contract for Special Public Defender Services with Mr. Patrick O'Rourke. Motion carried.

Chairman Sommer advised the Committee to disregard Item 4-Da since it did not require action from the Committee. Chairman Sommer then addressed Item 4-Db and Item 4-Dd.

Motion by Kinzinger\Pokorney recommending approval of the Contract Extension and Funding Increase for Child Advocacy Services and Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Budget Ordinance – Children's Advocacy Center Fund 0129. Motion carried.

Chairman Sommer addressed Item I-1a requesting Authorization to Apply for Grand Funds for Community-Based Alternative Detention Programs. Chairman Sommer invited Mr. Dave Goldberg, Superintendent Juvenile Detention Center, to participate in the discussion. Mr. Goldberg stated that this request is for a grant through the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association and the Annie E. Casey Foundation for community-based detention alternative programs. Mr. Goldberg stated that \$60,000 would be used to develop cognitive probation programming (COG) to be used in Juvenile Detention and Probation. Court Services has received training on COG probation, and already facilitated a group for juvenile intensive probation offenders. This grant would allow the County to contract with Catholic Social Services to facilitate additional groups. There would be no new employees through the Court Services Office and no matching funds for the County. Although the grant proposal states a due date of January 8, 2001, not all of the funds have been allocated and McLean County was approached and encouraged to apply for the funding.

Motion by Pokorney\Johnson to recommend approval of
the Request for Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds for
Community-Based Detention Alternative Programs.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sommer discussed Item A-1a, request for Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center Fund 0452, Metcom 0030.

Mr. Kinzinger asked for more specific information about this request. Mr. Zeunik explained that delays in implementing the proposed Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system requires that the current CAD system be maintained longer than anticipated. In order to maintain the present CAD, it is necessary to acquire new computer server and related hardware. In addition, safety concerns resulting from deficiencies in the EF Johnson 800 MHz Radio System require that EF Johnson perform a system wide performance renewal program, software upgrades and replace radio equipment at the Bloomington tower site.

Mr. Zeunik noted that this entails part of the cost funding requested. Mr. Kinzinger asked if the current radio system should be replaced, rather than continue to spend money on fixes. Mr. Zeunik advised the Committee that the present radio system does not have enough antennas for the size of the County and this type of system. If the present system is replaced with an 800 MHz Simulcast system that mirrors the present system, more tower sites would be needed. McLean County presently has three antennas. For a County of this size, thirteen antennas would be needed. The other issue that needs to be researched is whether the County wants to change to the 800 MHz Simulcast system. The decision to change to the 800 MHz Simulcast system was made in the early 1990's by the Emergency Telephone Systems Board in conjunction with the two police chiefs and the Sheriff at that time. The understanding then was that the Federal Communications Commission was going to reserve the 800 MHz band strictly for

emergency services such as police, sheriff, fire departments and emergency medical dispatch. Another issue that is being evaluated by the Metcom Board is whether local agencies may be able to connect to the Illinois State Police system. This is helpful for local agencies in terms of taking advantage of the state competitive bid, but it may help reduce the fixed cost for infrastructure, like antennas and towers.

Mr. Kinzinger asked if the replacement of this system will undoubtedly be an issue that McLean County will have to deal with in the future. Mr. Zeunik stated that there is no question that the system will need to be replaced. The issue facing Metcom today is how to fund the replacement of the system. The \$4-6 million needed to replace this system is not available from the three largest agencies. The present system was purchased with proceeds from a bond issue that the Public Building Commission sold in 1995-1996 for 3.1 million.

Mr. Kinzinger was concerned that police officers are at risk by not having a competent system. The County Board would eventually have to respond to the constituents as to why this serious problem was not dealt with early. This Committee should begin researching into this issue even if it is at a high cost to the County.

Ms. Shawn Walker, Director, 911 Metcom, apologized for her late entrance and asked for clarification of the discussion. Mr. Zeunik enlightened Ms. Walker on the topic. Ms. Walker explained that the \$85,000 transfer request is not all for one issue. She stated that \$17,000 - \$18,000.00 is not related to the radio issue directly. The problem is related to the implementation of the Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) System. The rest of the expenses are for an annual renewal program and the remainder was to replace some bad equipment at the Bloomington Tower. The money requested to be transferred from the fund balance is unexpected but are items that will have to be paid for in one way or another.

Ms. Walker commented that the Metcom Operation Board is in the process of looking at options for the future. They have implemented the phase recommendations received from EF Johnson. EF Johnson recommended a three-phase approach to improving the radio system. Phase I are all the things that could provide immediate results. Phase II and Phase III include steps that will be costly and long termed. Phase I has been completed. The Metcom Operation Board is waiting on figures from EF Johnson on their recommendation for Phase II.

Mr. Pokorney stated that the radio system and its issues have been due to a recommendation that EF Johnson made. Ms. Walker replied that both EF Johnson and Motorola were given specific parameters to work within. EF Johnson and Motorola did question some of these parameters and they were instructed to follow the parameters. Ms. Walker stated that this is not EF Johnson's fault, because they worked within the limitations and parameters entirely established by the Emergency Telephone Systems Board in the bid specification. The root of the problem is that the original specifications for this system were given to EF Johnson were inadequate from the start.

Mr. Kinzinger asked if there is a way to attain a summary of what has technically gone wrong in the field that would basically tell the Committee what is going on. Ms. Walker stated that she will provide the Committee with a summary at the next Justice Committee meeting.

Chairman Sommer commented that replacing the radio system is a long-term project. Chairman Sommer noted that the present system has penetration problems and antenna problems. Chairman Sommer understands that the County should have approximately thirteen tower site antennas. The penetration problem is very serious because there are places in Bloomington-Normal that are dead spots in buildings. Chairman Sommer feels that the 900 MHz has a better distance span. In fairness to the present Metcom Operation Board, they inherited serious problems, and are working very diligently to find solutions to these problems.

Motion by Renner\Pokorney to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center Fund 0452, MetCom 0030. Motion carried.

Mr. Goldberg stated that OJJDP has Federal Discretionary Lapse Grant Funds available. These funds are earmarked for Court Service Departments within the State. After consultation with the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, the request is for permission to apply for grant funding to provide for the following: Training-American Probation and Parole Association Conference; Training-Cognitive Behavior Training; LCD Projector; Digital Camera; TV\VCR; Video Camera; Computers\Training Mats and Vehicles. There is no County match and all purchases must be completed by September 30, 2001.

Motion by Pokorney\Emmett to recommend Approval of Application and Acceptance of Federal Discretionary Lapse Grant Funds through the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts – Court Services. Motion carried.

Chairman Sommer made reference to the previously approved motion on Item 4-B-1a. Mr. Zeunik explained that Ms. Amy Davis presented a revised contract for Special Public Defender services with Mr. Patrick O'Rourke.

Motion by Pokorney\Renner to reconsider Item 4-B-1a, recommending approval of a Contract for Special Public Defender Services with Mr. Patrick O'Rourke. Motion carried.

Special Justice Committee Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2001
Page Six

Chairman Sommer explained that the amendment to the contract consists of a change to Section 9 (a). Mr. Zeunik noted that the language previously read, "(a) At the request of the Special Public Defender, upon giving fourteen (14) days written notice prior to the effective date of cancellation."

Mr. Zeunik stated that due to the change, the language will now read, "(a) At the request of the Special Public Defender, upon giving sixty (60) days written notice prior to the effective date of cancellation."

Motion by Pokorney\Emmett recommending approval
of the Revised Contract for Special Public Defender
Services with Mr. Patrick O'Rourke. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Sommer adjourned the meeting at 8:41 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski
Recording Secretary

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