

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Macon County Office Building
Macon County Board Room #514
141 S. Main Street, Decatur, IL 62523**

February 25, 2021 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Mattingley
Debra Kraft – Vice Chair
Jim Gresham
Lloyd Holman

MEMBER PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY

MEMBERS ABSENT

Verzell Taylor
Bill Oliver
Dave Drobisch

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Sheriff Tony Brown
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Pat Berter, Probation
Larry Auton, Sheriff's Dept
Scott Rueter, State's Attorney
Chief Deputy Adam Walter, Sheriff's Office
Judge Griffith, Courts
Jessie Smalley, HR
Michelle Sanders, Asst Public Defender
Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk
Jon Perona, DPBC
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mattingley @ 3:00 p.m. at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Macon County Board Justice Committee meeting (12/17/2020), seconded by Ms. Kraft and roll call vote showed the motion carried 4-0. Note – the January meeting was cancelled.

CLAIMS

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Gresham and roll call vote showed the motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –No report

Circuit Courts –

Judge Griffith reported that a new Associate Judge has been selected. She is Lindsey Shelton. She is hearing traffic & is sitting in Courtroom 2A for her Protection cases. There were a number of qualified candidates and it was the consensus that Ms. Shelton be given the job and from all reports, she is doing very well after just about one month.

Michelle Sanders will take over as the Chief Public Defender starting March 5. Dave Ellison will be retiring as of March 4. There will be a retirement party for Dave at the Courthouse on the afternoon of March 4. He invited those present.

Coroner – No Report

Court Services / Probation –

Mr. Berter reported that they had received over \$465,000 from the State for officer reimbursement. The state still owes the county over \$346,000.

Contract negotiations have been completed. The Chief Judge Rosenbaum out of Champaign County signed the contract. Mr. Berter said he would just be notifying the County Board at the board meeting in two weeks. He said he felt that it is a pretty fair contract even though it is only for 2 years. They were hoping for 3, but it is completed.

Chair Mattingley asked if any of the money the State owes is associated with the ARI program. Mr. Berter said this is strictly from AOIC. The last time an email was received from ARI, only 3 months ARI reimbursement was received which came to around \$9,000. For ARI, money is received for the 2 officers and some is received for automation. When we went from Tyler back to Tracker, ARI picked up some of that. A module for the assessments was put into Tracker and upon request for reimbursement, that was done also. Otherwise, that is about all the money we get.

Emergency Management Agency – No Report

Public Building Commission – No Report

Public Defender's Office – No report

Sheriff's Department –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Agreement between the Macon County Sheriff's Office and the Illinois Department of Transportation Distracted Driving Uniform Grant Agreement FY21

Chief Deputy Adam Walter explained that the distracted driving is basically cell phone usage while people are driving. It is to maximize the effect of sustained stepped up traffic enforcement. The Distracted Driving Grant focuses on the month of April as it is Distracted Driving Awareness month. The goals of Distracted Driving Enforcement Grant is to save lives and reduce injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes caused by distracted driving. These goals are achieved through directed patrols during specific enforcement campaigns. The Sheriff's office is in position to receive funding from IDOT in the amount of \$8,991.60 and it will be used for enforcement activities conducted in April of 2021. Payments, which will be reimbursement is made by IDOT to Macon County during the grant period of April 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021 and will be reimbursement of officer's salaries to work the overtime. Deputies will still be on regular patrol assignments, this will be overtime.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Holman and roll call vote showed the motion carried 4-0

Sheriff Brown presented information for a resolution that did not make the agenda, but will, with the consent of this committee, be presented to the Finance Committee at their March 1st meeting and then will go to the full board for consideration at their March 11, 2021 meeting.

He explained that yesterday, a presentation was made to him and his executive staff by a Company called the Sheriff's App.com. There are several Sheriff's Offices within the State of Illinois that have this app. It is custom designed. This is a one stop shop. Everyone carries their cell phones with them. It is so cumbersome to go search websites for information. This is one way to get information out to everyone. It can be customized to give out information for the Sheriff's Office, Animal Control, the Jail – it will actually do inmate searches and gives information about if a detainee is getting out so people can get an alert. This helps out as far as domestic violence victims. The Health Department can use it to give out information. We currently use Everbridge to spread information county wide. This app can be used and it can be downloaded free of charge. There are so many different avenues it can go. The City Police Department, in dealing with the recent shooting incidents, can use it to guide citizens away from certain areas. The Highway department can use it during inclement weather to steer people from impassable roads. The sky is the limit. This is something very, very good to get information out to our people here in Macon County. The initial startup on this will be about \$26,000. This money can be taken out of the CARES Act because of COVID. The COVID numbers, guidelines and information could go out through this app as well. After that, there is a \$9,000 maintenance fee. That is something that can be covered through the Sheriff's Department's technology line. The lines in the budget would not have to be increased because it could be covered through a budget clean up at the end. He said he has spoken with Chief Getz, but not with the Health Department Administrator, Brandi Binkley, because he just got the information yesterday. He said he would personally reach out to everyone to let them know they are invited to use this and that they want them to use it to get the information they need to get out to the public. He said the app is available through IOS and Android and apps on everyone's cell phones are the way to communicate now.

Ms. Kraft commented that a year ago, right before COVID, Ms. Esposito, EMA, had met and they were going to meet with the Mayors in each community and see if each community could have a contact person for when there were fairs, parades, or events. She asked if that could fall under this. Sheriff Brown confirmed saying that yes and they want to make sure that everyone knows they can be a part of it. Chief Deputy Adam Walters commented that marketing would be done by the company for the county. Ms. Kraft said that was good and she felt that we really should reach out to the communities.

Mr. Gresham asked the Sheriff about the medical contract for the jail reporting. Sheriff Brown said he had not received anything yet, but would call them personally today. Mr. Gresham asked what the average jail population was running. Sheriff Brown said because DOC has not been accepting detainees, we have been over 300. Thirty nine were shipped out the other day so now it down to the 280's. Mr. Gresham said the contract had been based on 315 and he was just wondering about it. He expressed surprise that nothing has been received. Sheriff Brown said he would have an answer for him today.

Chair Mattingley commented that the conversation had sparked a question in his mind. He asked how the bill the Governor had just signed would affect things. He asked if any of them present had

any thoughts on it. Sheriff Brown said it is unfortunate and he is definitely disheartened by the legislation that has been signed. One thing that he had issues with is that they were not at the table during the discussions. It is one of those wait and see deals. There is a 2 hour training coming up next month to go over the legislation. There is talk about a trailer bill. It is a lot of unanswered questions that will have some negative effects when it comes to communities and recruiting people that want to be involved in the profession.

Judge Griffith said it's two years out. January of 2023 is when it takes effect. Governor Pritzker still has to get through an election. Sheriff Brown said July 1, 2021 is when some provisions go into effect. Mr. Baggett confirmed that the bail part of it is January of 2023. Chair Mattingley said that that is good because the bail part is specifically what he was asking about. If our jail population will change significantly in two years, we need to be aware of that. He said he is concerned about the no bail idea, but it does not sound like it is completely no cash bail.

Judge Griffith agreed that this is a terrible idea, but it's still two years out on the bail issue. If a judge specifically finds a defendant to be a threat to an individual or a group of individuals, he / she can still mandate or fix a cash bail, but otherwise they have to be released. It is just going to be insanity. He expressed concern over nobody calling him or the State's Attorney or someone for input. A lot of it is fine, but some of the things like the bail and making anonymous complaints are not.

Ms. Sanders said it seems like a lot of the jail population usually is made up of people who have made specific threats to specific individuals, so it may not have a HUGE effect.

State's Attorney's Office –

Mr. Rueter stated that he is currently looking for 3 people

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT –

There were no emails received via email and there were no citizens present wishing to speak.

Old Business None

New Business - None

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING March 25, 2021

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mattingley at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham , Macon County Board Office