

Minutes of a Special Justice Committee Meeting

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board held a special meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

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

Elected Officials/
Department Heads: Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner; Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, Metro McLean County Communications Center; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender

Others Present: Ms. Barb Nafziger, Chief Deputy Coroner

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Renner stated that this is a special meeting of the Justice Committee to review the FY'2007 Recommended Budget for offices and departments under the oversight of the Justice Committee.

Coroner's Office – 0001-0031 can be found on pages 110-113 in the FY'2007 Recommended Budget and pages 6-9 of the Summary.

Ms. Kimmerling reported that the major areas of concern deal with revenue. She advised that McLean County has a morgue facility, Will County has a facility and Kankakee County recently opened a new morgue facility. These other facilities have created competition for McLean County. Ms. Kimmerling stated that McLean County, over the past few years, has raised its morgue fee to cover its expenses. She reported that, beginning in 2007, the morgue fee will be decreased from \$250.00 to \$225.00 to be more competitive with nearby morgue facilities. Ms. Kimmerling explained that Will County and Kankakee County charge a morgue fee plus additional fees as needed for other services provided, which are generally significant. She indicated that McLean County will decrease its morgue fee, but add a separate fee for transcription services. This additional fee, minus the reduced revenue in morgue fee, will result in an increase in revenue to the Coroner's Office.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the morgue fee will be the same as the other Counties. Ms. Kimmerling replied that the reduced McLean County morgue fee will be less than the morgue fees in the other Counties. Ms. Rackauskas asked if the additional fee is a step in the direction of itemized billing. Ms. Kimmerling stated that they are not charging any additional itemized fees, except for the addition of the transcription service. She added that X-rays have always been an additional fee. Ms. Kimmerling indicated she will provide the Committee with a copy of the Coroner's Office fees.

Mr. Zeunik reported that the Materials and Supplies line item accounts have been budgeted in the FY'2007 Recommended Budget at the same level or less as in the FY'2006 Adopted Budget except for line item #608.0001, Gasoline/Oil/Diesel Fuel and line item #627.0001, Photo Supplies/Film. He stated that the gasoline/oil/diesel fuel line item has increased from \$5,000.00 in FY'2006 to \$6,000.00 in FY'2007 due to the anticipated increase in the per gallon cost for gasoline. The Photo Supplies/Film line item has increased from \$5,000.00 to \$5,500.00, which reflects the volume of photographs that have to be processed as a result of the number of cases handled by the office. Mr. Zeunik advised the Committee that a new vehicle has been budgeted for the Coroner's Office in the Fleet program of the County Board's budget.

Motion by Nuckolls/Owens to recommend tentative approval of the Coroner's Office – 0001-0031 FY'2007 Recommended Budget as submitted.

Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center – 0452-0039 can be found on pages 275-278 of the Recommended Budget and pages 10-13 of the Summary found in the Agenda Packet. Chairman Renner noted that there a lot of decreases in the MetCom budget, with an overall decrease of 7.35%.

Mr. Cannon indicated that, with the City of Bloomington leaving MetCom, it has been necessary to make a considerable number of cuts in the Budget. He noted that, since it was not possible to cut equipment or operating costs, the only way to make the cuts was through staffing. Mr. Cannon stated that the telecommunicator staff was reduced by six employees.

Mr. Cannon advised that the FY'2007 Recommended Budget Revenue is budgeted based on the formula defined in the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Emergency Telephone Systems Board (ETSB), City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and McLean County for allocating the costs of operating the MetCom Center. He reported that the Intergovernmental Agreement provides that

the Town of Normal, McLean County and the ETSB will increase their annual contribution by 8.75%, while the City of Bloomington's contribution to MetCom will decrease over a four year period to \$0. Mr. Cannon indicated that he asked the Emergency Telephone Systems Board for additional funds and they agreed to provide minimal additional funds.

Mr. Owens asked what grant funding opportunities are available. Mr. Cannon replied that he is not aware of any grants and stated he is reluctant to depend on grant funding. He indicated that ETSB receives \$1.25 from the residents of McLean County as a surcharge on telephones. A portion of that amount is allocated to MetCom.

Mr. Zeunik explained that the County Board does not review and approve the ETSB budget. He stated that ETSB's contribution to MetCom in 2007 is \$794,811.00, which represents an 8.75% increase. He stated that line item 743.0001, Radio/Communications Maintenance, has increased from \$79,750.00 in the FY'2006 Adopted Budget to \$87,960.00 in the FY'2007 Recommended Budget. The actual cost for Radio and Communications Maintenance is actually more than that figure, but this amount is the net amount after ETSB's contribution of \$24,000.00. Mr. Cannon added that ETSB agreed to give MetCom \$189,616.00 on top of the separation agreement.

Ms. Rackauskas expressed confusion with the Budget. Mr. Zeunik explained that there are actually two budgets to operate MetCom. One is Fund 0452, which is under the oversight of the County Board and includes contributions from the City of Bloomington, McLean County, the Town of Normal and ETSB. The second is ETSB's budget, which is not under the County's review, and is not seen by the Committee. The two budgets together represent the total cost to operate MetCom and to handle the E-911 calls that come into that Center. Mr. Cannon clarified that ETSB actually pays a portion of the monthly telephone bills, noting that the \$24,000.00 is not a cash amount to MetCom.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of the Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center – 0452-0039 FY'2007 Recommended Budget as submitted.
Motion carried.

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

Public Defender's Office – 0001-0021 can be found on pages 80-84 of the Recommended Budget and pages 1-5 of the Summary in the Agenda Packet. Chairman Renner reported that the Budget has increased 2.27% over the FY'2006 Budget.

Ms. Davis indicated that the increase in the budget is due to the increase in personnel that was approved last year. She also noted that the State of Illinois now requires Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for the attorneys in the office.

Mr. Zeunik advised that the position of Case Manager has been budgeted to continue in FY'2007. This position was funded by a grant that the Public Defender was awarded. With the end of the grant funding, Ms. Davis asked that this position be funded.

Ms. Davis expressed her enthusiasm for the new Drug Court. She indicated that the last three weeks, the Drug Court participants have had clean screenings, which shows that personal attention and a team approach works. She pointed out that her Case Manager/Social Worker is available to the Drug Court participants to help them receive various services they may need in the community.

Ms. O'Connor asked what happened to the Probation Officer positions. Ms. Davis replied that the two Probation Officers were moved to the Court Services Budget. Mr. Zeunik added that the Probation Officers were originally included in the Public Defender's Budget because Ms. Davis was able to get a grant to fund all of their expenses. When the grant ran out, the County agreed to fund the positions as they are valuable positions. In the FY'2007 Recommended Budget, the positions were moved to Court Services.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what are the hours of Drug Court. Ms. Davis replied that Drug Court meets at 4:30 p.m. every Thursday afternoon. She noted that the hours were scheduled at that time so that people with jobs can attend. Ms. Davis encouraged Committee members to attend a session of Drug Court.

Mr. Zeunik asked where Drug Court meets should Committee members want to attend. Ms. Davis indicated that Drug Court meets in Judge Drazewski's Courtroom on the 4th floor of the Law and Justice Center.

Motion by O'Connor/Rackauskas to recommend tentative approval of the Public Defender's Office – 0001-0021 FY'2007 Recommended Budget as submitted.

Motion carried.

Special Justice Committee Meeting
October 17, 2006
Page Five

Chairman Renner advised that there are several departmental budgets that will be reviewed at the regular Justice Committee meeting on Monday, November 6th, including Circuit Court, State's Attorney, Circuit Clerk and Children's Advocacy Center.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Renner adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary