

JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
December 22, 2016 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Greenfield, Chairman
Greg Mattingley
Jay Dunn
Dave Drobisch (came @ 3:04 p.m.)
Bill Oliver

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jon Baxter, Vice Chairman
Grant Noland
Matt Brown

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Kate Kurtz, State's Attorney's Office
Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Dept
Pat Berter, Probation
Lt. Jim Root, EMA
Sheriff Tom Schneider
Judge Little
Jerry Lord, DPBC
Rodney Forbes, Public Defender

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Greenfield at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2016 meeting, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the motion carried 4-0.

CLAIMS

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

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk – No report

Circuit Court – No report

Coroner – No report

Court Services / Probation –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Additional Drug Court Probation Officer

Mr. Berter explained that they had been fortunate and had received money from the Sheriff's Department through the Howard Buffet Foundation through their At-Risk Services program. This will help hire another drug court probation officer. As of today, 76 individuals have graduated from the program. Out of those that have graduated, only 9 have committed a new offense. One of those was a traffic offense. Currently, there are 61 individuals in the program. There are 15 individuals waiting to get into the program. Of those 15, five are in the County Jail. The Drug Court Enhancement Grant through the Feds has finished up and one of the things being looked at is the capacity of the program. They recommend about 35 participants in the program for one Probation Officer and currently, we have 61. The desire is to raise the number of participants in the program. It is felt that the Drug Court Program is a very positive program. A lot of success

has been seen. There is a good staff treatment team that is going through the certification process right now with the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts to certify our program. Everything that needs to be done is being done and with the help of the Sheriff's Department, there is still a need for another probation officer within that program. This is for one year and the hope is that with the certification process additional money from AOIC will be received later to secure that position.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the motion carried 4-0.

EMA –

Lt. Root reported that he is in the process of revising the Emergency Operations Plan for the county and he would be seeking signatures in the next 30 days.

Public Building Commission –

Mr. Lord reported that they are in process of getting the final permit for the courtyard addition and should be able to occupy that by tomorrow or Monday. The construction should be complete and people will start moving in.

Public Defender –

Mr. Forbes distributed his monthly report for November and explained that there are 300 cases open and almost 200 closed. Over 100 more were opened than closed and those numbers are out of whack from what they normally are. There are usually about 250 open & closed. The drug court participants were 62.

The budget was gone through at the end of the month and the expert witness fees line was over almost \$7,000. That is considerably more than there has been in the last several years. Most of the fees were for experts evaluating persons for the defense of not guilty by reason of insanity. It is unclear what the future holds, but the line was busted this particular year and we may want to look at increasing it in future years. The overall budget was under and money was taken from other lines to make up for it.

Mr. Mattingley asked if there was any particular reasoning for the numbers on the open and closed cases. Mr. Forbes said they are all felony cases and they were split amongst the assistant public defenders. They didn't seem to all be burglary charges or aggravated DUI charges. It just seemed that there were more cases across the board. That is quite a leap though. Usually there are about 200 or 220 and there were 300 that came in during November and only 190 were closed. The numbers typically bounce back, so we will see what happens. Mr. Forbes said that each year a list is compiled of the charges that were filed and how many cases the Public Defender represented in. He said he would present those statistics as soon as he had them. Mr. Dunn asked Mr. Forbes to show the past 5 years. Mr. Mattingley asked about the reimbursement. Mr. Forbes said he had not kept track of that number, but the Circuit Clerk has and he would get those numbers as well.

Sheriff –

Sheriff Schneider reported that the population in the jail is at 253 today. The State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender and the Courts are doing a very good job of working well together.

The additional person that was requested in the resolution presented by Mr. Berter was initiated through a request from Kathy Burkham who is present today. That request did not fall on deaf ears. Mr. Buffet was approached and he said absolutely anything he could do to assist with this, use the funds that could be utilized to do that. It went through the Public Defender's Office and Judge Little who took on more of a job in doing this. The operations these people do day in and day out to expand this is helping us keep the population down and treating people instead of incarcerating them. It was very easy for many decades to put people behind bars and the Sheriff said he is a proponent for making sure people are locked up when they need to be, but when it comes to treatment and getting it for them instead of putting them behind bars, he said he is a proponent for that also. He gave accolades to those individuals involved.

State's Attorney's Office-

Macon County Board Resolution Designating the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor as its Agent to Administer the Operation of Appellate Offices and Process Appellate Cases for Macon County During FY2017

Ms. Kurtz explained that this is an annual resolution and the money for FY17 was already appropriated and this is the contract that allows it and is passed every year.

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

Ms. Kurtz informed the committee that there is a resolution accepting and appropriating a \$20,000 grant from the Ulrich Foundation to the Child First Center, but it was not ready to be included on the agenda for this meeting, but Chairman Dunn has agreed that it could go straight to the Finance Committee meeting and then on to the full board. She said they are just letting the Justice Committee know that they have received the money and will be spending it as required by the terms of the grant for counseling services for the victims. It is money in / money out.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT –

Kathy Burkham, President of the Tyler Yount Foundation, explained that Tyler Yount was her 23 year old son who died of an accidental overdose on June 14, 2009. She explained that she was told by several people that there was a young man by the name of Tommy Arnold who passed away in June or July. Tommy was on the waiting list to get into the Macon County Hybrid Drug and Alcohol Court. While waiting to get in, he died of an accidental overdose. It is very important that we get another Probation Officer to help with the clients that are on the waiting list for Drug Court. Addiction, especially the heroin epidemic and the opiate pills, are running rampant in our community. Sooner or later, a lot of those people out there using today that don't have a criminal record, probably will be getting one. It is just going to increase the need for more officers in the probation department and probably the City and County police because of the horrible epidemic we are under. She said she thought it was important to ask somebody or tell somebody that we had somebody waiting to get in who died. She said she just felt it was the right thing to do and she feels strongly about it.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

CLOSED SESSION – None

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, January 26, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Oliver, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and Chair Greenfield adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office