

JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 23, 2016 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Mattingley, Chairman
Dave Drobisch
Matt Brown
Bill Oliver
Grant Noland

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jon Baxter, Vice Chairman
Jay Dunn

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2016 meeting, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

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

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –

Ms. Durbin reported that the Access to Justice Act created a statutory court task force to go through the State of Illinois and compare what everybody is charging in filing fees and fines. They started a year ago and had to file a report by June 1st. Ms. Durbin said she has received the report a week ago and has been working on it for the past week and a half trying to compare their recommendations. Some of the traffic fines, cost and all come with a recommendation of a charge of \$20 on automation and document storage. Currently we charge \$25. There are little things like that, but this is the first report. She said she was working on figuring out whether it will increase or decrease what they are bringing in.

The collection agency, as of June 21st, collected \$983,372.64. They get 30% which leaves us \$786,588.59. They are doing very well for us. That was since the first of September.

The Comptroller program has offset \$228,539.21. There is a 60 day grace period for them to come in and dispute. \$178,182.83 has been received to date. That is also working very well.

Circuit Court –

Judge Webber reported that they are again operating one judge less than they would like to have. Judge Hugh Hess has been reassigned to Champaign County. He was coming over and covering since Judge Steadman was assigned to Piatt County. Now a Champaign County Judge has come

down with an extended illness so we have lost Judge Hess. We probably will not be back to full strength until the end of the year when Judge Steadman's retirement takes affect. Judge Little will take his place and a replacement will be appointed for Judge Little. The public should not see a difference. The work is being divided up.

The 2017 Jury Calendar was published earlier this month. The number of jury weeks has been reduced from 20 to 16 in an effort to save on the expensive juror fees. A couple of years ago there were 24 weeks when Judge White was here. When she was reassigned to the Appellate Court, we went down to 20 weeks because of lack of a judge. Now, starting in 2017 it is going to 16 weeks. Judge Webber said he thought that would be adequate to take care of the trials. That is a 20% reduction in jury weeks, so hopefully there will be at least a 20% reduction in juror fees.

The Mortgage Mediation is now underway with the first conferences taking place this week. There are currently about 30 to 35. There were a couple of agreements that the county would enter into with Land of Lincoln Legal Services and the Community Investment Corporation of Decatur who are venders in the program. That report should be available for next month's meeting.

Ms. Durbin commented that she would be in contact with the City about the number of jury weeks being reduced because they are currently paying \$600 a month for parking. Last time it was reduced they came down on the cost of parking.

Coroner –No report

Court Services / Probation –

Mr. Berter reported that there is a possibility that in a couple of months he could be coming to the committee asking for additional funds for juvenile detention. Currently there are 10 individuals in the Detention Center. Every month runs anywhere from \$9,000 to \$12,000 in overages. We still have 2 quarterly payments to make for \$56,000. Currently the balance in the Juvenile Detention line is at \$102,000. They are in there for serious charges. Four are in for murder, two for attempted murder, one for violence, residential burglary. These are serious charges.

EMA-No report

Public Building Commission – No report

Public Defender –

Mr. Forbes distributed his monthly report explaining that they have just done a recounting after some reassignments with new attorneys coming into the office. He reviewed the numbers per attorney for the committee saying that they are well over the ABA standards. Typically 30 to 40 cases are closed per month.

Jail population is at 309 which is where it has been for a while. That includes the federal inmates.

The office has been doing what they can to help reduce jury costs. Friday meetings are still being held with Judge Griffith who goes through the list and confers with attorneys about what is going on.

The witness expense line that had \$1,500 allocated to it has been busted. There was one expert witness that did an evaluation. The line is about \$1,300 over.

Interns in the Public Defender's Office for the summer include a secretary from Richland along with a returning law student from last year, another intern from Richland and two new interns. He said they are trying to make use of them but the office space is tight. Days are being alternated.

Sheriff –

Macon County Board Resolution Entering into Intergovernmental Agreement with Decatur Park District for Purposes of Allowing Decatur Park District Police to Exercise Police Powers Outside of Park District Property within Macon County

Lt. Butts explained that statutorily, they only have police powers within the parks. This agreement would allow the Sheriff's Office to give them authority to investigate and follow up on criminal activity that originally occurred in the parks, but now goes outside their jurisdiction. It would also allow the officers, if they were to come across a minor accident, to ask the command officer for permission to handle that accident. It would not allow them to routinely go outside and enforce traffic laws and conduct routine enforcement outside the park.

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

State's Attorney's Office- Mr. Scott had no report

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT –None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

CLOSED SESSION – None

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, July 28, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Oliver, seconded by Mr. Drobisch, the motion carried 5-0, and meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office