

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

August 26, 2021 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Mattingley – Chair
Debra Kraft – Vice Chair
Dave Drobisch
Jim Gresham
Lloyd Holman
Verzell Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bill Oliver

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jon Perona, DPBC
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Scott Rueter, State's Attorney
Pat Berter, Probation
Judge Griffith, Courts
Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk
Michelle Sanders, Public Defender
Sheriff Root
Kris Thompson, Sheriff's Office
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

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Macon County Board Justice Committee meeting (7/22/2021), seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –

Ms. Doty reported that the office has had 2 more employees leave the office. One went to the Public Defender's Office. The jobs have been posted.

Coroner – No report

Court Services / Probation –

Mr. Berter reported that they had found out on Friday that the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) will be taking over the pre-trials for the State of Illinois. That means that the funding for 2 positions will be lost anywhere between July 1 and sometime in December amounting to about \$135,000. Mr. Berter said he had been on a ZOOM call yesterday and it sounds like the State is going to hire about 300 pre-trial officers who will be responsible for doing bond reports and pre-trial supervision. The Macon County department will have nothing to do with it or anything to do with pre-trial. The reports will go either to the Court or the State's Attorney's Office. The court will decide if there will be pre-trial supervision. If something

happens that the courts don't get the reports, the Probation Department will still have the mechanism in place to produce them. Every month the State is supposed to send updates.

It goes into effect July 1st, but they're thinking it won't all be in place until January 1st. There will be a transition period. They said they will go county to county to work out those transition pieces. Mr. Berter said he redid his budget and put extra money into the Probation fees to take care of two individual salaries. The hope is that if individuals have to be lost, it would be through attrition. He said he did not want to lay off 2 individuals on July 1st and then still be in transition. The staff is really good and Mr. Berter said he did not really want to lay anyone off, so he created a cushion to take care of it. There are no lateral transfers, so anyone interested in the newly created 300 state jobs would have to apply for them. The new positions would be working remotely with some sort of a mechanism put into place that when there is a felony arrest, the jail would notify the state and the state, who will be working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, would generate the bond report and submit it to the court. There would be a separate division within that that would be responsible for this if there was to be any pre-trial supervision, domestic violence that they would handle the electronic monitoring piece and all of that. Mr. Mattingley asked if they would be using the same type of risk assessment tool that this department used to do those reports. Mr. Berter said they have contracted with an agency called Justice Partners and they are looking at an evidence based assessment. Mr. Mattingley asked if the responsibility for preparing those currently is seated with one or two individuals as their full time duties or are they spread out. Mr. Berter said it is kind of spread out. There are two individuals that come in at 6 a.m. every morning. They start getting the criminal history information. They go up into the jail. They do the interviews. They prepare the reports. The rest of the time they are doing other reports for the court. There are some cases that are supervised and they are handling that. The investigations unit rotate on the Saturday and weekend bond hearings. There is plenty of work to be done if the bond reports are not done within the department. The two officers that were doing them are pretty good in handling those. There could be issues as far as the State's reports being on time. They will be contacting the jails because the interviews will be done remote either by calling in or ZOOM to the county jails to interview the defendants. Sheriff Root asked if that was a funded mandate. Mr. Berter said there has been \$17 million set aside for this. Sheriff Root asked how much the county jails would get to put in these systems. Mr. Berter said that was asked and they were told that it would be the County's responsibility. There are supposed to be monthly ZOOM meetings as the transition goes into effect. Interviews are supposed to be held to fill the positions in the spring. A lot of departments within the State are struggling to fill positions. So, it is unclear how the State will be able to fill 300 positions just like that. There were four options put on the table and the Supreme Court went with Option 3 to where it is pretty much state controlled.

Emergency Management Agency –

Sheriff Root reported that Ms. Esposito could not be present, but wanted the committee to know that the EOC meetings have started up again because of the pandemic coming back. The new Executive Order came out today. She will be distributing masks again for the next few weeks.

Public Building Commission – No report

Public Defender's Office –

Ms. Sanders reported that despite the fact that they were able to get someone for the front desk from the Circuit Clerk's office, they are still one to two attorneys down currently and having trouble getting applications right now.

The office is in the preliminary stages of looking into a case tracker system. It is specifically for Public Defenders and it links to the court system already in use. That would allow the office to have closer case tracking to keep client demographics, statistics, etc. That is what the supreme Court is expecting of the Public Defender's Office starting in 2023. She said she did not know cost estimates or anything at this point, but will bring it forth as she knows more.

Circuit Courts –

Judge Griffith reported that, consistent with the Governor's announcement today, starting Monday, if you work at or enter the courthouse masks will have to be worn in the public areas.

He was asked if there was concern about being able to hold jury trials and he said yes. It is hard enough to get jurors in every month as it is. He said they had been doing pretty well in June & July in getting people to come in, but this past month with the infection rates going up, it was much more difficult. It is going to create all sorts of problems.

Sheriff's Department –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Increase in Revenue and Expense Lines to Account for Justice Assistance Grant Funds

Sheriff Root explained that this is a grant that was gotten years ago. The City of Decatur wants to enter into a mutual aid agreement for us to share the funds. In order for them to be eligible for it we would have to pass a resolution to either accept or deny it. The first year is for \$7,357.50 which will be used to combat violent crimes and gun crimes in Macon County. Some proactive things with the City are already being done, but that can be increased with this money. That is a 2 year grant and the second year is for \$8,524.75.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Labor Agreement between Macon County and the Illinois FOP for Corrections Officers and Corporals

Sheriff Root explained that this contract had been negotiated by the committee and came down to 2.75% with some other language changes within the contract. It is a 3 year contract.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Granting Permission to Dispose of Surplus Equipment

Sheriff Root explained that over the course of years, the department has collected old squad car parts that get stored out at the County Highway location. The City of Maroa Police Department is in need of a couple of items and Sheriff Root said they would like to donate them at no cost to the City of Maroa Police Department.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Agreement with Macon County Mental Health Board for Inmate Mental Health Services at the Macon County Jail for the Term of July 1, 2021- thru June 30, 2022

Sheriff Root explained that this resolution came through the County Board meeting last month, but the amount was improperly stated. This is to correct that error. The proper amount is \$104,401.00

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Holman and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of an Inmate Transport Vehicle

Sheriff Root explained that the current jail van is a 2004 Chevy with just under 200,000 miles on it. Funds from an agreement with the Social Security Administration to provide them with information of who is in the jail so that they can cut off services. There is a fee the County gets for this. The original resolution was passed in 2007. None of that money has ever been spent. It is a restricted fund that was originally intended for body vests. The request is to spend that money for the purchase of a new vehicle.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the motion carried 6-0.

State's Attorney

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding the Purchase of Copiers for the Macon County State's Attorney's Office

Mr. Baggett explained that the Auditor's Office, Treasurer's Office, Supervisor of Assessment's Office and maybe the Sheriff's Office have all been working with CDS Office Technologies to make arrangements for the purchase of copiers to replace outdated models. The State's Attorney's

office has 6 copiers with 5 of them being beyond or approaching the end of life quickly. The Auditor's Office has identified some funds from the lease surplus that we receive that would allow for the purchase as opposed to the leasing of new copiers to replace the old ones, but there is a need to move on it quickly because they are all set to increase 7% on September 1st. This resolution is being presented on behalf of the State's Attorney's portion of it. It would increase the lease fund, keep in mind that this is not additional revenue but is money that has already been refunded to the County by the Building Commission based on the surplus from last year, by \$19,667 for the State's Attorney's copiers.

Mr. Mattingley asked about the presentation of the State's Attorney's budget and how this would affect that. Mr. Baggett explained that when he had presented the budget it was with the expectation that they would be leasing the copiers. Ms. Reed heard the presentation and contacted him the next day to explain this source of funding that would allow a purchase rather than a lease. So, the amount requested in the budget presentation would still need to be somewhat there, but not all of it because this would purchase the copiers, but it would not pay for the maintenance on the copiers. The County has, for the last several years, a really good working relationship with CDS through the maintenance agreement that if anything happens to the copiers, they are typically there within 10 to 15 minutes. We want to maintain that high level of service and it would cost about \$2,000 to \$2,400 per year for the maintenance agreement for all 6 copiers. Everything requested would not be needed, but part of it would still be needed.

Mr. Holman made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Old Business None

New Business - None

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING September 23, 2021

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mattingley @ 3:22 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Executive Secretary, Macon County Board Office