

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**April 28 2016**

**3:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Greg Mattingley, Chairman  
Jon Baxter  
Dave Drobisch  
Bill Oliver

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Dept  
Lois Durbin Circuit Clerk  
Judge Webber, Courts  
Mike Day, Coroner  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
Pat Berter, Probation  
Rodney Forbes, Public Defender  
Sheri Wallace, HR  
Lori Tharp, DPBC  
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office  
Jay Scott, State's Attorney  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Grant Noland  
Matt Brown  
Jay Dunn

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

Mr. Drobisch made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2016 meeting, seconded by Mr. Oliver and the motion carried 4-0.

**CLAIMS**

Mr. Drobisch made a motion to approve the report of the claims as submitted, seconded by Mr. Oliver and the motion carried 4-0.

**REPORTS**

***Circuit Clerk*** –

Ms. Durbin had no report

***Circuit Court*** –

Judge Webber reported that Mr. Baxter had visited him last week about the situation with jury costs. For the week of March 25, almost \$12,000 was spent in jury fees and there was not one trial. There was one that started, but resulted in a plea during jury selection. Jurors were called in at the request of the counsel; 4 days running; nothing else launched. He said they appreciate the county's situation with the increased expense and said he had been talking with his fellow judges and they will have, not a full solution, but will do what they can and they anticipate making major adjustments going forward in the jury calendar. Chair Mattingley said he had hated it when he had to deal with it, but would the rolling calendar be considered. Judge Webber replied that nothing is off the table.

***Coroner*** –

Coroner Day informed the committee that his secretary that has been with the office for around 14 years is scheduled to retire at the end of May. He said he would update the Finance Committee as

well, but after the communication from the Board Chairman concerning hiring new employees, he wanted to try to conform as much as possible. This employee is half of the daytime staff and one third of the full time staff. He said he has posted it so there won't be any gaps in service. He went on to explain the large amount of responsibility with quite a number of cases and a very small staff.

***Court Services / Probation –***

Mr. Berter reported that he had received correspondence yesterday from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts and they will be receiving an additional \$53,648.98 in funding.

***EMA***-No report

***Public Building Commission*** – No report

***Public Defender –***

Mr. Forbes distributed his monthly report and explained that 276 cases were opened and 306 were closed. It was a good month. He said they have hired Ken Cloyd to take over the juvenile delinquency so the numbers should go down.

He said he has addressed the juror costs with his staff at an office meeting. He said he has encouraged them, if there is a case that has been settled, to contact the courts and let the judge know that the case will not go to trial. He explained the costs and said he has asked them to do what they can to help out. He said he asked them for suggestions and is hoping to talk to the state. He said he knows that Jay Scott has also expressed his willingness to work toward figuring out a way to reduce the costs too.

***Sheriff –***

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations to the Sheriff's FY16 Budget to be Used for Professional Consultants in Exploring the Feasibility of a Regional Emergency Communication Center***

Lt. Butts explained that they have been in touch with a group called the SAFR group who is a professional consulting group that does these studies professionally. This is only a feasibility study that would incorporate speaking with representatives from Macon, Shelby, Christian, Moultrie, DeWitt & Fayette Counties. The center would be staffed by highly trained personnel who would provide 24/7 professional dispatching services to all law enforcement, fire & EMS. This would be a proposed 15,000 sq ft state of the art comm center that would be built in Macon County. He asked for approval of acceptance of the \$67,000 from the Buffett Foundation to be used for the study.

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

Mr. Oliver asked if the counties listed would be the ones most served. Lt. Butts said that all local counties were approached. There have been some informal meetings and discussion and at this time, these are the ones that have shown interest. Mr. Oliver asked about the State Police having

the same districts. Lt. Butts said a lot of the State Police have consolidated a lot of their communications center. The state is encouraging governmental entities to look into this for efficiency. This would be a center that would be available to all of these counties along with all of their fire protection districts and their EMS in their counties, but a lot of studies would have to be done about the coverage, tower availability, equipment, etc... A new center like this will put us 10 to 20 years down the road. The SAFR Group is very good at what they do. That is all they do. They are very well worth the money.

The motion carried 4-0.

*State's Attorney's Office- no report*

**CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT** –None

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**CLOSED SESSION** – None

**NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, May 26, 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Oliver, seconded by Mr. Baxter, the motion carried 4-0, and meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office