JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING January 25, 2018 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jay Dunn
Bill Oliver
Dave Drobisch
Jerry Potts
Grant Noland
Debra Kraft

MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Mattingley

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Sheriff Howard G. Buffett

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office Thomas Wheeler, Public Defender

Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Dept

Pat Berter, Probation Jerry Lord, DPBC Judge Webber

Lt. Kris Thompson, Jail Lt. Jim Root, EMA

Lois Durbin, Circuit Clerk Dee Coventry, Coroner's Office Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2017 meeting, seconded by Mr. Oliver, and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

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

REPORTS

Chairman Dunn reminded department heads / presenters to come up to the front to the podium and microphone rather than from their seats. Lt. Root asked if that was even if they have a microphone in front of them. Chair Dunn said yes, because some of the board members will turn around to discuss and then the recorder doesn't pick up all of the comments.

Circuit Clerk -

Ms. Durbin reported that integration of the system is still going. It is very slow moving and there are some issues, but they are working through it.

Circuit Court -

Judge Webber reported that they are working through the e-filing with the Circuit Clerk's office. It is a project. As of January 1, there is no more paper to be filed in non-criminal cases. It is a way of the future whether we like or dislike it.

Bond reform took effect January 1st. We should, at some point, see some reduction in jail numbers. He said Judge Bowers had said that her perception is that particularly for defendants that have statutory bonds, they are now getting a \$30 a day credit and she thinks the people now in custody on statutory bonds are probably going to become not in custody individuals along with the

second look which she does every Thursday, the jail numbers should probably, fairly soon see some reduction because of the move toward reducing or eliminating the need for cash bonds.

Judge Webber said that in a meeting with a colleague who is a Circuit Judge from McLean County, he was told that Bloomington is expanding their jail to devote an entire wing of the jail to inmates with mental health problems. Now, we know the jails have become the front line treaters / responders for persons with mental health issues as opposed to the state.

Chairman Dunn asked for an update on Veteran's Court. Judge Webber said that they are moving ahead with utilizing Champagne County as the Veteran's Court for the circuit. He said that they were going to enter into agreements with Champagne County to utilize their services. He said Mr. Berter has been working on some transportation issues. Veterans Assistance provides transportation as regular services. He said transportation issues seem to be well in hand. Because most of the treatment options beyond some minor things are probably handled through the VA in Danville. Mr. Berter clarified adding that there is actually an office in Decatur that will do the assessment per statute. If they need continued treatment, it can be provided by Heritage and yes, the VA in Danville. Judge Webber continued, saying that there had been some question about Heritage because the Statute talked in terms of only using Veterans Administration facilities as the service provider. So, if we can use Heritage, that will be a large help. He said he thought that before looking to establishing a local program, they would need to see what the usage would be. That is because other programs have not had the number of individuals involved which would seem to justify an entire separate to be set up here in Macon County.

Chairman Dunn asked if this is a volunteer, for example if a veteran were to get arrested and charged with something, can they volunteer that they want to go through the Veteran's Court or is it automatic and is it for any kind of charge or just certain kinds. Judge Webber said it is for certain kinds of charges that are probationable felony offenses or non-violent. It is like Drug Court and Mental Health Court. It is assessment based, essentially a diversion program. Simply a Veteran status does not automatically qualify an individual to participate. First, you have to look at the offense, then look to see if the individual is a veteran, and if they would be a good candidate for it. There is a lot of overlap between the existing programs and what a veteran's court would offer.

Coroner -

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to the Macon County Coroner's Office to Fund Drug-Related Autopsies

Sheriff Buffett explained that Assistant Coroner Coventry is present to answer any questions, but he would be presenting since she is on call. He said that there had been a meeting with the DPD, Macon County State's Attorney, Sheriff's, & Coroner's offices and this donation is to supplement what is being done with the State's Attorney's Office in terms of the Opioid Prosecutor that they have in place. The idea is to make sure that if we get very clear situations where we think we can go after the drug dealer that sold the drugs to the person that overdosed, the State's Attorney's Office has to have an autopsy to make the charges. This is to give him the funding so that he can show a track record of how that can be successful in getting some of out drug dealers off the street.

The goal is to do this like a pilot program and if it works, he will probably be in front of the County Board asking for more money.

Mr. Potts made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the motion carried 6-0.

Court Services / Probation -

Mr. Berter reported on the yearly review. The Adult caseload has gone up. Drug Court numbers have gone up. Mental Health Court went down by a couple. There have been more individuals on probation this year. There were more individuals on probation this year. There were less in detention, which is a good thing. This is done yearly so the department can make sure the staff is assigned to the areas that need to be addressed. There were 2,494 individuals that were drug tested within the department. Out of those, 929 tested positive. It is below 50%. It is not great, but better than anticipated. The donation received from the HGB Foundation for the drug testing machine has really helped out. There was \$41,000 in food items donated bringing the grand total donated so far over \$100,000. That has been going on for about 2½ years.

EMA -

Lt. Root explained that their agency would be conducting a Web EOC exercise with the State of Illinois. It will be a virtual exercise and is what will be done in the future. It is a pilot program IEMA is giving access to. This is where resources will be requested from the State of Illinois. What is going on throughout the state when a disaster strikes can be seen here.

On February 20th, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., the EMA Advisory Committee meeting will be held. Lt. Root encouraged the committee members and all board members to attend. It will be a great opportunity to see what the office does and if anyone wants input. Some changes will be explained about when it comes to meeting the core capabilities for emergency management. These are new guidelines that came down from the state. An assessment tool will be demonstrated showing how stakeholders such as fire and police departments can provide information and show how core capabilities are being met.

Additionally, before that there is a local emergency planning committee meeting at 9:30 a.m. This is the LEPC that provides hazardous planning for Macon County.

Public Building Commission – No Report

Sheriff's Department -

Macon County Board Resolution Approving A Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Purchase and Implement a New Records Filing System

Lt. Butts explained that the total donation is for \$110,710 and would be to install cabinets replacing some old one.

Chairman Dunn asked if this was to replace some of the old records storage space. Lt. Butts confirmed saying that last week, the DPD had moved some of their filing cabinets out. He said

that the Building Commission had been working with them and the cabinets would help the best utilization of space and help make it safer as the clerks will no longer have to stand on a step to access.

Mr. Potts made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Drobisch.

Mr. Oliver asked if the City and County Records are no longer together. Lt. Butts confirmed that they are separate now.

The motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Purchase a New Exchange Server

Sheriff Buffett explained that this donation is for \$50,744.49 which would include all hardware, software and licensing. The current server only supports the Sheriff's office. The new one will be able to assist the State's Attorney's Office, County Office Building, Courts and others. That is something that the MIS Division says is in dire need of replacement and would benefit the County overall.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Oliver.

Chair Dunn asked if there would be a backup for it. Lt. Butts said he thought yes, but would check with the MIS Division. Mr. Dunn asked if there is a backup now. Lt. Butts said yes, everything is backed up. Mr. Dunn asked if this one would be able to back up for other offices. Lt. Butts said yes, it should assist the whole county and provide one server that would be available to all offices and departments.

The motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Purchase A Web Server

Lt. Butts explained that this would include the web server and associated licensing fee which would be a total donation of \$5, 562. The current one supports the Sheriff's Office and EMA. This would replace that.

Mr. Drobisch made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Oliver said that several years ago, it had been proposed that the two units combine their records because it would be more efficient and less costly. He asked what had happened to that idea. Lt. Butts said he thought that had been arranged in 1993 or 1994 and provided that the County would take over the Records Division and they would take over Dispatching. That agreement was in place until about 3 years ago when the DPD moved into their new facility. The county continued to do some of their records because of being associated with the county and they were kind of mutual records, but since that time the agreement is no longer in place and we have been paying \$350,000 a year for dispatching. Originally, we would do records and they would do dispatching, but since they moved to their new building, we have been paying for dispatching and they are doing their own records and we are doing ours. Chair Dunn added that in that process, the County had to lay off a few records employees. Lt. Butts confirmed, saying that a total of 6 people had been laid off. One went to part time, but was brought back to full time last year. There is plenty of work to go around for the ladies and they do a fabulous job in the records department.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving In-Kind Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Purchase and Implement a New Jail Management System For The Macon County Jail

Lt. Thompson explained that a new management system to include hardware, software and associated licensing is required. The new system will improve efficiency. The reason the need of replacement exists is that in about a year, the only programmer that supports it is going to retire. The total is \$522,730. Sheriff Buffett explained that the Foundation is purchasing the software and then donating it to the Sheriff's Office, but the contract is written to the Sheriff's office.

Mr. Drobisch made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Potts and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Fund Increased Medical Services tor the Macon County Jail

Lt. Thompson explained that the Sheriff's Office has determined that the budget requires additional funding due to the required medical services for the Macon County Jail from April 30, 2018 thru April 20, 2019 which is the contract term. The Foundation has agreed to donate up to \$265,000 for services in the jail during that timeframe.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Oliver.

Chairman Dunn said he would like to talk about this a little bit, just to make the Justice Committee aware. Because of the different studies that have been done through the Sheriff's Office on the jail procedures and things, quite of bit of stuff is being implemented here. Some of these expenses are going to be around for awhile. He said he especially wanted to focus on the medical services. In

the end, it decreases our liability a huge amount by dong this. He said he thought it was the right thing to do to make sure the inmates have the correct medical services and staff. Lt. Thompson said the additional services include tripling the practitioner hours from 4 to 12. There is also a 2 hour clinic for psychiatry which as Judge Webber spoke about earlier, we are the front line for mental health treatment and we haven't been able to provide that as well as we now can. Sheriff Buffett added that the consultant that came in has done hundreds of jails. He was told our primary objective was to be in a position to try to avoid lawsuits, inmate injuries and correctional officers injuries. The idea behind this is that, the money to step this up is not in this year's budget, and this will give the county a one year opportunity to prepare to fund it to keep it going. It is an ongoing expense, but it is believed that it will pay back over the long run.

Mr. Oliver asked if this would become an intricate part of budgeting from now on. Chairman Dunn said yes. Mr. Oliver asked if it would be \$265,000 a year. Mr. Dunn said that this is a one time donation in that amount. Obviously, it is contracted out. For a while, we've been doing one year contracts. That might change. This is always subject to being put out for RFP to see if we can get better service, but this is expanding our service. Judge Webber hit on it. A lot of these hospitals are shutting down a lot of their psychiatric units. Not only our jail, but jails all over the state are seeing more mental issues coming in as inmates and somebody has to take care of them. None of this expense is because we didn't have a good jail. We've had good reports on our jail from the state for years. This is just from the experts saying that if you want to run the jail the way it should be in this century, this is what you need to do. Fortunately the Howard G. Buffett Foundation is helping us immensely with this process. A lot of it is just a one time price, but the medical is going to be with us. Mr. Oliver asked if it would do anything to lower insurance costs. Chairman Dunn said he thought it would help tremendously. Mr. Oliver said he thought that people should be made aware that we have the chance to lower some costs.

The motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Fund a Corrections Officer Position in the Macon County Jail for a Period of Twenty-One Months

Lt. Thompson explained that this donation would allow the Sheriff's Office to hire an additional Corrections Officer for the 21 month period for the purpose of implementing the new classification and behavioral management system in the jail. The new system will improve safety and behavioral management in the jail. The amount of the donation is \$122,526 and includes salary, fringes, health insurance, IMRF & SS.

Mr. Oliver made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft.

Mr. Oliver asked if this would add an extra officer to the numbers there are currently. Lt. Thompson confirmed. Mr. Oliver asked if the person taking the job would be told that he would only be working 21 months for this purpose. Lt. Thompson said this position is being funded for

21 months from the Foundation with hopes that in 21 months from how, they can ask to add another body. With the changing times and changing inmate populations, it is being found that 2 or 3 corrections officers could be added pretty easily. This position will strictly be for implementing the classification and inmate behavioral management system that has not been in place prior to this, but is statutorily needed. Sheriff Buffett added that they had also looked at attrition so that when the end of the 21 months comes up, if the money isn't there, the work may have to be absorbed. Attrition will be one possible solution. He said they are discussing some adjustments with the State Marshall Service on their contract. There are also a couple of other ideas where some revenue might be raised for the jail in particular. All of those things will be ongoing this is done. Mr. Oliver referred to several departments throughout the county that hire employees via grants and when those grants expire and budget time comes around, the claim is that the employee is really needed. They were hired on a temporary basis and we just need to make sure we don't get caught up in this again. Sheriff Buffett went back to the earlier question and said this is not in this year's budget. It is a stop gap measure. This is a way to get it through this year without a change in the County budget. Obviously, one of the statutory requirements for the Sheriff's Office is to provide the jail and if you look at today's world, there are a number of beds that are currently housed by people who have mental illness because there is no other facility to take them. There are 100 beds with people with alcohol or drug abuse problems because there are no resources to address it. Then there are the hard core criminals. All of those people bring medical issues, mental issues and issues that we have not been as prepared to deal with. We passed the state examination every year because we meet all the criteria that is required, but liability comes from having people in that jail that shouldn't really be in that jail, but they are in that jail because there is no other place to put them. The only way to deal with that effectively is to increase the medical costs. Sangamon County is not apples to apples, but they are not that much larger than we are in terms of bed space, but they are paying over \$800,000 a year. We are at \$303,000. You are going to pay for it one way or the other. Mr. Buffett explained that one of the things the Chairman asked to have looked at when he came into office is how can liability be reduced and protect correctional officers from harm. He said he believes that that is what this does.

Chairman Dunn stated that fortunately, we have the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to do an in depth study on the jail practices. It was pretty expensive, but experts came in and did a great job of identifying things that they thought we should correct. Until this stuff all gets implemented and we have some time to experience all of it, we're not sure where we will be at on bodies as far as the number of corrections officers. If you look through the report, some things say that if you implement this, it might reduce hours, but we have to maintain the support staff in the jail to make sure that we don't have any surprises there. He said he appreciates what the foundation has done and that he is impressed with Lt. Kris Thompson and what he had done since he has started running the jail. He has a good rapport with the officers.

Mr. Potts asked if this would be a management position. Lt. Thompson said no. Mr. Potts asked if the starting pay would be \$88,000. Lt. Thompson said no, but to appoint someone to that classification specialty, a low average of a 7 or 8 year person was used. Chairman Dunn asked if it would come from within the ranks. Lt. Thompson confirmed that it would, and then that person would have to be replaced.

The motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Purchase a New Inmate Transport Van that will be Assigned to the Macon County Jail

Lt. Thompson explained that this would be to purchase a 2018 van equipped for transporting prisoners, with an interior camera system, to be assigned to the Macon County jail. This van, equipped and built out, has a price tag of \$105,000.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Potts and the motion carried 6-0.

Lt. Butts commented that the vehicle is not a Ram, it is a Ford.

Lt. Thompson gave background information on the current van. It is over 15 years old, has 190,000 miles on it, and there are no cameras. The new one will be more than just a van. It is like an airport shuttle bus, equipped for transporting inmates. It is not just a passenger van.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving In-Kind Donation Of Services from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Engage Consultant to Develop a New Corrections Policy Manual for the Macon County Jail

Lt. Thompson explained that the donation allows for a consultant at the rate of \$86,500 to provide expert assistance in developing a new corrections policy manual for the jail.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Purchase New Uniforms for Macon County Jail Correctional Officers

Lt. Thompson explained that the donation would be \$45,000.

Mr. Oliver made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Potts.

Sheriff Buffett added that this is a one time donation. It is sustainable out of the uniform line going forward. This is to allow the changeover. The same uniforms have been used for 15 years. There have been a lot of improvements in uniforms since then. Chairman Dunn said that he had

had a complaint that someone was mistreated by one of the corrections officers who had no name tag. He said he was not sure how other jails do that, but he would appreciate it if it were checked into. He said he could see where they wouldn't want last names. Lt. Thompson said they would have last names. He said they are all supposed to wear name tags, but they are metal and the backs fall off, have sharp ends, etc. Replacement takes a couple of weeks. He said the new uniforms would have a sewn on last name and each officer would have that. He said, as always, if there are any complaints, he would be happy to look into them.

The motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving In-Kind Donation of Services from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Engage Consultant for Expert Assistance to Develop Medical Policies for the Macon County Jail

Lt. Thompson explained that the consultant had recommended that the jail develop medical policies. The rate for the consultant is \$20,000 of which \$15,000 is for the policies and \$5,000 is for customization and consulting as needed for implementing them.

Mr. Potts made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving In-Kind Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation of Fifteen Vests for use by Macon County Jail Correctional Officers

Lt. Thompson explained the value of the vests is approximately \$17,749.80 and will be utilized by corrections officers who transport inmates on a regular basis. This division has never had ballistic vests. Some of the worst of the worst are transported to and from court, federal court, state court, hospitals, doctors offices, etc.

Mr. Potts made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Purchase Sixteen Pistols for the Macon County Jail

Lt. Thompson explained that the purchase would include 14 Glock 22 / 40 caliber pistols and two Glock 23 / 40 caliber pistols with accessories for use by the corrections officers. The donation will be for \$7,872. There are currently 9 firearms, but it is being found that there are times when that is not enough. There sometimes are officers at the training academy and several transports and there is a scramble to equip the officers with firearms. The current ones are outdated and in pretty rough shape.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Oliver commented on his asking so many questions about the resolutions, but many times they have no idea about what is going on, what they are asking for, and how it will affect the next budgetary go-around. He said he felt it is important for the committee members to try to find out just exactly what they are voting on. He said he has been in position at different times of voting on something and had no idea what it was. He asked forgiveness if it seemed that he was antagonizing anyone, but that is the way he feels about it. He said he felt it is his duty to do that as a representative of the taxpayers. He said his hope is that it also helps the rest of the committee to understand what is being asked.

Chairman Dunn said that all the resolutions will be going to Finance next Monday and said Mr. Oliver would be welcome to attend or Sheriff Buffett would be happy to meet with him or any board member at any time and try to answer any other questions there might be.

Mr. Dunn explained that he probably knew a little more than the committee because he had been talking with Mr. Buffett about it. This is an opportunity to increase our policies and procedures and equipment in the jail to make it one of the best in the state. He said they could have not done anything with most of it, but the HGB Foundation is helping us out. A lot of this stuff is going to provide the jail with equipment and stuff that will last for years. There are a couple of resolutions that are providing things that could possibly cost increases down the road, but it all depends on how this whole system works out. He said he feels confident in Lt. Thompson and his running the jail to do everything he can to watch the taxpayers money but still provide the service that needs to be provided for the inmates. Sheriff Buffett added that most everything, except for the medical and the 21 month Corrections officer, is replacing equipment that is already there or policies that just need updating. Most all of this is just improving what was there in the past to bring it up to speed or get newer or safer items. He said he was available at any time to answer questions and Lt. Thompson is also available, as is Lt. Butts. He said they are all happy to meet with anybody at any time to answer any questions.

Chairman Dunn addressed Lt. Butts, asking for a meeting with him and Jerry Lord to discuss the new system that requires the fingerprinting process.

He also informed Ms. Durbin that he would be sending her information on the Municipal Court and said he would like for her to review the cases and determine what the costs are to the county. This was done quite a few years ago and he thought it was about \$150,000 and he said he is curious about where we are today with this. Someone made a comment about the city paying for municipal . . . Chairman Dunn says they pay for that, but the county has to serve all the warrants. Ms. Durbin explained that when the city files with the administrative courts and they don't have the authority to collect, so they file them in the county courts. They are filing them under an MR case which because they are a government agency, they do not pay our filing fees. So, those are filed without filing fees. What happens, if when it goes to the judge, he signs an order enforcing the Administrative Judgement which is tacked on to the filing fee to the dependent. Collecting that

sometimes is not easy. She said they are looking at turning them over to collections. She said she would be taking that up with the State's Attorney.

State's Attorney's Office-

Mr. Baggett reported that last month he had reported that their office was down 2 Assistant State's Attorneys. As of Monday, there is one new ASA coming in. Her name is Jacqueline Hollis-George. She was licensed in November, 2017 and has been working at a local private real estate firm.

It's been a long stretch. One attorney left the office in June, 2017 and went to Sangamon County. Now, he is working in the county's Public Defenders office. He has not yet been replaced.

Another attorney was lost in December to the McLean County's State's Attorney's office. They are still looking for a replacement for that attorney. These are entry level positions.

There is another young lady that interned for the office last year. She will be taking the Bar in February and should get her results back in April. If successful, she will be licensed in May. If all goes well, based on her experience as an intern, she could be offered a position unless someone comes along before then. Since she has worked in the office previously, it is felt she may be a good fit. One way or another, Mr. Baggett said he feels they are on track to fill the open positions and be back at full staff.

Mr. Potts asked if the people that left did so because of the wages. Mr. Baggett explained that the attorney that left and then came back to work in the Public Defender's Office left to go to Sangamon County because he lives in Sangamon County and he wanted to be closer to family. The attorney that left in December did so because of salary and a desire to move closer to family as well. They offered him more money and it was an opportunity too good to pass up,

Public Defender's Office -

Mr. Wheeler reported that they wanted to let the Sheriff's Office know that they appreciate them working out a way that they can get to see their clients without having to go out into the rain.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT – none

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

<u>CLOSED SESSION</u> – None needed

NEXT MEETING Thursday, February 22, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Oliver, the motion carried 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office