

JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
November 16, 2017 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jay Dunn
Bill Oliver (arrived at 3:02 p.m.)
Dave Drobisch
Greg Mattingley
Grant Noland
Debra Kraft
Jerry Potts

MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jay Scott, State's Attorney
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Dave Ellison, Public Defender
Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Dept
Jim Taylor, Probation
Jerry Lord, DPBC
Judge Webber
Carol Reed, Auditor
Lisa Wallace, Auditor's Office
Lt. Jim Root, EMA
Lt. Kris Thompson, Jail
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Mattingley made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2017 meeting, seconded by Mr. Drobisch, and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk – No Report

Circuit Court –

Judge Webber commented that he had noticed that the annual tax auction is coming up. He said he wanted to let the committee know that part of his docket is the City Ordinance Violations. There are two kinds of buyers. There are the sophisticated tax buyers who are picking up worthwhile properties for not much money. Those are rare. There are a lot of very unsophisticated buyers who are buying very distressed properties, sometimes sight unseen. It is often called the \$600 house. That is the minimum bid. People think they are buying a \$50,000 house for \$600. What they are buying is a \$600 house which is going to need \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of improvements just to make it habitable. They take title and then the City goes after them. First the Administrative Court and then on to the Circuit Court. There is a case now where a lady purchased a 3 story multi – unit apartment building and took title to it. The back of it is falling off. It has to be demolished. Demolition costs about \$30,000 to \$40,000. Rehab costs are well into the six figures. That's a worst case scenario, but there are many single family dwellings that need to be demolished. He said he could not tell what the solution is, but the City is vigorously pursuing these individuals to try to get them to repair these properties. Most of the people who bought them have no way, ever, to do this. He said he is asked to hold the individuals in contempt and put them in jail until the

properties are repaired or demolished. There is no solution to it, but his recommendation is that whenever disclosures are made at the tax auction, that people are informed that if they are buying a distressed property, they will be responsible for it. They often say they didn't know and they just want to give it back to the city. It doesn't work that way. It can't be done. He said that might be a matter to be reviewed because it is causing a continual problem for persons who should not be buying properties, buying them and becoming legally responsible for them.

Judge Webber reported that they are supposed to have a Veteran's Court established by January 1st. He said they have received no direction from Springfield as to how it is to be done or what is to be done. At some point, this will be the same process as the Hybrid Court, but at this point Judge Webber said he has been speaking with Chief Judge Broch, but the Chief Judges have no information about how or why. There has been an informal program in Champaign County as a part of their Hybrid Court which is what will probably be done here until further direction is received on it.

The position of coordinator who works for Heritage and coordinates Heritage and the Specialty Courts, not only the Hybrid Court, but also Redeploy Illinois, has been vacant for a couple of months. It is being temporarily staffed by one of the senior supervisors there. The position has been offered to a number of individuals, but they have not been able to fill it because it is a Masters level position and the salary Heritage can pay is apparently not interesting to all of the individuals who have taken a look at it. That could pose a problem in the future if we cannot get this position filled because that is a certification requirement.

Mr. Drobisch asked where the Masters guideline had come from. Judge Webber said he is looking into whether it is a waivable condition, but his guess is that it probably is not. If it is, it will open up potential applicants with Bachelor's degrees.

Coroner – No Report

Court Services / Probation – No Report

EMA –

Lt. Root reported that they have moved back into their original office on the south side of the LEC. Since moving back in, there have been two exercises. The first one was for Health Care Providers so that they can meet their Medicare services requirement. That had pretty good attendance. The Nuclear Power Plant Exercise for the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant was completed. There were no deficiencies in our operations. We operate as a support county for DeWitt County in those circumstances which might require evacuation for DeWitt County. The furniture is now back in the Emergency Operations Center. They are working on some technology upgrades that should be in place over the next couple of months.

Public Building Commission – No Report

Public Defender – No Report

Sheriff's Department –

Lt. Butts reported that they had a user group meeting for the CIRDC (Central Illinois Regional Dispatch Center) which is being represented by the City Fire, City Police, County Sheriff, Rural Fire and other police and municipalities, Mt. Zion, Warrensburg & Maroa. That will be going live on January 1st. Jon Thomas is doing a very good job of getting everything organized. All agreements have been signed and returned. As of 1/1/18, the City Police will be out of dispatching. The new CIRDC will be dispatching for the county. Lt. Butts said he had requested from the CIRDC, an invoice in two installments for the County's portion. Payments will be made in December of this year and May of 2018.

A new deputy will be starting on December 4. It is a deputy replacing one of the openings. A Mt. Zion police officer has accepted the position, so no police academy training will be required. That will be a little savings to the county.

Mr. Oliver asked if the CIRDC would be dispatching out of the new building. Lt. Butts explained that they would be doing so, eventually. They will be operating out of the current location in the LEC until next year sometime when the new dispatch center opens up out by the training center. It will probably be 12 to 14 months.

***State's Attorney's Office-
Macon County Board Resolution Amending the State's Attorney's FY2018 Budget for Elder
Victims Crime Unit***

Mr. Baggett explained that this is a clean up. After the budget had been approved and passed on to Display, the Investigator's Union contract was finalized. A raise for the FY18 year was agreed to for one of the investigators that is assigned to the Elder Victims Unit. This appropriates an additional \$735 in salary plus \$136 in fringes.

Mr. Potts made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft. Mr. Mattingley asked about the expiration date of the grant. Mr. Baggett said it is in the last year. The Elder Victim's Grant grants more than what the employee is paid, so this money is not a cost to the County. The motion carried 7-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Amending the State's Attorney's FY2018 Budget for
Acceptance of Opioid Prosecution Grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation***

Mr. Baggett explained that this would fully fund an Assistant State's Attorney and a support staff member as well as their fringes. It is a 3 year grant. Renewal is not expected, but one of the sheriff's stated missions is to aggressively take on the opioid epidemic that is ravaging, not only in Macon County, but also in Illinois and the United States. This grant will assist in enhancing the ability to prosecute those types of offenders.

Mr. Mattingley made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft. Mr. Oliver asked what the \$180,000 grant would entail. Mr. Baggett explained that it would cover one senior attorney and a paralegal and their fringes. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Scott reported that they had requested funding several months ago for DNA testing in a murder case. The Board had approved \$15,000 and even though they had questioned that amount several times with the company, they assured us it was correct, but apparently as it went up the chain, they revised that and it is now only \$4,000 and the Decatur Police Department has agreed to pay half. So the money will not have to be spent on that.

The office is down an attorney in the office. The position was posted and there was one very promising applicant, but she was lured away by more money in another county. The office is receiving very few qualifying applications and it is mostly due to the starting salary. He expressed hope in getting the position filled and getting the office back to full staff.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT – none

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS –

Macon County Board Resolution Amending Holidays for 2017 to Coincide with Circuit Court's Holiday Schedule

Chairman Dunn made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board for the December 14, 2017 Macon County Board meeting with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and the motion carried 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION – None needed

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, January 2, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Drobisch, the motion carried 7-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office