

Minutes of the Property Committee Meeting

The Property Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday, November 2, 2000 at 4:35 p.m. in Room 700, Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Segobiano, Members Pokomey, Hoselton, Bostic, Emmett

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mr. John M. Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Martha B. Ross, Executive Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: The Honorable Luther H. Dearborn, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Mr. Will Scanlon, Court Administrator; Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management

Chairman Segobiano called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Chairman Segobiano presented the minutes of the October 5, 2000 meeting for approval. The minutes of the October 5, 2000 meeting were approved as presented and placed on file.

Chairman Segobiano introduced the Honorable Luther I-L Dearborn, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, who presented a report regarding the need for expansion of the McLean County Jail facility. Judge Dearborn stated that one comment in opposition to jail expansion that the Committee is likely to hear is that there are alternatives to the overcrowding of the jail facility that should be explored.

Judge Dearborn stated that Mr. Will Scanlon, Court Administrator, gathered and assembled the bulk of the illustrative and statistical material that was distributed to the Committee in their packets, and that Mr. Scanlon will be available to answer questions for the Committee.

In reference to the document entitled Analysis of Current Inmate Summary for September 18, 2000, included in the Committee's packet, Judge Dearborn explained that he attended a meeting wherein Mr. Charles Reynard, McLean County State's Attorney, spoke on conditions within the jail, and distributed the instant document as a part of his presentation. He noted that the analysis document was used to illustrate the conditions on a given day in the McLean County Jail. He stated that, although the analysis represents a narrow view of the jail, it does illustrate, statistically, who was in the jail and why they were there, on that particular day.

Judge Dearborn noted that, on the date in question, there were 256 people in the jail, being placed in three (3) categories: 1) those booked under new charges; 2) sentenced inmates; and 3) other inmates. He explained that the inmates in both the new charges category and the sentenced inmates category are further subcategorized as felony charges or misdemeanor charges.

Judge Dearborn stated that, on the day in question, 60.2% of the total population was incarcerated due to new charges being filed against them. He further stated that 19.1% of the total jail population was sentenced inmates and 21% was characterized as other inmates. Judge Dearborn explained that the other inmates category consisted of offenses such as: probation violations, outstanding warrants being executed, family cases, civil cases, contempt of court cases, and storage.

Judge Dearborn explained that the breakdown of the total jail population for the day in question could further be characterized as 70.3% Felony/Violent Misdemeanor offenders, and 29.7% Non-Violent Felony/Misdemeanor offenders. He remarked that the subcategory of Warrants is of particular interest. On the day in question, 45 individuals or 17.6% of the total population were incarcerated on warrants, with 18 of those individuals incarcerated on parole warrants.' Such a distinction refers to persons who have been released from prison and have allegedly committed new offenses or other parole violations. Those individuals are housed in the McLean County Jail until penitentiary personnel arrive to remove them.

Judge Dearborn explained that, when the 18 inmates incarcerated on parole warrants are deducted from the total 45 individuals incarcerated on warrants, there are 27 inmates remaining (10.5% of the total inmate population of 256). Those 27 inmates are incarcerated on warrants for failure to appear. He stated that a failure to appear is an offense wherein an individual is first arrested, has been released on bond, and subsequently fails to appear for the next scheduled court date.

Judge Dearborn remarked that the Committee may hear comments from citizens that an alternative to jail overcrowding might be to allow more first-time offenders and minor offenders to be released on bond. He noted that many detainees who are eligible to be released on bond usually are released. He stated that, in reality, the majority of failure to appear detainees are detained because they were initially released on personal recognizance or low cash bonds, and still failed to appear for their next court date. Therefore, the rationale for releasing the lesser offenders on bond, to relieve overcrowding in the jail, does not sufficiently address the situation, when the number of failure to appear detainees is taken into consideration.

Judge Dearborn stated that 10.5% of the 256 total jail detainees, held on failure to appear warrants, might seem to be an unusually high number. He noted that the significance of this figure is a compelling argument against having lower bonds set.

Mr. Pokomey asked whether the figure of 154 New Charges Filed referred to 154 people being detained or 154 charges being filed. Mr. Scanlon responded that the figure of 154 referred to the number of people who were detained on the date cited in the analysis. He noted that there might be multiple charges levied against a detainee, and so the number of actual charges may be much higher.

Mr. Pokomey stated that the same situation must also apply to the category of Sentenced Inmates, with 49 being the number of detainees, rather than the number of felony charges. He asked whether the same situation was also true for the category of Other Inmates. Judge Dearborn responded that the majority of the inmates in the Other category are detained due to other reasons. Mr. Scanlon explained that the Other Inmates category generally refers to civil contempt charges, failure to appear, failure to comply with a court order and the like.

Ms. Bostic asked what was the day of the week for September 18, 2000, and whether it had any bearing on the figures. She noted that weekends versus weekdays might produce significantly different statistics. Mr. Scanlon responded that the jail population tends to peak over a weekend because there are people serving only on weekends, and there are higher incidences of DUI and domestic charges filed on weekends. It was **noted that** September 18, 2000 was a Monday.

Ms. Bostic asked what the subsection of "Storage" under Other Inmates meant. Mr. Scanlon responded that it probably refers to inmates who are being held for other jurisdictions.

Chairman Segobiano remarked that the total jail population of 256 inmates on the representative day of September 18, 2000, was higher than the Average Daily Inmate Jail Population in 1999 and the Average Total Jail Count in 1999, as cited by the chart labeled McLean County Sheriff's Department Jail Statistics from October 2, 2000. He noted that the Total Jail Population on September 18" seemed to be a somewhat higher count than usual. Judge Dearborn remarked that the number of inmates detained on a daily basis is not quite as significant as are the subcategories stating the reasons for the detentions.

Mr. Zeunik followed up on Mr. Pokomey's initial question by stating that there were a total of 132 inmates detained on felony charges, with 55 of those detainees being classified as Violent Felony Offenders. In like manner, there were 22 detainees for Misdemeanors, with 12 of those detainees classified as Violent Misdemeanor Offenders. Mr. Scanlon explained that, of the 132 inmates detained on felony charges, 36 of them were detained on drug-related offenses.

Mr. Zeunik explained that, of the total jail population of 256 detainees on September 18, 2000, 154 of those detainees were held as a result of **new charges being** filed. Of the 154 newly charged detainees, 132 detainees had pending felony charges and 22 had pending misdemeanor charges.

Judge Dearborn then presented the McLean County Sheriffs Department Jail Statistics as of October 2, 2000. He notes that statistics are available for the last five (5) full years for three (3) categories: 1) Average Total Jail Count; 2) Average Daily Inmate Jail Population; and 3) Average Daily Work Release Inmates. He noted that the Average **Daily** Inmate Jail Population is defined differently from the 'Average Total Jail Count. The Average Daily Inmate Jail Population-consists of those people who are in custody except for those who are on work release, people who are held in another county, or those who werereleased within 24 hours of being booked. The Average Total Jail Count, conversely, includes all the inmates accounted for in the Average Daily Inmate Jail Population, the Average Daily Work Release Inmates and all other inmates present on that day.

Judge Dearborn noted, in reference to the totals given in the Jail Statistics, that these figures encompass an entire year, as opposed to the representative day figures for September 18, 2000. In comparing the figures for the Average Total Jail Count in 1999, which was 223.5 people, and the Average Daily Inmate Jail Population in 1999, which was 198.3, it will be apparent that there are 34.2 people who are not accounted for within the jail population for the Average Daily Inmate Jail Population. He further noted that 10.2 inmates were not in the jail because they were on work release. He also noted that there were no available statistics as to how many of the inmates were being held in another county. However, that number is not ordinarily large. It is estimated that an average of 20 people are released daily on bond. In conclusion, Judge Dearborn explained that there are a number of people who are arrested, booked and then released on bail.

In another set of statistics, Judge Dearborn cited that there is a 5-year incremental breakdown, from 1970 through 1995 and 1999, showing the McLean County Population as a whole, the Average Jail Population, and the Number of Filings of Felony, Misdemeanor and Drunk Driving cases. He stated that, in 1985, 3% (79.3) of the population of the County were jail inmates. In 1990, 3.8% (116.9) were in custody. In 1995, 4.1% of the population of the County were jail inmates. In 1999, only 3.6% of the population of the County were jail inmates.

Judge Dearborn then explained the illustrative example of the graphs regarding Case Filings and Jail Population in 1985, 1990, 1995 and 1999. He stated that the graph shows the comparison between the Average Jail Population and the number of Felony, Misdemeanor and Driving Under the Influence (DUI) filings. The graph indicates that the number of Felony, Misdemeanor and DUI filings have increased significantly from 1985 to 1999.

Mr. Pokomey stated that he focused on the ratio between the Average Jail Population versus the McLean County Population. For each of the 5-year increments shown, the ratio increases each year, even in 1999. Judge Dearborn responded that the increase could be indicative of different rationales. One rationale might be that more instances of serious crime are occurring in McLean

County, thus precipitating the need for larger cash bonds for those offenses. If the cash bonds cannot be paid, those detainees will remain incarcerated in the jail.

Mr. Scanlon stated that there has been a trend legislatively to enhance penalties for subsequent criminal offenses, thus requiring higher cash bonds or other requirements for release.

Judge Dearborn noted that the last statistical data cited in his report presented information regarding counties that are comparable to McLean with regard to jail population and general population. The counties examined in this data are: McLean, Champaign, Kankakee, Macon, Peoria, and Rock Island. He stated that 1990 population figures were used in this comparison, noting that they are now nearly ten (10) years old, although still relatively similar.

Judge Dearborn explained that there is real similarity in terms of the number of filings of felony, misdemeanor and DUI cases during the 1998 calendar year, which was the most comprehensive data available at the time the report was compiled. The numbers of filings for each of the counties examined were in the 4,000 to 5,000 range, and therefore, were comparable.

Judge Dearborn cited the statistics from 1999 for the Average Daily Jail Population. He noted that, in comparing the counties listed with McLean County's average, Kankakee County and Rock Island County were the closest in number. Macon County, Champaign County were somewhat higher and Peoria County was substantially higher. He explained that the most revealing statistics, in terms of illustrating the activity level in the jail were the 1998 Court Filing Statistics and the 1999 Average Daily Jail Population statistics.

Mr. Pokomey stated that the per capita jail population in McLean County is lower than any of the other counties, with the exception of Rock Island County.

Judge Dearborn explained that the Sheriff of McLean County noted that the jail is overcrowded because of the growth in the community. He further noted that this is one negative aspect to population growth. He remarked that the statistics, as presented, are persuasive with regard to the possible expansion of the McLean County jail facility.

Chairman Segobiano asked whether the Average Total Jail Count for 1999 cited in the October 2, 2000 Jail Statistics, and the 1999 Average Daily Jail Population figure cited in the Jail Population Comparison are comparable figures. Judge Dearborn responded that the 1999 Average Daily Inmate Jail Population figure would be the appropriate comparison figure. Mr. Scanlon noted that the reason that the Average Daily Jail Population is frequently cited versus any other figure, is that such a figure is the most consistently reported number by all the jails in the counties of Illinois.

Judge Dearborn noted that care was taken to insure that all counties defined their populations in the same manner as McLean County. In that way, comparisons would be meaningful.

Mr. Zeunik commented that McLean County experienced significant population growth between 1980 and 1990. That growth was 8.4%. The increase in case filings was **8.9%** during that time. There is a 12% growth in population between 1990 and 1999. There is, however, a 73% increase in the number of case filings, or six (6) times the growth in population.

Chairman Segobiano asked how such statistics should be reconciled with the recently reported news headlines that crime is declining in the local area. Mr. Pokomey stated that **it** is possible that law enforcement is now more aggressive in filing new charges.

Mr. Hoselton asked what is the capacity of the jail. Mr. Zeunik responded that **205 inmates** is the capacity of the jail. Mr. Scanlon stated that the jail might house as many **210-215** inmates before sending inmates out of the County to be housed becomes a possibility.

Chairman Segobiano asked whether there are peak months or peak days when **the jail** population increases significantly. Mr. Scanlon explained that weekends generally are the time when the jail population increases significantly, due to the nature of arrests being made involving DUI and Domestic Battery issues. Additionally, he noted, inmates who serve sentences only on the weekends, and inmates who are on work release programs from Monday through Friday will be incarcerated during weekends as well, thus increasing the jail population on weekends.

Chairman Segobiano asked whether there is a time of the month or time of the year when significant increases in the jail population can be noted. Mr. Scanlon explained that such statistics were not investigated nor provided for the purposes of this report.

Ms. Bostic asked what an inmate does during a 24 hour time period within the jail, while **he/she** is serving the sentence, i.e. the daily routine of an inmate. Mr. Scanlon responded that there are several programs available to the inmates, such as the GED program, religious programs, and the Trustee programs that utilize inmates to perform work within the Law and Justice Center Building and the jail building. However, the bulk of an inmate's time is likely to be spent in the common room during the day and in their cell at night.

Mr. Pokomey noted that there are increasing numbers of felony cases and DUI cases that are being tried by the State's Attorney. He asked whether that would account for the higher numbers that are being seen in the jail counts. Judge Dearborn stated that it is conceivable that this could be the situation.

Chairman Segobiano asked what means to reduce the jail population have been discussed and considered by the judicial system. Judge Dearborn responded that the judicial system is well aware of the population of the jail. He stated that, to date; no specific program has been, considered, and that whatever alternatives are to be considered, must conform to the law.

Mr. Hoselton asked how overcrowded the jail is at this time. He further asked whether a significant number of inmates were being shipped out of the county to be housed in other locations. Mr. Scanlon stated that for 5-7 months there have been very few inmates housed out of County.

Ms. Bostic asked how much is the cost to house an inmate outside of the County. Mr. Zeunik responded that the cost is dependent upon the location. Some counties charge as little as \$35.00 per day and some charge more. Mr. Zeunik noted that, in addition to the per **diem housing** costs, there are other expenses associated with housing inmates outside of McLean County, such as medical and dental care received by inmates. McLean County has contracts with local healthcare providers, allowing for discounted rates, which are not available for out-of-county inmates. For these inmates, premiums are paid for such services.

Chairman Segobiano asked whether there is a medical screening process for inmates who are proposed to be housed outside of McLean County. Mr. Scanlon responded that there is a screening procedure employed during the booking process. Inmates with medical conditions are usually assigned to the McLean County location.

Mr. Scanlon explained that the Sheriffs Department uses a bus to transport inmates from McLean County to other Department of Corrections (DOC) locations as soon as possible, so that people may be moved expediently, thereby freeing up space in the jail. However, this by itself will not be the sole remedy to reducing the jail population.

Chairman Segobiano asked what the cost to the County would be to eliminate the work release option and simply assign jail time, in an effort to finish the sentence as expeditiously as possible. Judge Dearborn responded that such information was not available for this report.

Chairman Segobiano asked whether the same type of security is necessary for weekend inmates as is needed for other inmates. Mr. Scanlon responded that a minimum security or **dormitory-**type facility could be possible. Judge Dearborn stated that such a facility could potentially work in theory, but in reality, costs and possible locations, as well as changes in administration would need to be studied.

Mr. Hoselton asked about the Juvenile Detention Center in Normal, and whether space was available in that facility. Ms. Bostic responded that the facility used to take in juvenile offenders from other areas, but the local population growth has put this facility near capacity now.

Mr. Jack Moody, Director of Facilities Management, stated that at the October 25th Special Property Committee Meeting, a request was made for the Facilities Management staff to look into the water bill the **Fairview** Building, noting that it was unusually high.

Mr. Moody noted that Mr. Don Lee, Administrator of the McLean County Nursing Home, is responsible for the maintenance on the Fair-view Building. Nursing Home staff was requested by Mr. Lee to analyze the facility in depth in an attempt to determine the cause of the unusually high water bill. The water was shut off to the entire building and the meter was then tested to determine whether it produced accurate readings. It was found to be accurate. **The** water meter was also tested by the Town of Normal and no irregularities were found.

Mr. Moody stated that the building was thoroughly checked for leaks in the plumbing or frozen water; pipes. None were found. He noted that, after speaking with Mr. Gene **Jontry**, Director, Regional **Office** of Education, and Mr. Don Lee, Administrator, McLean County Nursing Home, it is felt that the source of the high water usage is a leaking toilet that had previously been undiscovered.

Ms. Bostic asked what the period of time was regarding the leak in the toilet. Mr. Moody responded that the duration of the undiscovered leak was unknown.

Mr. Moody noted that the water bills for the **Fairview** Building location have been \$76.71 for each of two (2) consecutive billing periods. This figure is significantly less than the amounts billed in 1999 that are in question. He noted that this indicates that the problem has been eliminated.

Mr. Moody explained that there are four (4) outside water spigots at the Fair-view Building location. He noted that one spigot was found to have a hose connected to it. In meeting with Mr. Don Lee, Mr. Moody stated that the best way to regulate the usage of these spigots was to deny access from the outside of the building. He suggested replacing the current spigots with industrial-style units that cannot be used without a key.

Mr. Moody noted that Mr. Gene **Jontry** pays the water bills upon being billed by the Auditor's Office. He has requested that his staff be more vigilant in discovering and attending to any type of water leaks that may be found in the **future**.

Mr. Moody explained that a normal water bill for the time period in question would be approximately \$250.00. He stated that, during this time of year, the boilers would be on in order to heat the building and that process uses water. He further stated that no water is used in landscaping at this location, so that could be eliminated as a possible explanation for the increase in the water bill.

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Chairman Segobiano noted that, in addition to the water bill being high, the gas bill was also quite high. Mr. Moody responded that in January 1999, a severe blizzard hit **McLean** County and there was an extended period of very cold weather.

Chairman Segobiano asked whether the ESDA building, which houses the Rescue Squad, had been examined. Mr. Moody stated that this building has its own water meter and is not a manned building, only being open when there is a training exercise or emergency services are utilized.

DATE 11 /02/00
 TIME 13:34:58
 Property Committee

FINANCIAL SYSTEM
 MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT
 AS OF 10/31/2000
 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

PAGE 1
 COMREPR
 AUD7


FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0001	GENERAL FUND		\$171,365.87	\$171,365.87
0350	MCBARNES BLDG CAP'L LEASE,		\$2,776.47	\$2,776.47
COMMITTEE REPORT TOTALS		=====	\$174,142.34 =====	\$174,142.34 =====

Chairman Segobiano presented the bills, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Property Committee by the County Auditor.

Motion by **Bostic/Pokorney** to approve payment of the bills as presented by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Segobiano adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha B. Ross
 Recording Secretary
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