

## **Minutes of the Justice Committee**

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, May 3, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 700 of the Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, IL.

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

Members Absent: Member Nuckolls

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, and Ms. Karina Bak, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials

Present: Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services and  
Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the April 5, 2004 minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Owens/Harding to approve the  
April 5, 2004 Justice Committee Minutes as  
presented.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if the Committee had any objections to moving Ms. Castleman and Ms. Kimmerling to the beginning of the agenda. Hearing no objections, Chairman Renner asked Ms. Castleman to present her item for information.

Ms. Castleman presented her monthly Statistical Report to the Committee. She informed the Committee that Out of County Detention during the month of May will increase slightly and it seems to be cyclical.

Chairman Renner asked if the Committee has any questions for Ms. Castleman. Hearing none, Chairman Renner thanked Ms. Castleman for attending.

Chairman Renner asked Ms. Kimmerling to present her item for action to the Committee.

Ms. Kimmerling presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2004 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, Coroner's Department – 0031. Ms. Kimmerling advised the Committee that last year was the first year a \$2.00 death certificate surcharge was collected by the State and placed into a special fund. The State has distributed these monies to the Coroner's Offices. Each Coroner's Office will receive \$1,200.00.

The State distribution operates on the State's fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) as opposed to a calendar year. She stated she received the money last year, although she did not spend it last year. Ms. Kimmerling is looking at using the money to purchase a Stricker Autopsy Saw and a second camera lens. The Stricker Autopsy Saw will cost about \$800.00 and the camera lens will run about \$300.00. Ms. Kimmerling is asking the Committee to authorize the appropriation of these funds in Fiscal Year 2004 Budget for the purchase of the two items.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to approve an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2004 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001, Coroner's Department – 0031.

Mr. Owens asked if there was a local match on the grant. Ms. Kimmerling said there was not a local match requirement, and that the may only be used for equipment purchases.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the Coroner's Office used digital cameras. Ms. Kimmerling responded that she is not a proponent of digital cameras. She stated that they are testing digital cameras in the court system and she knows that they are making progress. The 35mm photographs provide the best quality images for the Office's use. To achieve the same quality photograph with a digital camera would require that the office purchase a very expensive camera and printer.

Motion carried.

Ms. Kimmerling stated that in March they performed 12 autopsies. However, there were actually 13 open investigations for March. The difference being one of the cases involved a long hospital stay. Therefore, it was not necessary to

perform an autopsy because of the availability of the medical records. Ms. Kimmerling also asked the Committee to note the Out of County workload. In the first quarter the Coroner's Office conducted 108 Out of County autopsies. Through the end of March 2003 the Coroner's Office had conducted 53 Out of County autopsies.

Chairman Renner asked if the Committee had any questions for Ms. Kimmerling. Hearing none, Chairman Renner thanked Ms. Kimmerling for attending.

Chairman Renner stated that the Quarterly Reports and Monthly Statistical Reports from Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk, are included in the Justice Committee packet. He asked for any comments or observations on these reports.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if staff members could create a booklet to explain the reports and terms. She said this would help the Committee know what the acronyms mean. She also requested clarification when charges have been reduced to a misdemeanor and what the previous charge was.

With no further discussion, Chairman Renner stated that the Monthly Caseload Reports for March 2004 from Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender's Office, are included in the Justice Committee packet. He asked for any comments or observations on these reports. None were heard.

Chairman Renner moved on to Ms. Billie Larkin and the Children's Advocacy Center Monthly Statistical Reports for March 2004, to be found in the Justice Committee packet. He asked the Committee for any comments or observations on Ms. Larkin's reports. None were heard.

Chairman Renner stated that the Monthly Statistical Reports for the Sheriff's Office are located in the agenda packet. Chairman Renner asked for any comments or observations on the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report.

Mr. Owens asked if Sheriff Owens could attend next month's meeting to explain to the Committee the progress on the information that was brought back from the NACO meeting in Washington, D.C. on the COPS grant and the availability of grant funding for the purchase of pre-trial release electronic monitoring bracelets.

Mr. Zeunik stated availability of COPS monies to purchase equipment which can be used for community policing activities, such as electronic monitoring, the Sheriff is interested in that and was not aware that the grants funds could be used for that purpose. With the COPS in school program, the Sheriff indicated that the biggest problem is that the rural districts do not have funds to provide their share of the match. He was interested to find out that there was a way to plead a hardship case to the Justice Department and thereby wave the requirement for the schools to provide matching funding for the COPS program.

Chairman Renner asked for any other comments or observations on the reports from the Sheriff's Department. There were none.

Chairman Renner moved on to the Monthly Statistical Reports submitted by Mr. Bill Gamblin, 911 Administrator. He asked for any comments or observations on the reports.

Mr. Owens stated he did not have any questions regarding the charts, but he did have a question on something he had heard on the news. Mr. Owens stated that he heard that ETSB was going to provide funding to Bloomington to set up a 911 Dispatch Center. However, he had been told that the State of Illinois would not allow this to happen and he wanted some clarification on the subject.

Mr. Zeunik said the State of Illinois has told the City of Bloomington that they do not have the ability to collect a 911 surcharge. There was a Countywide 911 referendum in the early 1990's and because it was a Countywide referendum, there can only be one 911 surcharge collected in McLean County. The City of Bloomington could be a Public Service Answering Point (PSAP). The City could then receive 911 calls from the residents of the City of Bloomington and dispatch the appropriate response team. In order to be a PSAP, the ETSB would have to grant the City the authority. The City would then become a second PSAP and handle all 011 calls for the City of Bloomington.

Ms. Harding asked who is on the ETSB. Mr. Zeunik said there are 9 members on the board. Currently, the following individuals serve on ETSB: the McLean County Sheriff, the Police Chief from the City of Bloomington and from the Town of Normal, the Rural Police Chief from Chenoa, the Fire Chief from Randolph Township representing rural fire, a board member from the Octavia Fire District

representing rural fire and EMS, one person from EMS/ambulance service from Heyworth, a physician, and a private citizen.

Ms. Rackauskas asked where the County, City of Bloomington and Town of Normal stand as far as funding for ambulance service. Mr. Zeunik stated that the County does not provide any funding for an ambulance service and current state law makes it difficult for the County to provide ambulance service. Mr. Zeunik advised the Committee that the City of Bloomington plans to upgrade the service they provide from basic to intermediate and train the firefighters that staff the Bloomington Fire Houses and the ambulances at the intermediate level. The City of Bloomington is going to do that in the event that LifeLine should go out of business.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the City of Bloomington's plans would address the needs of the County. Mr. Zeunik replied that it would not, because they would only service the City.

Chairman Renner stated that this would be a great question for community surveys. He suggested that we review this issue at the next Committee meeting and invite the media so the concerns of the Committee can be broadcast to the community.

Ms. Rackauskas reported that she attended a Drug Court meeting. She feels it was an excellent presentation and believes it is something the County should look into further.

Chairman Renner presented the April 30, 2004 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$1,721,679.45, and a fund total of \$1,721,679.45.

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Motion by O'Connor/Harding to approve the Justice Committee bills for April 30, 2004 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karina L. Bak  
Recording Secretary