

Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner; Members Hoselton, Wendt, McIntyre and Rankin

Members Absent: Member Rackauskas

Other County Board
Members Present: Member Nuckolls

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Administrative Services; and Ms. Judith LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center; Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA; Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk; Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services; Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney

Others Present: Mr. Ron Lewis, First Assistant Public Defender; Ms. Barb Nafziger, Chief Deputy Coroner; Coroner's Office

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the minutes from the April 7, 2009 Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by Hoselton/Rankin to approve the Minutes of the April 7, 2009 Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Mr. Ron Lewis, First Assistant Public Defender, Public Defender's Office, presented two requests for approval of two contracts. The first contract is between Mr. Harvey C. Welch, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's Office, and the second is a contract between Mr. Terry W. Dodds, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's Office.

Mr. Lewis advised that these two smaller contracts with two attorneys replace one large contract with one attorney. He stated that there is no difference in terms of the cost to the County. Rather, it allows the Public Defender's Office to keep one experienced attorney and gain an experienced attorney to keep up the continuity of representation. Mr. Lewis explained that this will allow Mr. Dodds to take fewer cases.

Motion by Hoselton/Rankin to Recommend Approval of a Contract between Mr. Harvey C. Welch, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's Office; and to Recommend Approval of a Contract between Mr. Terry W. Dodds, Special Public Defender, and the Public Defender's Office.

Motion carried.

Mr. Lewis noted that there was nothing unusual to report in the Public Attorney's Monthly Caseload Report.

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

Ms. Judy Renner, Director, Children's Advocacy Center, reviewed the Children's Advocacy Center (the "CAC") Monthly Statistical Report and the CASA Report. She indicated that a request has been made to Judge Fitzgerald for new CASA cases as there are now 15 CASA volunteers trained and waiting for new cases. Ms. Renner added that a new training class started last night with ten new CASA volunteers.

Ms. Renner reported that the CAC numbers are down a little bit.

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

Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA, presented a request for approval of a 2009 Illinois Emergency Management Agency TCIP Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant. He explained that the grant is to be used to offset the costs in training and developing an Interoperable Emergency Communications Program. Mr. Hawk indicated that Sheriff Emery organized a Protocol Committee several months ago. He noted that this Committee has been working with all of the police and fire departments in the County to develop proper protocol on how to handle communications. Mr. Hawk added that the plan is in place. All that remains to be done is to have the emergency service providers sign the protocol.

Mr. Hoselton asked how is the plan operated. Mr. Hawk replied that it is not an operating system, but a method for determining what channels to go to for certain calls. He explained that the police departments and fire departments operate on different channels and different frequencies, which is necessary. However, when an incident happens that involves several agencies, the plan will be implemented to coordinate communication among the different agencies on the scene.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the fire departments are still on an analog system. Mr. Hawk replied that not all of the fire departments are on an analog system. He noted that Normal is on StarCom 21, but, when they go to a scene, they switch over to a VHF digital channel. Mr. Hawk explained that it is important that not everyone talk on the same channel.

Mr. Hoselton asked if rural McLean County police and fire departments are still on analog. Mr. Hawk replied that some departments are on analog and some are on digital. He indicated that this grant money is to offset the training and planning so that we are in coordination with what the state is planning.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the City of Bloomington is included in the plan. Mr. Hawk replied that the Protocol Committee includes the Bloomington Fire Department, Bloomington Police Department, Illinois State Police, Illinois State University Police, EMA, the Sheriff's Department, Director of MetCom and both Normal Police and Fire Departments.

Motion by Rankin/Wendt to Recommend Approval of a
2009 Illinois Emergency Management Agency TCIP
Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant.
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk, presented a request for approval for the Circuit Clerk's Office to apply for a County-owned Credit Card.

Chairman Renner advised that other County departments have County-owned credit cards. He asked Mr. Lindberg to explain the procedures and limitations associated with these types of credit cards. Mr. Lindberg indicated that a master plan was set up through the County Auditor's Office. The Auditor's Office controls and limits the credit cards. He noted that, at one time, there were a number of organizations that had their own credit card accounts, which created difficult audit

and control problems. Currently, there is a master account monitored through the County Auditor's Office. Mr. Lindberg indicated that there are specific items for which the credit card can be used and specific expenses for which the credit card will not be accepted. It is carefully monitored and controlled.

Mr. McIntyre asked for more explanation of what kinds of pre-approved purchases are allowed on the credit card. Mr. Lindberg replied that, occasionally, a department will have the need for an instant office supply or a specialized office supply that, at a modest amount, can be put on the credit card.

Mr. McIntyre asked if the credit card is just a convenience on pre-approved purchases. Mr. Everhart replied that the credit card allows him access to on-line vendors for supplies. He noted that, given the need to reduce budgets, the credit card provides an opportunity to do competitive shopping on-line.

Motion by Wendt/Rankin to Recommend Approval for
the Circuit Clerk's Office to apply for a County-owned
Credit Card.
Motion carried.

Mr. Everhart reviewed his February 2009 Statistical Report and the First Quarter 2009 Statistical Report. He indicated that there was nothing out of the ordinary in the reports.

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

Ms. Lori McCormick, Director, Court Services, presented the Court Services Adult/Juvenile Division Statistics for March 2009, as well as the Juvenile Detention Center statistics.

Chairman Renner asked Ms. McCormick to update the Committee on potential jail alternative programs. Ms. McCormick replied that a team of officers and management are working on the protocols for electronic monitoring. She noted that a meeting will be held on May 13th with the police chiefs, MetCom and the Dispatch Center in Bloomington to review all of the protocols. Ms. McCormick stated that Secure Alert has been approved as the electronic monitoring provider. She added that Secure Alert provided the Sheriff's Department with an electronic monitor device to drive around the County to make sure there were no dead spots. Ms. McCormick reported that there are no dead spots within the County. Secure Alert will also be working in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit with the other Counties.

Ms. McCormick advised that the electronic monitoring program is being prepared in phases. The protocol is being established and the policies and procedures are being set before the program is administered. Ms. McCormick indicated that the next goal will be achieved next week by meeting with the Bloomington Police Department, the Normal Police Department, Illinois State University Police Department and the Sheriff's Department. She added that discussion will be held with the smaller communities so that they are aware of the electronic monitoring program.

Ms. McCormick stated that Court Services is evaluating who will be good candidates for electronic monitoring, including juveniles as well as adults.

Chairman Renner announced that the Justice Committee has been looking at electronic monitoring for the last eight years.

Ms. McCormick indicated that the County is very fortunate to have the Secure Alert Systems and the continuous Alternating Monitoring System that works with Secure Alert to provide the electronic monitoring service. She noted that electronic monitoring is a very time-intensive process.

Ms. McCormick reviewed her Monthly Statistical Reports. She advised that the Community Service Program caseload of adult offenders, supervised by one individual, has increased from 606 clients last month to over 750 as of last week. Ms. McCormick noted that this figure includes clients on probation, as well as many other individuals who are ordered to automatic Community Service. She indicated that the Adult Probation Officers have agreed to supervise their own probation clients who were sentenced to Community Service in order to reduce the load. Ms. McCormick explained that over 50% of the people on Community Service are not on probation, but are first-time offenders or individuals on Court supervision, etc.

Ms. McCormick stated that, last month, the Adult Intensive Probation Unit had a 44 client caseload, and, as of last week, the caseload was 59 clients. She noted that those individuals are seen by their Probation Officers two or three times per week.

Mr. Nuckolls asked what is the average case load for a Probation Officer. Ms. McCormick replied that the average case load for an Adult Probation Officer has dropped to 115 clients per officer. The average case load for a Juvenile Probation Officers is approximately 43 clients per officer. Mr. Nuckolls noted that, at one time, the Probation Officers had as many as 200 clients.

Justice Committee
May 5, 2009
Page Six

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

Mr. Lindberg reported that Sheriff Mike Emery was unable to attend the meeting. He noted that Sheriff Emery's McLean County Detention Facility Population Report for May 2009 is included in the Packet.

Ms. Barb Nafziger, Chief Deputy Coroner, distributed the McLean County Coroner's Office 2008 Year End Report. She indicated that Ms. Kimmerling will answer any questions the Committee might have at next month's meeting.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Nafziger.

Mr. Bill Yoder, State's Attorney, reviewed his Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report. He pointed out that the Felony numbers have been down this year. The year-to-date projections predict almost 200 fewer felonies this year than last year.

Mr. Yoder noted that the Asset Forfeiture Fund Report shows that the State's Attorney Fund, which has run a negative balance for the last six years, should have a positive balance within the next several months.

Mr. Yoder announced that he hired Ms. Hannah Eisner to replace Mr. Eric Ruud as First Civil Assistant State's Attorney. He noted that Ms. Eisner was previously the Deputy Corporate Counsel for the City of Bloomington for the last 20 years. Mr. Yoder indicated that Ms. Eisner will be an asset to the Board and to McLean County.

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

Chairman Renner presented the April 31, 2009 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$2,106,522.82 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Justice Committee
May 5, 2009
Page Seven

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to Recommend Approval of
the Justice Committee Bills as of April 31, 2009, as
transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Justice Committee
May 5, 2009
Page Eight

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary