

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, June 7, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 700 of the Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Member Rackauskas

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present:

Mr. Dave Goldberg, Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Center, Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, Mr. David Owens, Sheriff, Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, Ms. Barb Nafziger, Deputy Coroner, Coroner's Office, Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration, Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, MetCom, Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk

Others Present: Mr. Bob Hathway, Chairman of the Normal Human Relations Commission

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

Chairman Renner noted that Mr. Owens had a special request. Mr. Owens requested that the Committee observe a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Paul Welch, former State's Attorney, and former President Ronald Reagan.

Chairman Renner presented the May 3, 2004 minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by O'Connor/Owens to approve the Minutes of the
May 3, 2004 Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner informed the Committee that Mr. Bob Hathway, Chairman of the Normal Human Relations Commission, would like to present an overview of Drug Court to the Committee.

Mr. Hathway stated that he became involved in Drug Court through his position with the Normal Human Relations Commission. He stated the problem is that drug use is habitual and is known to increase crime. It has been estimated that 60% - 80% of crimes end up being drug related.

Mr. Hathway believes that Drug Court is a good alternative to jail. He stated that a large percentage of the people that go through Drug Court successfully complete the program, and a very small number return to drug use. The offenders will see the same Judge, State's Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Worker, and caseworker through their time in the program. He stated that this consistency would insure continuity and familiarity with the treatment plan and the offender's compliance with the plan.

Mr. Hathway stated some of the benefits of a Drug Court Program would include a monetary savings, create drug free and self-sufficient citizens, and can create a safer and more stable community. Mr. Hathway informed the Committee that implementation grants are available from the Justice Department to begin a Drug Court program.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments for Mr. Hathway. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Hathway for his presentation and for attending the Committee Meeting. He also notified the Committee that Judges Freese, Robb, and Fitzgerald would be attending an Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts conference on Drug Courts on June 17 - 18, 2004.

Chairman Renner noted that Ms. Davis' reports from the Public Defender's Office are included in the agenda packet and asked if anyone had any questions or comments on them. None were heard.

Mr. Dave Goldberg, Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Center, 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, Court Services Department 0022, Adult Probation Fee Services Fund 0146, Court Services Department 0022.

Motion by Nuckolls/Owens to recommend approval of the
Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the
McLean County Fiscal Year 2004 Combined Annual
Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001,
Court Serviced Department 0022, Adult Probation Fee
Services Fund 0146, Court Services Department 0022.

Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked the Committee if they had any questions for Mr. Goldberg. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Goldberg for attending.

Ms. Billie Larkin, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, informed the Committee that on July 29, 2004 the National Advocacy Center Accreditation Team will be visiting the Advocacy Center. She noted that the Advocacy Center is about 62% of where they were last year with interviews. Ms. Larkin noted that she included with her statistical reports an interesting article on the decline in child abuse cases. This article offers some insight into why there is a decline in reporting of child abuse cases.

Chairman Renner asked the Committee if they had any comments or questions for Ms. Larkin. Hearing none, he thanked her for attending.

Sheriff Owens 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, Sheriff's Department 0029 – Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Multi-Disciplinary Domestic Violence Grant. He noted that this grant is contingent on funding being received from the State of Illinois.

Motion by Nuckolls/O'Connor to recommend approval of the Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2004 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, Sheriff's Department 0029 – Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Multi-Disciplinary Domestic Violence Grant, contingent upon funding being received from the State of Illinois.

Motion carried.

Mr. Owens asked Sheriff Owens about the information he brought back from the NACo Conference in regards to the COPS Program and grant funding for the purchase of Electronic Monitoring bracelets.

Sheriff Owens stated that as of June 1, 2004 the Sheriff's Department no longer employs a School Resource Officer. The COPS School Resource Officer Program was a three-year grant and Tri-Valley School District and the Sheriff's Department split the fourth year. There were only two districts that had showed interest in this program, Tri-Valley and Olympia.

Mr. Owens stated that the matching funds could be waived if the school districts and the County can prove they don't have the funds available for the program.

Sheriff Owens commented that he did not feel it was appropriate for him to apply for an electronic monitoring grant, since the Sheriff's Office is not responsible for administrating the electronic monitoring program. He asked Mr. Owens if the grant had to be applied for by law enforcement. Sheriff Owens suggested that the information be forwarded to Court Services or the Circuit Court. Sheriff Owens said he would look at the grant again, but stated that this is a criminal justice issue.

Ms. O'Connor asked Mr. Zeunik if the Sheriff's Department would not be applying for the Electronic Monitoring Grant, who would be the appropriate office. Mr. Zeunik stated Court Services or the Circuit Court might be able to apply for the grant. He said he would need to look at the grant requirements again to make sure it is not limited to law enforcement.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions or comments for Sheriff Owens. Hearing none, he thanked Sheriff Owens for attending.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, 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, State's Attorney's Office 0020 – Illinois Criminal Justice Authority Multi-Disciplinary Domestic Violence Grant contingent upon funding being received from the State of Illinois.

Motion by Owens/Harding to recommend approval of the
Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the
McLean County Fiscal Year 2004 Combined Annual
Appropriation and Budget General Fund 0001, State's
Attorney's Office 0020 – Illinois Criminal Justice
Authority Multi-Disciplinary Domestic Violence Grant
contingent upon funding being received from the State of
Illinois.

Motion carried.

Mr. Yoder 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, State's Attorney's Office 0020 – Department of

Children and Family Services Child Abuse Attorney. He stated that this is being renewed with State funding.

Motion by Nuckolls/O'Connor to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2004 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, State's Attorney's Office 0020 – Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Attorney.
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions for Mr. Yoder. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Yoder for attending the meeting.

Barb Nafziger, Chief Deputy Coroner, presented the April 2004 report. She noted that the case load is higher in 2004 than in previous years, partly due to Out of County work. Ms. Nafziger informed the Committee that Peoria County has been advertising for a Pathologist and is currently remodeling a room for a morgue.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions for Ms. Nafziger. Hearing none, he thanked her for attending the meeting.

Mr. Bill Gamblin, Director, 911 Administration, presented his Monthly Statistical Reports. He explained to the Committee that wireless number portability is now available in McLean County. There are two components: 1) you can change wireless carriers and keep you old wireless telephone number and 2) part of the plan will allow you to move your home phone number (a land line) and make it your wireless number allowing you to get rid of your home phone number. The problem with moving your home phone number to your wireless phone is that the 911 Call Center uses a landline database, where they can find the location of any land line a phone number. A cellular call cannot be located as precisely as a landline call.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or concerns for Mr. Gamblin. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Gamblin for attending.

Mr. Tony Cannon, Director, MetCom, explained to the Committee the procedures for answering 911 calls. Mr. Cannon stated MetCom does not place emergency or any calls on hold at any time. MetCom has the main call center and a back-up call center in Normal. The back up center is staffed with two people at all timea and their main

responsibility is fire and EMS dispatching. All 911 calls are received at MetCom. The dispatcher decides if the call is a fire or EMS call. If the call is a fire or EMS call it is then transferred to the back-up center where the dispatcher at the back-up center treats the call as if they just received the 911 call. The original dispatcher remains on the line until the back-up dispatcher picks up the phone.

Mr. Cannon informed the Committee that he had attended several public meetings, County Board meetings, and fire and EMS meetings to explain how the call procedure was going to operate and what was happening at the 911 Call Center and the Back-up Center.

Mr. Cannon has found that in some jurisdictions there are three separate locations for dispatching: a call center will be located in one place, a fire dispatch center would be located in another location, with the police dispatch center being located in yet a third location. He feels that MetCom operates well.

Mr. Zeunik asked Mr. Cannon to explain the equipment used to store a call. Mr. Cannon explained that all of the calls are recorded on a Dictaphone System. The calls are kept on a hard-drive system, and after a period of time, the calls are then transferred to a DVD, which is then kept for an additional 60 days. All radio traffic is recorded as well. All of the calls are entered in the Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) System.

With no other questions or comments for Mr. Cannon, Chairman Renner thanked him for attending the meeting.

Ms. Sanyd Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented her monthly reports to the Committee. She noted that in the Agenda packet, there was a glossary explaining terms used in her reports, a Guideline For Reading Circuit Clerk Statistical Reports, and a Case Code Letter and Category Outline.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions for Ms. Parker. Hearing none, he thanked her for attending the meeting.

Mr. Zeunik presented information on EMS and ambulance service within the County.

Mr. Owens and Ms. O'Connor stated they would like to pursue Drug Court and Electronic Monitoring.

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Chairman Renner asked that the minutes reflect that the Committee was unanimous in its support of finding alternatives to jail.

Chairman Renner presented the May 31, 2004 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a prepaid total of \$2,128,172.65, and a fund total of \$2,128,172.65.

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Motion by Owens/O'Connor to approve the Justice Committee bills for May 31, 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 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karina L. Bak
Recording Secretary

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