

## **Minutes of the Justice Committee**

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, June 8, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner, Members Rackauskas, Owens and Harding

Members Absent: Members Nuckolls and O'Connor

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

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials  
Present:

Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator-11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court; Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney

Others Present: Ms. Teresa Kelly, Program Director, Children's Foundation; Ms. Lisa Pieper, Director, Children's Foundation

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the May 1, 2006 minutes and the April 18, 2006 Stand-up minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to approve the Minutes of the May 1, 2006 Committee Meeting and the April 18, 2006 Stand-up Committee Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner presented the April, 2006 Monthly Statistical Report as submitted by Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk.

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

Chairman Renner presented the Adult Detention Facility Population Report for April, 2006 as submitted by Sheriff Dave Owens. He asked if there were any comments or questions on the report. The Committee members had no questions on the report.

Chairman Renner opened a discussion regarding the attack of the Correctional Officer in the McLean County Jail. After a lengthy discourse between the members of the Justice Committee, it was determined that the Committee wishes Sheriff Dave Owens to attend the July Committee Meeting to present and report on the Jail operating policies and procedures. Chairman Renner also suggested that Sheriff Owens be prepared to discuss the incident and to review what changes may be made to the rules and procedure to ensure that another such occurrence does not take place.

Mr. Zeunik advised that some of the review and discussion may need to be made in closed session. He stated that there are two issues that need to be considered by the State's Attorney and the Committee. The first is the pending criminal investigation being conducted by the Sheriff's Department and the State's Attorneys Office. The second is the Sheriff's issue of overall security within the Jail, including the security for the Correctional Officers and the detainees in the Jail.

Chairman Renner indicated that he received some correspondence suggesting that the attack was a result of jail overpopulation. He stated that the jail population had nothing to do with the incident.

Ms. Rackauskas suggested that Committee Members e-mail the pertinent questions and concerns of their constituents to Mr. Zeunik so that he can share them with Sheriff Owens.

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

Chairman Renner presented the Coroner's Office Monthly Report for April, 2006 as submitted by Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator, presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board increasing, by \$5.00, the filing cost in all Civil Cases to offset the cost of establishing and operating a Children's Waiting Room at the Law and Justice Center. He introduced Ms. Teresa Kelly and Ms. Lisa Pieper from the Children's Foundation.

Mr. Scanlon explained that the idea for a Children's Waiting Room has been in existence for the past few years. He noted that several Illinois Counties, including Kane County and DuPage County, operate Children's Waiting rooms for their Court System. Mr. Scanlon advised that, with the Law and Justice Center remodeling project, space will be available for the Children's Waiting Room.

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Ms. Harding asked why the age limit is set at seven years old. Ms. Pieper replied that the age limit, as listed, is incorrect and should be twelve years old and under.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the additional \$5.00 Filing Fee is for everyone. Mr. Scanlon replied that it will be for all Civil Cases, including Small Claims Cases, Divorce Cases, Family Cases, Law Cases, etc.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if it was mandatory that children not be taken into the courtroom. Mr. Scanlon responded that a judge cannot mandate that the Children's Waiting Room be utilized. However, they can recommend and advise parents of the convenience of using the Waiting Room.

Ms. Rackauskas asked how the Waiting Room will be promoted. Mr. Scanlon stated that the program will be initially publicized and notices will be placed within the Law and Justice Center building.

Ms. Rackauskas asked about special needs children. Ms. Pieper responded that this is not a day care center, but a Children's Waiting Room. It would not be equipped for children with special needs. She noted that the parents would be responsible for feeding the children, changing diapers, etc. The parents would be given a silent pager and would be paged when their children need assistance. Ms. Pieper stressed that it is not a day care facility, but a waiting room for the children to wait for their parents who are in Court. Ms. Rackauskas responded that information should be provided to parents explaining the limitations of the Waiting Room. Mr. Scanlon assured the Committee that the information on the services will be provided.

Mr. Owens asked what is the County's liability should a child be injured. Ms. Pieper replied that the Children's Foundation's Professional and General Liability Insurance will cover the staff and whatever happens under their responsibility while the children are in the Waiting Room.

Mr. Owens expressed concern that the Justice Committee Agenda Packet did not include adequate information on the Children's Waiting Room guidelines and protocol. Other members of the Committee concurred. The following is a list of items which the Committee would like to have clarified in a brief report to be placed in the County Board Packet:

- County Liability issues;
- Overview of DuPage County's Children's Waiting Room;
- Maximum number of children that can be accommodated at a time;

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- Number of hours a child can spend in the facility;
- Hours of Operation;
- Staffing and staffing needs, including use of interns;
- Funding needs and will the increased fee meet the funding needs;

Chairman Renner reminded the Committee that the action item presented is the proposed fee increase to assist funding of the Children's Waiting Room.

Mr. Zeunik advised that the Board Meeting is Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> and additional material to include in the Board Packet should be provided by Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that one of the reasons this is being brought to the Committee with an effective date of July 1<sup>st</sup> is so that the Fund can be established and sufficient funds will be available for use when the construction of the Waiting Room is completed in mid to late summer, 2007.

Chairman Renner asked what would be the repercussions if the vote was delayed. Mr. Scanlon replied that it would not be a major problem for the program, but would simply reduce the amount of available reserve.

Ms. Harding suggested that a more detailed report on the guidelines and protocol of the Children's Waiting Room be included in the County Board Agenda Packet, but that the Justice Committee vote on the request to increase the Filing Fee this evening.

Mr. Scanlon indicated that there will likely be 90+ pages of protocol and procedures. He stated that a six to eight page summary report on the background of the Waiting Room can be prepared for inclusion in the Board Packet.

Ms. Pieper reported that the Children's Foundation is an accredited Child Welfare licensed agency. She assured the Committee that they would never undertake any program that is not a high quality product.

The Committee discussed various options regarding the vote on this issue. The Committee determined that if a summary report can be included in the Board Packet, the Justice Committee could vote on the issue of the fee increase.

Ms. Kelly and Ms. Pieper stated that they will prepare a report to be included in the Board Packet.

Motion by Rackauskas/Harding to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board increasing, by \$5.00, the filing fee cost in all Civil Cases to offset the cost of establishing and operating a Children's Waiting Room at the Law and Justice Center.

Motion carried.

Ms. Rackauskas reported that she would like to reconsider her motion so that it can include the change in the maximum age of the children who will utilize the Children's Waiting Room.

Motion by Rackauskas/Owens to Reconsider the Recommended Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board increasing, by \$5.00, the filing fee cost in all Civil Cases to offset the cost of establishing and operating a Children's Waiting Room at the Law and Justice Center.

Motion carried.

Motion by Rackauskas/Harding to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board increasing, by \$5.00, the filing fee cost in all Civil Cases to offset the cost of establishing and operating a Children's Waiting Room at the Law and Justice Center, as amended to reflect the change in the Maximum Age of the children from seven to twelve.

Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Scanlon, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Pieper.

Chairman Renner presented the 911 Status Reports for April, 2006 as submitted by Mr. Bill Gamblin, 911 Administrator. Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Caseload Report for April, 2006 as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender.

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Mr. Dave Goldberg, Director, Juvenile Detention Center, presented a request for approval to accept a Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for a Juvenile Detention Training Scholarship Program – Interagency Agreement #503408.

Mr. Goldberg explained that the Committee previously approved a request to apply for this grant and this is the Agreement to accept the Grant.

Motion by Owens/Harding to Recommend Approval to Accept a Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for a Juvenile Detention Training Scholarship Program – Interagency Agreement #503408.

Motion carried.

Mr. Goldberg presented a request for approval of a Contract with Logan County for Lease of Space in the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center. He noted that Logan County is behind approximately 200 days and he anticipates there will be additional contracts in the future. Mr. Goldberg advised that Logan County is not behind in payments, but behind in getting the contracts in place. This is a contract for an additional 300 days.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend Approval of a Contract with Logan County for Lease of Space in the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center.

Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if the Committee had any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Goldberg for attending.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney reviewed the Monthly Caseload Report and the Asset Forfeiture Fund Report, noting that there is nothing major to report at this time. He announced that his new Children's Advocacy Center Attorney has started and is doing very well.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) 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.

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Mr. Zeunik advised the Committee that the regular July Justice Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. He asked if the Committee members want to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or move the meeting to July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Committee members in attendance indicated that they could attend a July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Ms. Rackauskas suggested that the members that were not in attendance be notified of the possible change. Mr. Zeunik indicated that a decision needs to be made on which date to hold the Justice Committee meeting by the Board Meeting.

Chairman Renner presented the May 31, 2006 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a pending total of \$1,068.30 and a prepaid total of \$2,397,191.56 for a Fund Total of \$2,398,259.86.

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Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to recommend approval  
of the Justice Committee bills as of May 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 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary