

## Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

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:

Sheriff Dave Owens; Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration; Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. William Yoder, State's Attorney; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad; Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services; Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, MetCom

Others Present: Mr. Derick Love, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Mr. Dave Joyce, Acting Assistant Chief, McLean County Rescue Squad

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the August 29, 2005 minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Owens/Nuckolls to approve the Minutes of the August 29, 2005 Committee Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner presented the Statistical Reports for August 2005 as submitted by Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked Mr. Cannon to present his report.

Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, McLean County Centralized Communications Center, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center Fund 0452. He explained that this is to purchase furniture, servers and software for MetCom. Mr. Cannon stated that he wanted to request and receive the new furniture at the same time as the move to the new STARCOM21 System. He advised that the MetCom Board approved the use of the unappropriated funds in Fund Balance for this furniture purchase at their August meeting.

Mr. Owens asked for assurance that the furniture purchase is necessary and will not cause a surplus of furniture when Bloomington pulls out. Mr. Cannon replied that the new furniture will be used. He noted that some of the used furniture from the Normal backup center will be put into storage with possible use in the future should a training center be created.

Mr. Owens and Ms. Rackauskas expressed concern for the cost of the furniture -- \$95,904.00 – and wanted a breakdown of expenses. Mr. Cannon replied that the purchase is for work station cubicles and each work station is \$9,297.00.

Mr. Owens asked if estimates were requested and received for these units and if the company chosen is local. Mr. Cannon replied that the company is in Wisconsin and is the prominent manufacturer in furniture for the dispatching business. Mr. Lindberg reported that there is a General Services Bid price on this type of furniture and a bid price was received from Motorola as part of the overall radio system bid. He noted that the price Mr. Cannon arranged with the vendor was lower than either the Federal GSA price or the Motorola price.

Mr. Gamblin added that Bloomington is looking at the same vendor for their dispatch units, which will be an advantage when backing up each other.

Motion by Owens/Nuckolls to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center Fund 0452 – MetCom Department 0030.

Ms. Harding asked how the employees are doing. Mr. Cannon replied that they are doing well and things are moving along. He stated that they are very excited about the new furniture.

Mr. Owens asked when the units will be received. Mr. Cannon replied that they will get the furniture at the same time the STARCOM21 system is ready. Mr. Owens asked Mr. Cannon to inform the Committee when the units are in so that members of the Committee can visit the facility.

Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Cannon.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration, presented his Status Reports for August 2005. He asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Rackauskas commented that the report shows that wireless 911 calls are up to almost 50%. Mr. Gamblin replied that this was one of the reasons for the upgrade on the 911 equipment which was passed at the last ETSB Board meeting. He stated that currently wireless and wire line 911 calls come in on the same 911 trunks. The upgrade will separate the wireless and the wire line 911 trunks to avoid blocking between the two systems and segregate the calls.

Mr. Gamblin noted that the voice-over IP, which the FCC requires, reduces the cost for the network and enables more types of calls to be handled. He stated that several of the "main players" with voice-over IP have indicated they will pay the same surcharge as the wire line carriers. Mr. Gamblin reported that the equipment has been ordered.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions for Mr. Gamblin. Hearing none, he asked Sheriff Owens to present his report.

Sheriff Dave Owens reviewed the McLean County Detention Facility Population Report for September 2005. He reminded the Committee that the Sheriff's Office received a grant to upgrade the camera system at the Law and Justice Center, and advised them that the bids were higher than they expected. Sheriff Owens indicated that he will bring a recommendation to the Committee at a stand-up meeting on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what is the difference in price. Sheriff Owens replied that \$7,400.00 is needed to supplement the grant of \$47,000.00.

Sheriff Owens also advised that he will be requesting funds to cover the cost of the Live Scan, the electronic fingerprinting system, which he will also bring to the stand-up meeting.

There was some discussion, raised by Ms. Rackauskas, on the significantly higher special needs of the female population in jail versus the male population. Sheriff Owens replied that the special needs are both physical and psychological. He stated that there has also been an increasing rise in the female population. Ms. Rackauskas advised that this issue should be taken under consideration when the time comes to plan a new jail.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner, presented her Monthly Report for August 2005. She reported that the numbers have been down for the summer, but she expects they will increase again. Ms. Kimmerling noted that the number of cases reported was similar to last year, but the number of resulting autopsies was much lower. She stated that the budgeted revenue figure has been met at this point.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Kimmerling for her report.

Chairman Renner presented the Monthly Caseload Report for August 2005 as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, presented several statistical reports. He reviewed the Monthly Caseload Report, noting that the numbers are typical to previous reports.

Mr. Yoder distributed an additional statistical mid-term report, which, along with the other reports, illustrated some of the goals he has reached since his appointment as State's Attorney, particularly with the Felony Division. He reported that he made significant and effective changes in the Felony Division, noting that he was particularly concerned with the felony conviction rate. Mr. Yoder pointed out that a large number of people charged with felony crimes ended up receiving plea agreements. He indicated that, due to the changes he implemented and with the exceptional work of the local police departments, the Sheriff's Department and the State's Attorney Office, the felony conviction rate has increased from 61% in 2001-2002 to 77% in 2004 and 76% year-to-date in 2005. Mr. Yoder advised the Committee that he believes the appropriate felony conviction rate should be 75%-80%.

Mr. Yoder reported that his office is focused on criminals who pose the greatest threat to the citizens of McLean County (Class X and Class 1 are the most serious offenses). To that end, he informed the Committee that the State's Attorneys Office doubled the number of Class X felony convictions during his first year from 9 the year before to 18 convictions, and this trend continues today. Mr. Yoder reviewed the other felony statistics, pointing out the increases in all felony cases since he took office.

Mr. Yoder expressed his pride in the record he has achieved, with his assistant state's attorneys and the law enforcement community.

Ms. Rackauskas expressed her appreciation for the State's Attorney and the State's Attorneys office for their hard work and dedication to the McLean County community. The other members of the Committee concurred.

Mr. Owens asked if the Committee could get the statistics on the sexual assault cases that go through the Children's Advocacy Center. Mr. Yoder replied that he would get the statistics for the Committee.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions or comments for Mr. Yoder. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Castleman to present her report.

Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services, reviewed the Court Services Adult/Juvenile Division Statistics for August 2005. She noted that the report is similar to previous months.

Ms. Castleman advised the Committee that the Juvenile Detention Center recently had a very successful audit by the American Correctional Association. She stated that the auditors were very impressed with both the physical appearance of the Center and the quality of life it offers.

Ms. Castleman reported that a group of the Justice community members will be going to Jacksonville, Florida in the middle of the month for their final Drug Court training.

Ms. Rackauskas asked with is the next step after the training. Ms. Castleman replied that, when the training is successfully completed, the Federal Grant should become available next spring at which time the County can apply for the grant. She indicated that the results of the grant request should be known sometime next year. Ms. Castleman stated that they are in the process of developing a community forum, which will be held following the November Justice Committee meeting and which the Committee will be invited to attend.

Mr. Ed Books, McLean County Rescue Squad, presented an overview of activities. He introduced Mr. Dave Joyce, Acting Assistant Chief, who has been with the squad for 20 years. Mr. Books reported that the Rescue Squad has had 15 calls year-to-date and recently conducted a five-hour search for a missing person.

Chairman Renner informed Mr. Books that there will be an additional Justice Committee meeting at which time the reorganization and budgetary considerations of the Rescue Squad will be discussed.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Children's Advocacy Center Fund 0129. She explained that the Children's Advocacy Center received a small grant from Illinois Criminal Justice to update computers. The grant allowed them to purchase three new computers.

Motion by Rackauskas/Nuckolls to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Children's Advocacy Center Fund 0129, Children's Advocacy Center 0062.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Larkin reviewed her Monthly Statistical Report and CASA Report, noting that activity at the Advocacy Center has been slow, which has been a trend with other Centers across the state.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, introduced the review of the Fiscal Year 2006 Recommended Budget for the following departments:

**Children's Advocacy Center – 0129-0062** can be found on pages 217-220 of the Budget Book and pages 43-46 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that the total budget is up \$783.00. He stated that, on the revenue side, the Property Taxes have increased from \$110,554.00 in the FY'2005 Adopted Budget to \$115,000.00 in the FY'2006 Recommended Budget. Line Item 410.0101, Child Protection Network, has increased from \$102,749.00 in the FY'2005 Adopted Budget to \$111,010.00 in the FY'2006 Recommended Budget, which reflects the proposed grant funding to be received by the Center from the Child Protection Network.

Mr. Zeunik stated that the Full-Time Equivalent Staffing remains at 9.00 FTE's. However, there is a change from a one half time Office Support Specialist to a full-time Office Support Specialist and from 6.50 FTE Case Managers down to 6.0 Full-Time Equivalent Case Managers.

Ms. Larkin commented that the budget is as trim as possible. She noted that she was able to increase a few lines this year, namely vehicle transportation and travel expenses. Ms. Larkin indicated that she continues to look for other sources of outside funding.

Ms. Rackauskas commended Ms. Larkin and her staff on the budget and the work they do at the Children's Advocacy Center.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of the Children's Advocacy Center – 0129-0062 FY'2006 Recommended Budget as submitted.

Motion carried.

**Metro McLean County Communications – 0452-0030** can be found on pages 267-269 of the Budget Book and pages 47-53 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that this budget will decrease in FY'2006 from \$2,381,850.00 to \$2,238,221.00, which is a 6% decrease. Mr. Zeunik stated that the City of Bloomington expects to be fully operational on July 1, 2006, thus the MetCom Budget is actually two budgets. MetCom will have no operational changes from January 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup>. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the City will begin receiving the calls from within the City of Bloomington and MetCom will handle the balance of the calls. Mr. Zeunik reported that this results in a decrease of eight positions; MetCom will go from 30 Full-Time Equivalent Telecommunicator ("TC") positions to 24 Full-Time Equivalent TC's, and there will be a reduction from five Full-time Equivalent Supervisors to two Supervisors.

Mr. Zeunik stated that many of the other lines do not change dramatically. He pointed out that Page 51 of the Summary shows the 2006 combined budget breakdown -- 2006A is the budget for January 1 through June 30, 2006, 2006B is the budget for July 1 through the end of the year and 2006 Combined shows the total for all the different line items. Page 52 of the Summary provides a bullet-point summary on how the budget was created. The first half of the year was created using the formula provided when MetCom was established per the Intergovernmental Agreement and the second half of the year budget was based on the settlement agreement that was approved with Bloomington leaving.

Mr. Cannon commented that it was quite a challenge to complete the budget and expressed his appreciation to the Administrator's Office for their assistance. He reported that the MetCom budget is fairly lean and noted that it was difficult to make the cuts that were necessary, particularly in personnel.

Mr. Zeunik advised the Committee that the MetCom Board reviewed this budget and both the City of Manager of Bloomington and the Chief of the Bloomington Police Department were present at that meeting. He reported that the budget, as presented, was recommended unanimously by the MetCom Board.

Motion by Harding/Nuckolls to recommend tentative approval of the Metro McLean County Communications – 0452-0030 FY'2006 Recommended Budget as submitted.

Motion carried.

Ms. Kimmerling reported that the Coroner's Office volunteered to assist in New Orleans. She informed the Committee that some of the Coroner's Office budgeted training dollars are utilized for people to attend classes to prepare for the national exam to become certified death investigators. Ms. Kimmerling stated that this certification was one of the requirements necessary to assist in New Orleans.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the Coroner's Office has re-evaluated their emergency procedures should a disaster occur in light of what happened with Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Kimmerling replied that she believes an emergency plan must be flexible and evaluated often. Ms. Rackauskas stated that it is important to learn from others' experiences.

Mr. Zeunik reported that he attended a practice drill last week with ESDA to prepare for a drill next week. He stated that ESDA is required every two years to go through a drill as if there was an accident at the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant. Mr. Zeunik indicated that representatives from the Coroner's Office attended the practice drill, as well as representatives from Emergency Services, the Administration and the Sheriff's Department. The drill on Wednesday morning is the actual exercise and all of the same people will be involved again. He noted that, in addition to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, there will also be representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency present to critique the drill. Mr. Zeunik stated that McLean County is a relocation point for some of the adjacent townships in DeWitt County.



Mr. Zeunik reported that Curt Hawk just returned from two weeks in Biloxi, Mississippi, where he was called to assist. He noted that Mr. Hawk has 3,000 pictures of the area and what they did to assist. Mr. Zeunik advised that he has asked Mr. Hawk to prepare a 15-minute presentation to the County Board on his experience and how it could be related to McLean County's response to disasters.

**Coroner's Office – 0001-0031** can be found on pages 108-111 in the budget Book and pages 54-56 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that, on the Revenue side, Morgue Fees are down from \$30,500.00 in the FY'2005 Adopted Budget to \$28,750.00 in the FY'2006 Recommended budget, which is based on 115 out of county cases. He stated that it is a very conservative revenue projection, but it also recognizes that McLean County is no longer the primary provider for Peoria County.

Mr. Zeunik noted that there is no change in the Recommended Budget in terms of the Full-Time Equivalent Staffing. He pointed out that Line Item 620-0001, Operating and Office Supplies, appears to have jumped significantly from \$3,100.00 to \$14,500.00, a 368% increase. This is strictly a change the Auditor's Office made and is consistent in all of the budgets, wherein it reallocates where some of the expenses will be charged. If you add that line item and Line Item 621-0001, there is very little budgetary change.

Mr. Zeunik noted that the Autopsy line is up from \$83,000.00 to \$85,500.00 and the total Operating Budget in the Coroner's Office is up 3.44% over FY'2005 Adopted Budget.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of the Coroner's Office – 0001-0031 FY'2006 Recommended Budget as submitted.

Mr. Owens expressed his appreciation to Ms. Kimmerling for being conservative with the revenue projections.

Motion carried.

**Sheriff's Department – 0001-0029** can be found on pages 93-98 of the Budget Book and pages 57-61 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that revenue is up nearly 25%, most of which is found in Line Item 410-0037, Reimbursement for Services, which is due to the contract with the Transportation Security Administration for the deputies at the Bloomington-Normal Airport.

Mr. Zeunik noted that the changes on the expense side are also due to the above contract. There are two deputy patrol officers in the FY'2006 Recommended Budget, both of whom are fully-funded by the contract with TSA. He noted that one deputy was added this year and, under the terms of the contract with TSA, the Sheriff has gained approval to add another deputy in 2006.

Mr. Zeunik stated that there is very little change in the Material and Supply Line Items except the consistent change across all budgets in the 620 Operating and Office Supply Line, which increased 151% due to the changes made by the Auditor. He noted that Gasoline and Fuel has increased due to the price of gasoline. There is very little change in the Contractual Services area. Mr. Zeunik pointed out a change in Line Item 743.0001, Radio and Communication Equipment, which is a result of the implementation of the STARCOM21 Network User Fee payment.

Mr. Zeunik identified an increase in Capital Lines, i.e. Purchase of Furniture and Equipment, which is related to the renovation of the Law and Justice Center and the additional space for the Sheriff's Office.

Motion by Nuckolls/Rackauskas to recommend tentative approval of the Sheriff's Department – 0001-0029 FY'2006 Recommended Budget as submitted.  
Motion carried.

**Sheriff's Department Court Security Fund – 0141-0029** can be found on pages 99-101 of the Budget Book and pages 62-64 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that this is a dedicated Court Security fee which is collected by the Circuit Clerk and used by the Sheriff to provide security in the Courts. In the FY'2006 Recommended Budget there are no changes in staffing. He noted that the Court Security fee will pay for one patrol sergeant and six deputies who are assigned to the Court floors and the Law and Justice Center. Mr. Zeunik stated that the total budget is \$375,000.00, which is down 11.2% over the FY'2005 Adopted Budget. The decrease is primarily a reflection of the projected fee going down from \$422,447.00 to \$375,000.00.

Mr. Zeunik indicated that the Operating Budget has very few operating lines and little change. The Material and Supply lines are down 10%. He stated that the Contractual lines are up slightly over the FY'2005 Adopted Budget and there are no capital dollars proposed in next year's budget.

Motion by Nuckolls/Owens to recommend tentative approval of the Sheriff's Department Court Security Fund – 0141-0029 FY'2006 Recommended Budget as submitted.  
Motion carried.

**Sheriff's Department Multidisciplinary Domestic Violence Grant – 0160-0029** can be found on pages 102-104 of the Budget Book and pages 65-66 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik advised that this is a grant secured by the State's Attorney. The total grant is \$310,558.00 and the Sheriff's share is \$120,981.00. He noted that most of the expense is in personnel for the full-time deputy assigned to domestic violence cases in the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Rackauskas/Harding to recommend tentative approval of the Sheriff's Department Multidisciplinary Domestic Violence Grant – 0160-0029 FY'2006 Recommended Budget as submitted.  
Motion carried.

**Sheriff's Department COPS in Schools – 0166-0029** can be found on pages 67-68 of the Budget Book and pages 67-68 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik stated the grant for COPS in Schools no longer exists and was last funded in 2004. He noted that this will be the final year the program will be listed in the budget.

**Merit Board – 0001-0008** can be found on pages 34-36 of the Budget Book and pages 69-70 of the Summary. Mr. Zeunik reported that this revenue line item account is budgeted at \$1,000.00 in the FY'2006 Recommended Budget, which is the same amount as in the FY'2005 Adopted Budget. He noted that the revenue depends on how many applications are administered and what application fees are collected from the applicants.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of the Merit Board – 0001-0008 FY'2006 Recommended Budget as submitted.  
Motion carried.

Sheriff Owens commented that he just had a Deputy return from Louisiana, noting that Illinois sent 300 police officers to Louisiana where they were sworn in as Louisiana State Police. He indicated that they will be reimbursed for most of their expenses. Sheriff Owens stated that he believes Illinois is much better prepared to deal with a disaster than was the State of Louisiana.

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Chairman Renner presented the September 30, 2005 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a pending total of \$899.55, a Prepaid total of \$1,772,438.76 for a fund total of \$1,773,338.31.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend approval of the Justice Committee bills as of September 30, 2005 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

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Chairman Renner polled the Committee to determine a date for an extra Justice Committee meeting to review the final Justice Budgets. Mr. Zeunik reviewed the remaining budgets that need to be reviewed, noting that there are several large budgets.

After some discussion, the meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. with the plan to complete the remaining budgets.

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary