

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Macon County Office Building
Macon County Board Room #514
141 S. Main Street, Decatur, IL 62523**

February 27, 2020 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Mattingley – Chair
Debra Kraft – Vice Chair
Jim Gresham
Lloyd Holman
Bill Oliver

MEMBERS ABSENT

Verzell Taylor
Dave Drobisch

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Sherrri Doty, Circuit Clerk's Office
Dave Ellison, Public Defender
Jon Perona, PBC
Judge Hubbard, Courts
Pat Berter, Probation
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Carol Reed, Auditor
Adam Walter, Sheriff's Dept
Kevin Greenfield, County Board Chairman
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/23/2020 Macon County Board Justice Committee meeting, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –

Ms. Doty reported that they continue to train in the new Tyler computer system.

Circuit Courts –

Judge Hubbard reported that the courthouse will be closed on the 20th of March for the switchover to the Tyler system which should not affect the County Building or any other offices other than just the courthouse. That should, hopefully, be a smooth switchover.

Coroner – No Report

Court Services / Probation –

Mr. Berter reported that they are ending their 3rd week in the Tyler system. It has been a nightmare. The whole conversion of the cases has been a problem. He said he ended up writing a letter to John who is the salesman and to the Tyler Company. They ended up coming out about 2 weeks ago to try to straighten some things out. He said he feels like there was no up front discussion on how business is done here. Every time Mr. Berter went to the company or to the production team, they just kept telling him they couldn't do this and couldn't do that or it was

going to cost money. He said they finally got it rectified as far as it will not cost anymore money, because we were not going to pay, but it has been a very slow process. He said they have about 80% of their cases entered, but hopefully, it will be smoother for the courts and the Circuit Clerk. A lot of what they promised, did not happen. Now, they are trying to do a little bit better. Mr. Berter said he was speaking with a Probation Officer in Piatt County. They have the Tracker system. The Tracker system is not pleasing to the eye, but it works. The Tyler system looks really good, but it doesn't work like it needs to. So it comes to whether you want something that works or something that sits there and looks good. He said they still do not have any of their reports. This was supposed to have been taken care of 3 weeks ago. The Pre-trial report supplies information to the court on individuals that are in the County jail. The Pre-disposition report gives a criminal history and is provided to the court. The Pre-sentence report done for individuals that are going to be sentenced to the Department of Corrections or Probation is not done. The Social History report done for juveniles is not done. None of the state reports have been completed. So, the reports that have to be submitted to the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts and the Criminal Justice Authority are not completed. They are working on them, but hopefully there will be some turn around. Mr. Berter said he had a discussion with them today, but there was no upfront work done on their part. They tried to mold us into how business is done in other states. This is the first time what we need, Case Load Pro, is being done in Illinois. There are a lot of gaps. Mr. Berter said his officers have done a phenomenal job of biting the bullet and doing the best job they can to make sure the cases look good as they continue to move forward.

Ms. Kraft asked how long they had met prior. Mr. Berter said it was all phone conferences. The only in-house that was had was with John, the salesman for Tyler and Larry Stanton who is a co-founder of Case Load Pro. That was for us to go to Case Load Pro. The system itself, to supervise cases, will work, but this department does so much more than just supervise cases. Juveniles who are in detention are monitored. There are GPS cases. There are reports and community service and so much more than just supervising a case. They continue to tweak things. They have now said that everything that needs customization from here on out will not cost anything, which it shouldn't anyway.

Chair Mattingley commented that the reports mentioned are necessary for pre-trial risk assessments. Mr. Berter agreed saying that it has been something else. Mr. Mattingley asked if Tyler is doing business with anyone else in Illinois. Mr. Berter said that for Case Load Pro, no, but for the Tyler system itself, some work has been done in Peoria County, Tazewell County, Kane County, & Cook County. But, as far as Case Load Pro, which is the supervision or probation piece, we are the first ones. To give an example, the court's definition of a disposition is an outcome and it is different than what theirs look like. So, when cases were populated, there were 145,000 cases and because our dispositions did not line up with theirs, they were all dumped into a notes field. Now, the officers are going back to clean all of those up because that affects how our reports should look.

Mr. Oliver asked about other counties. Mr. Berter explained that we are the first county to go to this. He said they would get it taken care of. His hope is that the reports will be completed, at least the pre-trial because that is holding up other things in the department in the next week and a half so they can move forward.

Mr. Gresham asked if there was any assistance anyone could provide. Mr. Berter said no, but after he sent the letter, it got the ball rolling. The first week was bad. Mr. Gresham said people are spending way too much time trying to put this together. Mr. Berter agreed. The officers have to open up the cases and put the relevant information in because we didn't pay for that. It was going to cost so much to have all of our information converted into the system from Tracker. So, he said they are going in and entering the information, but not only are they entering that information, but they are having to clean up information where it was populated.

Mr. Oliver explained that the reason he had asked his question about other counties and maybe putting some pressure on these guys if they want new contracts or whatever in Illinois. We might be able to say this is where you started at and this may be where you finish at. Mr. Berter said he told them he would not endorse Case Load Pro to any other Probation department in the State, so don't use them as a reference. Little things should have been taken care of that were not taken care of. They are now. It is getting better, but it was a process.

Ms. Kraft asked when they started. Mr. Berter said it was February 3rd when they went live. For the Adult Redeploy, it has to be submitted every quarter. That ends in March. He said he ended up having to extend the contract with Tracker that was supposed to expire 2/17/2020 through March 30th because the reports were not completed. That ended up costing \$995 out of the budget.

Hopefully there will be better news for the next meeting. He said he just needs his reports for the quarter. Mr. Gresham asked for an update in a couple of weeks at the County Board meeting.

Emergency Management Agency – No Report

Public Building Commission – No Report

Public Defender's Office – No Report

Sheriff's Department –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Transference of Funds from At Risk Services Line to Purchase New Duty Firearms and Holsters

Chief Deputy Adam Walter explained that the Macon County Sheriff's Office's duty weapons were purchased in 2014. Through normal training, which includes several rounds being discharged, the firearms experience depreciation which requires them to be replaced periodically. This resolution requests that \$32,500 be transferred from the current At Risk Services Grant to the equipment line in order for the Sheriff's office to purchase new duty firearms and holsters.

Chair Mattingley asked if this would cover the whole department's needs for replacement. Chief Deputy Walter explained that it would cover patrol, the sworn officers, but not court security or corrections; just patrol, detectives, etc... Mr. Mattingley asked if today's two resolutions would deplete the At Risk fund. Mr. Walter said he did not have the exact information, but was confident that it would not be completely depleted, but obviously it will diminish it.

Mr. Oliver made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Transference of Funds from At Risk Services Line to Purchase Civil Process Software

Chief Deputy Adam Walter explained that the current civil process service is antiquated. That is an important, vital service provided by the Macon County Sheriff's Office. Through research, a Civil Process Software Company that could facilitate a more efficient way to process the Civil Process Service and help reduce paper products associated with the service, which would, in turn, help the environment. This resolution requests the transfer of \$61,000 from the At Risk Services Grant to the equipment line in order for the Macon County Sheriff's Office to purchase this Civil Process Service Program.

Chair Mattingley asked if the people that provide this are from Illinois. Chief Deputy Adam Walter said he could not give an exact answer, but he did not believe so. Mr. Mattingley asked, after listening to Mr. Berter, if this software is used elsewhere and if anyone else has had good or bad experience with it. Mr. Walter did not know, but said it has been researched thoroughly. Face to face contact has been made with the consultant.

Mr. Holman made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 5-0

***State's Attorney's Office –
Macon County Board Resolution Amending the State's Attorney's FY2020 Automation Budget***

Mr. Baggett explained that this resolution is to increase the appropriation in the State's Attorney's automation fund. The automation fund budget for FY2020 was set at \$3,500. There is a fund balance of just under \$6,000 as of the end of January, 2020. A bill for \$4,567 for an annual subscription for the automated case management software has come in. The \$3,500 in automation will not cover this bill. The request is to increase the automation fund balance so that expense can be paid out of automation as opposed to paying for it out of the general fund.

Chair Mattingley commented that they must be hoping to carry some over for a continuing fund balance after the bill has been paid. Mr. Baggett confirmed saying that the increase of the \$2,500 would set the appropriation in that budget at what is currently in the fund balance so if other expenses that could be paid for out of the automation fund for the remainder of the year, they could be paid without them having to come back to the board for approval. Ms. Kraft and Mr. Gresham asked if this would be enough. The figures don't mesh. It looks like there would be a shortage of about \$6. Mr. Baggett reminded them that that was as of January 31st. They get about \$2 on every criminal case, so he said he was pretty sure they gotten the \$6 by now. Mr. Gresham asked if it was the same case management system and was increasing by that much. Mr. Baggett said they've had the system for some time. Mr. Gresham said it is a big increase. Mr. Baggett explained that they had not set the \$3,500 in the budget based on the amount of the expense. It wasn't a factorization at all. Mr. Gresham asked if they didn't know the expense would be coming up. Mr. Baggett said they did. It was an oversight. It should have been asked for, but was not.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 5-0

Mr. Baggett went on to report that he was going to have to pick on the Public Defender a little bit. Last month Mr. Baggett said he had updated the committee that the department was down two attorneys as a result of 2 attorneys being out on parental leave and Mr. Ellison informed the committee that he had recently hired an attorney to fill one of his vacancies and that that attorney came from the State's Attorney's Office. That created an opening in the State's Attorney's Office. He has since done the same thing again. So, the State's Attorney's office is presently down 4 attorneys with the potential for a 5th depending of circumstances beyond the attorney's control. It is hopeful that that won't play out until after the attorneys who are on parental leave are back. The department is advertising across the state with every law school and has paid for an ad in the ISBA's job board to see if that would get more hits. So far, there is one interested candidate who is not licensed to practice law at this time. It is a problem finding qualified candidates. Currently, Sangamon County is down about 7 attorneys, Champaign is down a couple, Winnebago is down between 15 & 25 attorneys. There are presently somewhere around 16 vacancies posted on the Illinois State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor site for positions across the state. Mr. Baggett said he did not know what the legal market is like in the private sector, but everyone is having a hard time finding qualified and interested candidates for government work right now.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Mr. Oliver asked how much money is in the At Risk Services account. Chief Deputy Walter explained that he did not have an exact number on that. Ms. Reed explained that that was a grant originally from the Buffett Foundation. This is about \$330,000 in it right now. She said they have to report to the Foundation as to how much is in it periodically. They have to approve whatever is asked for.

Old Business None

New Business - None

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING March 26, 2020

Mr. Holman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Oliver, the motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham , Macon County Board Office