

JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 24, 2016

3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Mattingley, Chairman
Jon Baxter
Jay Dunn
Bill Oliver
Dave Drobisch

MEMBERS ABSENT

Grant Noland
Matt Brown

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Dept
Lois Durbin Circuit Clerk
Judge Webber, Courts
Lt. Jim Root, EMA
Carol Reed, Auditor
Pat Berter, Probation
Rodney Forbes, Public Defender
Jerry Lord, DPBC

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2016 meeting, seconded by Mr. Oliver and the motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the report of the claims as submitted, seconded by Mr. Dunn and the motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –

Ms. Durbin reported that she had had a meeting with the vender for Digitickets. Next week the configuration step. It is a 5 step process and this is #3. The next step would be training. Step 5 is going live.

A summary of collections from the new collection agency and the Comptroller's Office was distributed. The first payment was taken on 8/26 and without their 30%, they've brought in \$494,924.41 as of 3/22. With their 30% which is collected and then paid to the agency, \$637,943.78 has been collected. They are doing a very good job. The Comptroller's Office has offset \$175,970.01 as of 3/23. \$20,422.23 has been received. The Comptroller's Office has 60 days to protest it which explains why that is slower coming in. That is money that is sitting there that will be sent to us. Mr. Oliver asked where the money goes. Ms. Durbin explained that some goes to the General Fund. This is the outstanding fines, fees & costs so it could be restitution. Some goes to the State; some stays in the county; some goes to the State's Attorney or Sheriff. It is a little bit of everything and is being divided up accordingly. She was asked what cases they are collecting on and explained that two of the cases collected upon so far include a 1989 criminal case and a 1997 criminal case so they are working on old cases also.

***Circuit Court –
Macon County Board Resolution Authorizing Assessment of a Fee for the Support of a
Residential Mortgage Mediation Program***

Judge Webber explained that this would start May 2nd. The Mortgage Mediation Program has finally been approved by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court along with the Community Preservation Clinic at the U of I Law School studied their experience in Champaign County, which is the model for our program. Collection of \$75 per filing plus the Attorney General Grant should be enough to make the program self-sustaining for at least 3 years. Champaign will begin next month on recruitment and training of mediators. They will be here on the 29th of this month to take one more survey of the facility before the mediation comes in. Then mediators will be sought and trained. They are looking at around a July 1 start date to begin the mediations. Judge Webber said he spoke with Judge Mike Jones who said he saw their foreclosure judgement docket for residences drop by about 80% once the program was implemented.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Baxter and the motion carried 5-0.

Coroner – No report

***Court Services / Probation –
Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Increase in Probation Fees***

Mr. Berter explained that he is asking to raise the probation fee rate from \$25 to \$35 a month. The current rate of collection is around 51%. The majority of cases supervised is usually a 24 month sentence. With the increase, an additional \$130,000 should be brought in. Last year, there were 1,100 new cases come through the department.

The current balance of the Probation Fund is \$923,000. Putting more money toward the Probation budget and with the probation fees, it will help offset that and put a little more money in the bank.

Chair Mattingley pointed out that the resolution reads, “the legislation provides that the court *shall* impose a fee of \$50”. Mr. Berter said that it comes out of the Statute. You can go up to \$50. Mr. Mattingley clarified that it is not that it *shall* be \$50, but that it shall not be more than \$50. Mr. Berter will check this out and make sure the resolution reads correctly before presenting it to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution with to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Baxter and the motion carried 5-0.

EMA-

Lt. Root explained that the Hazardous Material Planning Grant has been applied for over the past several years. It has been funding the hazardous planning for the count and helped to fund the local emergency planning committee’s efforts when it deals with collection and storing of the Tier 2 forms. It is a US Department of Transportation Grant and they’ve been cracking down on what we can get reimbursed for to the point where we are having a hard time getting any

reimbursements. He said that he is letting the committee know that they would probably not be applying for that grant next year. It brings in about \$6,000 for a part time employee that does all the emergency planning for the County's EMA office. We will end up reducing that salary line to counter the cutting of that grant. He said he wanted to let the committee know that some of the grant funds from his office will not be applied for next year.

There is also one grant that is usually paid in December. This is used for preparedness for the nuclear power plant response. As of right now, that grant will probably not be received during this planning cycle. It is a block grant so whatever is brought in appears on the expenditure lines. He said he will not be spending any of that money as a result of not getting that grant. In order to get the money, action will have to be taken later in the year. It is still due to us, but we will not get the money this year. The expenses will be taken care of via the other budget lines, which should not be a problem.

Macon County Board Resolution Entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Warrensburg Regarding the Use of Water Towers within the Village of Warrensburg for the Installation of Radio Equipment by the Macon County Emergency Management Agency

Lt. Root explained that radio equipment is currently located on an old radio tower in Warrensburg. It is a tower that is still in use, but there is concern that it will be decommissioned and the equipment will have to be moved. This year's budget has money in it to replace the equipment and when it is replaced, it will be moved to the new water tower. This resolution is to approve that agreement with the Village to use that tower. The village has already passed the agreement.

Mr. Drobisch made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Baxter and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Building Commission –

Mr. Lord had no report

Public Defender –

Mr. Forbes distributed January and February monthly reports. He said there is a bill pending that would change the requirement for the reports from monthly to quarterly.

Numbers are staying about the same. They are keeping their heads above water even though it has been busy over the last couple of months. The office is one attorney down. The attorney that was working felonies left the office to go into private practice. A position has been offered to someone who is supposed to start working on Monday. Tim Tighe who was doing juvenile delinquency work has been moved into the felonies slot. He is still doing the juvenile delinquency cases while we await the new hire to come to work. Mr. Forbes said he had received an email just before the meeting from the County Board Chairman indicating that there is a freeze on hiring. He expressed concern about not knowing what to do in this situation. The new employee has been offered a position and is scheduled to come in on Monday. He has already quit his previous employment. Mr. Forbes said he felt obligated to keep that position for him, but he wanted to bring it to the committee's attention that he had already offered the position and hired the new employee prior to receiving the email notification from the Chairman. Mr. Dunn suggested he give Chairman

Greenfield a call and explain that the offer has already been made and the new employee hired and scheduled to start on Monday. Mr. Forbes repeated that he did not want it to look like he had done something in defiance of the County Board Chairman's wishes.

Sheriff –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations to the Sheriff's FY16 Budget and Approve Contract with the Macon County Sheriff's Deputies #144 Bargaining Unit

Lt. Butts explained that the Macon County Sheriff's Board has reached an agreement with the Macon County Sheriff's deputies bargaining unit for a contract extension that would run through 2018. There will be retroactive pay through July 1' 2015 on 1% due to the insurance increase. Sick time buyouts were also negotiated. This will increase the deputy line by \$33, 779.89 this fiscal year. The holiday pay would also increase which comes out of the LEST. The grants for the holiday pay for the three special deputies and their regular pay are also included.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Oliver and the motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Needed Single Purpose K9 Units to Each Patrol Shift of the Macon County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division

Lt. Butts reported that they have received a generous donation of \$222,984.54 which will allow the office to have a single purpose K9 on each shift for drug detection, article searching, etc... The K9 Officers along with a panel has interviewed deputies from each shift. This is a 3 year commitment. They have announced and put two of the officers in positions. One is in training. The 2nd will be a 3rd shift officer. The 2nd shift has not been announced. With this grant, the vehicles would be afforded along with additional equipment and the funds to purchase two new K9's if needed. The first K9 which is training now was found at our shelter. It came in as a stray and after the holding period and attempting to find the owner, was sent to training. There will be no new hires for the office. The expenses will be funded through the drug account for upkeep, medical and food for the K9's. The hope is to find dogs at shelters. These dogs are not used for apprehension, but for drug detection and article searching. Mr. Oliver asked if the dogs could be loaned out to other offices. Lt. Butts confirmed that they would respond and assist if a need from another agency arose.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Baxter and the motion carried 5-0.

State's Attorney's Office- no report

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT –None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

CLOSED SESSION – None

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, April 28, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Oliver, seconded by Mr. Dunn, the motion carried 5-0, and meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office