

## JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 24, 2013

3:00 P.M.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Greg Mattingley

Jay Dunn

Merv Jacobs

David Williams

Jon Baxter

Dave Drobisch

Gary Minich

Bill Oliver

### COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jay Scott, State's Attorney

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office

Jim Root, EMA

Judge A. G. Webber, IV

Lori Long, Probation

Rodney Forbes, Public Defender's Office

Amy Stockwell, Auditor

Lois Durbin, Circuit Clerk

Sheriff Tom Schneider

Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Office

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

This meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Mattingley at the Macon County Office Building.

Motion to approve the minutes of prior meeting made by David Williams, seconded by Gary Minich, and motion carried 8-0.

### CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims made by Jay Dunn, seconded by David Drobisch, motion carried 8-0.

### REPORTS

#### *Circuit Clerk*

Lois Durbin reported that they have gone online with the new lobby dockets. Monitors have been mounted in the hallways outside the courtrooms which list the day's dockets and courtroom locations so that people can see where they need to be and when. It cuts down on the office traffic and interruptions. Greg Mattingley asked if they had noticed a decrease in traffic and Lois replied they definitely had. The system was paid for out of the automation fund and they worked with Judge Webber in implementing it.

Lois also reported that toward the end of November and into the first part of December, they had hit the \$250,000 threshold in collections of past due fees and costs. One of the BIG checks like the type you hang on the wall will be presented to them. Lois had been in contact with the agency today, and as of today collections are at \$320,875. So, the collection agency is definitely working well for us.

#### *Circuit Court*

Judge Webber presented copies of three bills from Dr. Killian which he estimated at approximately \$7,990 and apologized that he had not been able to get them onto the agenda. However, State Statute states that the Court shall appoint and the Board shall pay for these services. Chair Mattingley stated that a resolution would be needed before the committee could vote on them. Judge Webber agreed that he would draw up a resolution and present it next month.

Judge Webber also reported that the FY13 budget for juvenile appeals cases resulting in termination of parental rights had been increased to \$9,000. However, as of now, there are potentially nine appeals in process in just the first two months of the FY13. So, just a forewarning, we will most likely be coming back asking for more money. These parents have a legal right to appeal and it is their right that the County pays for the appeal.

Judge Webber distributed a report of the daily security screening being done at the courthouse. The report showed that the number of people going through the screening is never below 600 and sometimes is as high as 1,000 people being screened in a day's time. Approximately 45% of them have to be hand screened with the wand. That takes extra time. So, if you hear that it's kind of crowded down there sometimes, that is why. Court security is now keeping track. So, I can easily bring these reports as you want them.

Due to Lisa Holder White's appointment to the Appellate Court, we are operating short a judge. We have decreased the number of jury weeks from 25 down to 18. Judge Griffith is taking over some of the cases and everyone agrees that as we work diligently together, this can work. It will also result in a savings due to the reduction in the number of weeks.

Judge Webber also reported that he had recently been informed by the auditor that he is in need of a resolution because even though the law library was under budget, the electronic research went over by \$3,000. I was not able to get this resolution done in time for this agenda, but the auditor's recommendation was to ask this committee's permission to take the resolution straight to the Finance Committee. Jay Dunn questioned what the difference was between being ok with this process for the resolution but not for the bills from Dr. Killian. He said that the bills look like they actually add up to approximately \$12,000 rather than \$9,000. He questioned the holdup, noting that the dates on the bills showed the services were completed some time ago in 2012 and stated that he wouldn't want the County to get a reputation for not paying their bills. Judge Webber commented that Dr. Killian is one of a very few qualified and willing doctors in the nearby area and he would probably appreciate being paid. A replacement, if Dr. Killian decided not to offer the service, would probably have to come from far away – possibly St. Louis or Chicago. Mr. Dunn suggested they be passed on to the Finance Committee as well.

Bill Oliver asked Judge Webber if compressing the number of cases would affect the jail population. Judge Webber replied that it would not. He assured Mr. Oliver that they would be ready to try the cases as they become ready to try. The Court is acutely aware of the speedy trial rules and that if a case is ready to go – it WILL go

#### ***Coroner***

No report

#### ***Court Services/Probation***

Lori Long reported on the progress of what they are calling the Criminal Justice Mapping Committee. This committee was formed at Board Chairman Dunn's request to help everyone understand the process as a result of an anonymous letter he received last month. A group consisting of Circuit Clerk Lois Durbin, Probation Director Lori Long, Judge Webber, Public Defender Rodney Forbes, State's Attorney Jay Scott, Sheriff Schneider, and Justice Committee

Chair Mattingley will meet January 29 at 11 a.m. to begin compiling the information for the presentation. The goal is to present the information to the Justice Committee so everyone will have a better understanding of the process, along with any recommendations and suggestions that may help the system be more efficient.

Lori also reported that she is working on an Illinois Department of Transportation DUI grant which is due in about a week and a half. It is actually a continuation of an existing grant from the past 2 years. Chair Mattingley inquired about the dollar amount of the grant versus last year's amount. Lori explained that she wasn't sure yet, that she always asks for more than they get.

### ***EMA***

*Macon County Resolution Approving Intergovernmental Agreement for Services during a Disaster or Extreme Emergency between the Village of Forsyth and the County of Macon*

Jim Root explained that this agreement to provide services to the Village of Forsyth is subject to availability of resources, equipment and Personnel and would in no way take away from Macon County's services. Motion to approve was made by Dave Drobisch, seconded by Gary Minich, and the motion carried 8-0.

Jim also reported that the mitigation plan meeting has been scheduled for February 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the County Board Room.

### ***Public Building Commission***

No report

### ***Public Defender***

Rodney Forbes reported that when Judge Lisa Holder White went to the Appellate Court, an attorney, Michelle Sanders went with her. A new attorney, Andrew Wesler, has been hired. He is straight out of law school with an interest in criminal law and brings with him as much experience as he was able to gain through his internships. Steve Langhoff has been transitioned to Michelle's spot, but that leaves his position open. It's hard to get an attorney with any experience to come here. Most want to be located in the urban areas like Champaign.

The Public Defender's office is also working with Judge Griffith to accommodate the loss of staff. The misdemeanor schedule is being fine tuned to more efficiently allow meetings with clients around the court schedule.

David Williams questioned what the incarceration percentage is. Rodney replied that an intern had compiled that information and Terri Tate is now keeping track. A report will be provided at the next meeting. Greg Mattingley stated that he thought it might be about a 50-50 split and Rodney agreed that it was probably pretty close to that. He said that usually his morning cases were from the jails and the afternoon cases were bails and it's usually close to the same number in the morning as in the afternoon. Most cases are felony crimes.

Judge Webber added that he forgot to mention that there is a judge from Monticello that they have coming two times a week on Tuesday & Wednesday to help out in courtroom one.

### ***Sheriff***

#### *Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in FY2013 State's Attorney's Budget for Vehicle Purchase*

Sheriff Schneider explained that they had received an anonymous donation for the purchase of two Chevrolet Tahoes and the necessary equipment for the canine unit at a total cost of \$110,858.40. Motion was made to approve by Dave Drobisch seconded by David Williams. Jay Dunn requested a brief outline of equipment that goes into vehicles and the approximate costs. He stated that it seems like the equipment is as much as the vehicle anymore. Sheriff Schneider explained that the equipment is very expensive. The cage for the animals is around \$4,000 and has to meet the Animal Society's guidelines for heat, etc... The lights are also very expensive. While you used to be able to purchase a simple bubble for around \$500, now the lighting system that meets OSHA guidelines costs around \$5,000. The cost of these two vehicles is very good, ranging between 26,000 and \$30,000 for the department versus a cost of \$46,000 to \$50,000 for the general public. The Sheriff invited Mr. Dunn to come over and see the vehicle and equipment and he would show him the details. Bill Oliver questioned whether the equipment could be transferred from one vehicle to another? Sheriff Schneider indicated that many times it could be. Motion carried 8 -0.

### ***State's Attorney***

Jay Scott reported that Nichole Kronke has been promoted to First Assistant States Attorney. She has a lot of knowledge and will be a great asset in that position. The Office Manager position has been eliminated. He mentioned the names of several people that were stepping up and assisting in filling staff gaps since the retirement of Randy Waks. David Spencer will be prosecuting severe cases and offering guidance. He is like an old war horse with expertise and knowledge. Jason Van Olestein has been working on the gun violence grant and Nancy Benson has been contributing as the Community Outreach Coordinator. So, you can see everyone is pitching in and helping out.

#### *Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in FY2013 State's Attorney's Budget for Vehicle Purchase*

Mike Baggett reported that they also had money donated by an anonymous donor for the purchase of a 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe and equipment for use in the Sates Attorney's office. Motion was made to approve by Jay Dunn, seconded by Merv Jacobs. Bill Oliver stated that he felt like the public has a right to know where the money is coming from. Sheriff Schneider assured him that the donor did not want to be known. Motion carried 8-0.

### **CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Bill Oliver questioned whether Illinois has a "Three Strikes and You're Out" law for repeat offenders. State's Attorney Jay Scott stated that "yes, it does – for Class X felonies". We've had several that have ended up with life. Bill stated that he felt it should be stated publicly more often because it might make a difference if they knew if they repeated an offense it would get worse. Greg Mattingley added that usually with repeat offenders, they escalate with each one and by the third, it ends up being Class X. Bill said he felt the court should make the statement during sentencing. Rodney Forbes stated that the court must admonish all class 2 cases. The court is required to tell them. That is done with each and every case. It is required by law. Bill stated that

he felt the public should be made aware of this more often and that it should be published in the newspaper.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

February 28, 2013

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Bill Oliver, seconded by Gary Minich, motion carried 8-0, and meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham  
Macon County Board Office

Note: The recorder did not work for this meeting and there is no recorded audio available for this meeting.