

Minutes of a Special Justice Committee Meeting

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board held a special meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Chairman Renner

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. Curtis Hawk, Director, ESDA; Mr. Tony Cannon, Executive Director, MetCom; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender; Sheriff Dave Owens; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. William Yoder, State's Attorney

Others Present: Chief Deputy Sheriff Derick Love, Ms. Cindy Outlaw, State's Attorneys Office

Vice Chairman Nuckolls called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls stated that this is a special meeting of the Justice Committee to review several Departments' FY'2005 Recommended Budgets.

E.S.D.A. 0001-0047 can be found on pages 141-144 of the Recommended Budget and pages 1-3 of the Summary. Mr. Lindberg introduced Mr. Curtis Hawk, Director of ESDA. Mr. Lindberg reported that the ESDA Revenue Budget has not changed since last year and the Expense Budget is up 2.05% overall.

Mr. Owens expressed his appreciation for the work done by Mr. Hawk on the budget.

Mr. Lindberg noted that, with the exception of very modest changes in the salary portion of the expense and the employee medical insurance costs, which are outside of the Department's control, there are no changes in any of the other items.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to recommend tentative approval of the ESDA Department 0001-0047 FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

Metro McLean County Centralized Communications 0452-0030 can be found on pages 252-254 of the Recommended Budget and pages 4-7 of the Summary. Mr. Lindberg reported that MetCom is its own separate fund. He reminded the Committee that there are four main revenue sources for this budget, namely a transfer from the Emergency Telephone Systems Board, and funding from the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and McLean County. He noted that Revenue is up by 5.73% and this is always presented as a balanced budget. Mr. Lindberg explained that there is a formula used to allocate those portions amongst the four agencies. He indicated they go up proportionately and are all up 5.73%. The salary lines are up 4.77%. Mr. Lindberg explained that the majority of the employees in that department are members of a bargaining unit and their salaries are governed by contract. He noted that there are no outstanding items in the budget.

Mr. Lindberg introduced Mr. Tony Cannon, Executive Director of MetCom to answer any questions. Mr. Owens asked what would happen to the budget if the City of Bloomington pulled out. Mr. Lindberg replied that the City of Bloomington Police Department sent a notice indicating their intent to do so, effective January 1, 2006. Under the Intergovernmental Agreement and under the terms of the notice they sent, they are still obligated to pay the amount noted in this year's budget. However, absent any change, it would be their position that they would no longer be obligated to make a future payment to cover the 2006 year.

Motion by O'Connor/Rackauskas to recommend tentative approval of the Metro McLean County Centralized Communications 0452-0030 FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

Public Defender's Office 0001-0021 can be found on pages 75-79 of the Recommended Budget and pages 8-10 of the Summary. Mr. Lindberg reported that the Revenue is up 1.9%. He explained that people who are able to pay, are charged an amount for Public Defender services. He noted that the Public Defender's Office receives a modest amount of reimbursement from the State for work in sexually violent cases and also continues to receive a Department of Human Services Juvenile Grant, which funds a Social Worker Counselor who

works with juveniles to find appropriate services for them. Mr. Lindberg reported that the Expense side of the budget is up modestly. He noted there is the added position of the grant funded juvenile worker, which was approved earlier this year when the grant was received. There are very few changes in other areas.

Motion by Owens/Harding to recommend tentative approval of the Public Defender's Office 0001-0021 FY '2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

Sheriff's Department 0001-0029 can be found on pages 90-95 of the Recommended Budget and pages 11-14 of the Summary. Mr. Lindberg reported that, in the General Fund, Revenue is up three-quarters of one percent. He noted that part of that is due to the reduced average daily population in the jail; some of the larger accounts are jail population-driven. The overall budget, the largest budget in the General Fund, is \$6.6 million, which is up two-hundredths of one percent.

Motion by O'Connor/Owens to recommend tentative approval of the Sheriff's Department 0001-0029 FY '2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

Sheriff's Department Court Security Fund 0141-0029 can be found on pages 96-98 of the Recommended Budget and on pages 15-17 of the Summary. Mr. Lindberg reported that the reason the Revenue was down slightly is because 2004 was the first year the Omnibus Bill was implemented that raised fees in this area, as well as the fees for the Circuit Clerk's Office. The estimate proved to be higher than what will actually be realized. However, there will be enough revenue generated to cover the expense of the Court Security detail.

Motion by Owens/Harding to recommend tentative approval of the Sheriff's Department Court Security Fund 0141-0029 FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

Sheriff's Department COPS in School 0166-0029 can be found on pages 99-101 of the Recommended Budget and pages 18-19 of the Summary. Mr. Lindberg reported that this is a grant program that ended in May of last year. He noted that when there is a program that has had activity over the last three years, it is

included in the budget. The COPS in Schools program funded an officer in the Tri-Valley District. He reported that there will be no activity for 2005 and, within a couple years, it will not be included in the budget. Sheriff Owens reported that the program was successful.

There was some discussion among the Committee members regarding the program, including a question about the difference between the COPS in School Program and the DARE Program. Sheriff Owens replied that the DARE Officer is in the school to teach a specific curriculum. The COPS in School Program was more of a liaison with the Sheriff's Office and dealt with law enforcement problems and issues within the school.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of the Sheriff's Department COPS in School 0166-0029 FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.

Motion carried.

Merit Board 0001-0008 can be found on pages 36-38 of the Recommended Budget and pages 20-21 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reviewed the Sheriff's Merit Commission, noting that it is a small budget. He explained that it employs part-time individuals who administer tests for the Sheriff's Department to the deputies and correctional officers, and also conduct disciplinary hearings. He reported that there is no change in the budget and it is identical to last year's budget. Sheriff Owens added that the Merit Board has brought professionalism to Sheriffs' offices where they have been created. He explained that, by Merit Commission rules, he cannot fire someone who is part of a collective bargaining unit; rather the Merit Commission serves that purpose.

Motion by Rackauskas/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of the Merit Board 0001-0008 FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.

Motion carried.

Children's Advocacy Center 0129-0062 can be found on pages 206-208 of the Recommended Budget and pages 22-25 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that the Children's Advocacy Center has a total operating budget of \$461,491. He noted that this is one of the funds supported by property tax revenue pursuant to the referenda that created the Children's Advocacy Center. Property tax revenue will be \$110,554 in 2005. The balance of the revenue is derived from grants and a contribution from the Child Protection Network, which is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Mr. Zeunik pointed out that there is no change in the Illinois Criminal

Justice Information Authority grant, and there is a slight decrease in grant funding from the Department of Children and Family Services. He also noted a slight increase from the Child Protection Network. Mr. Zeunik reported that this is a budget that is a struggle to balance every year because of the needs they have versus the revenue that can be raised. He reported that there is a slight decrease in the full-time complement from 9.50 FTE positions in FY'2004 to 9.0 FTE positions in the FY'2005 Recommended Budget. There is little change in the rest of the budget. Mr. Zeunik introduced Ms. Larkin for any comments or questions. Ms. Harding asked if there was a part-time volunteer support specialist. Ms. Larkin explained that the office support specialist position was eliminated in order to divert the money to the CASA program. She indicated that there are two part-time volunteers who help with office work. Ms. Larkin noted that there is an intern in the office who has been very helpful in many areas, including searching for grants and revenue funds. There was some discussion regarding utilizing volunteers to do secretarial work. Ms. Rackauskas asked Ms. Larkin to consider ways the Justice Committee can help with the Children's Advocacy Center needs.

Motion by Owens/Harding to recommend tentative approval of the Children's Advocacy Center 0129-0062 FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

Rescue Squad 0001-0032 can be found on page 106 of the Recommended Budget and pages 35-37 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that this is the all-volunteer Rescue Squad, noting that Ed Books has attended the Justice Committee meetings. Mr. Zeunik reported that there is very little change in the total operating expense, with the biggest increase being in the vehicle maintenance and repair. He noted that he will be meeting with Fred Finck, Chief of the Rescue Squad, to discuss the potential of folding the Rescue Squad, as a separate program, into the ESDA Department. This would make the Rescue Squad a part of a County office or Department, which would allow them to become eligible for Federal money. Mr. Zeunik state the new ESDA Director, Curt Hawk, is well-qualified to oversee the Rescue Squad and he has a good working relationship with them. It would not be a separate department, but rather would be a program under ESDA. It will allow the Rescue Squad the ability to access more grant funding. Mr. Owens asked if it would still be an all volunteer squad, but with the ESDA Director reporting to the Justice Committee. Mr. Zeunik replied that would be the case.

Motion by O'Connor/Rackauskas to recommend tentative approval of the Rescue Squad 0001-0032 FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

State's Attorneys Office 0001-0020 can be found on pages 64-68 of the Recommended Budget and pages 26-29 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that there is significant change in the Revenue, with an increase from \$357,481 to \$404,454. He indicated the primary increase on the Revenue side is due to two grants, one grant from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to pay for the Assistant State's Attorney assigned to the Children's Advocacy Center, which increases from \$22,500 to \$45,000 and reflects an annualized amount. The second is a grant from the Child Protection Network (CPN) to fund the additional salary for the Assistant State's Attorney assigned to the Children's Advocacy Center.

Motion by O'Connor/Harding to recommend tentative approval of the State's Attorneys Office 0001-0020 FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

State's Attorneys Office Asset Forfeiture Fund 0152-0020 can be found on pages 69-70 of the Recommended Budget and pages 30-31 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that this is an extremely small fund. The State's Attorneys Office is working to increase the revenue. However, there is no projected change between the current year and FY '2005. He acknowledged that they are working at retiring a deficit in this fund that was created three years ago.

State's Attorneys Office IV-D Child Support Enforcement 0156-0020 can be found on pages 71-74 of the Recommended Budget and pages 32-34 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that this grant agreement was approved at the Board Meeting prior to this Special Justice Committee meeting where the IV-D Child Support Enforcement program budget was prepared. It was prepared based on an estimate of what the State's Attorneys Office would get from the Public Aid Grant. The budget was estimated at \$297,670 and the actual Grant Agreement was \$3,000 higher. Mr. Zeunik stated that it was important to note that this is a State Grant based on the State's fiscal year, July 1-June 30. The numbers under the Administrator column and Department Head column for the IV-D Child Support are annualized, anticipating that funding will continue for the balance of the County's fiscal year. Mr. Yoder informed the Committee that the State's Attorneys Office is beginning negotiations for next year and they hope to increase the grant.

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Motion by Rackauskas/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of the State's Attorneys Office Asset Forfeiture Fund 0152-0020 and State's Attorneys IV-D Child Support Enforcement 0156-0020 FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

Mr. Zeunik advised that the only Department budget not yet reviewed by this Committee is the Circuit Clerk's Office as Ms. Parker was in an all-day meeting today. That budget will be part of the regular November Justice Committee agenda.

Vice Chairman Nuckolls asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary