

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

**July 23, 2020 @ 3:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Greg Mattingley – Chair  
Debra Kraft – Vice Chair  
Jim Gresham  
Lloyd Holman  
Verzell Taylor

**MEMBER PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY**

Bill Oliver

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk's Office  
Dave Ellison, Public Defender  
Jon Perona, PBC  
Judge Webber, Courts  
Pat Berter, Probation  
Circuit Clerk, Chief Deputy  
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office  
Mike Day, Coroner  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
Sheriff Brown  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Macon County Board Justice Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

**CLAIMS**

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Ms. Kraft and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

**REPORTS**

***Circuit Clerk –***

Ms. Doty reported that she had taken office July 1<sup>st</sup>.

They are  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way of going back to the old system. The courts are happy; the Circuit Clerk staff is happy; the State is happy and they are all ecstatic about having good records again.

***Circuit Courts –***

Judge Webber reported that they had resumed normal operations on June 1<sup>st</sup> when the Supreme Court gave permission to do that. He said they've been working on the backlog and said that on most non-jury cases, they are fairly well caught up. There was a pretty good backlog of some other cases, but with shrewd scheduling and the judges, lawyers & offices working hard they are pretty well caught up. There is a backlog of jury trials, but they did do the first jury trial earlier this month. It was a pretty high profile case. Judge Webber said he had asked Judge Griffith who had tried the case to talk to the jurors afterwards to see if they had any concerns because the courtrooms had been reconfigured and the Health Department, Building Commission, Sheriff's Department and everyone go through the courtroom and building and offer suggestions. A number of things were done differently from the way the jurors were checked in, the way they deliberated,

put in courtrooms, etc. and Judge Webber said he was pleased to say that none had any complaints about them not taking proper cautions for their health and safety. He said as a result, they will continue to do jury trials.

Judge Webber repeated that they are switching back to the Legacy System as Ms. Doty had reported and he said he has not received so many compliments from the court staff in 19 years. More importantly, the courtrooms are operating much more efficiently, particularly the volume courtrooms. It was a tough decision, but necessary.

### ***Coroner – No Report***

#### ***Court Services / Probation –***

Mr. Berter reported that they have had two vacancies in the department. Danny Knight that was with the department for over 30 years retired in June and Shelly Pinkston, the Drug Court Officer, left to take a position with Crossing last week. Those positions are not going to be filled. Mr. Berter said he had spoken with the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts about the questions they've had in regard to how the departments have been funded. Last year, in the paper, it said that the department was fully funded. So, the department funds that are received are broken down into salary subsidy, grants & aid and pre-trial. So those salary subsidy positions only give us \$12,000 for those officers. He said he had spoken to the board about this before. The AOIC is going to allow the department to take the two vacant positions and transfer those officers that are in salary subsidy to grants & aid and then go ahead and allow 3 more salary subsidy positions to grants and aid. So, there will only be one salary subsidy position and so the department is pretty much as close to full funding as it will ever be. There should be a lot more money coming in from the state. Chair Mattingley and Ms. Kraft praised Mr. Berter for a good job.

### ***Emergency Management Agency – No Report***

#### ***Public Building Commission – No Report***

#### ***Public Defender's Office –***

Mr. Ellison reported that they had lost 2 people but have been able to replace them. One was support staff and one was an attorney. Kevin Kehoe has decided to go back into retirement, but he has already been replaced and the office is back to full staff.

He reported that the office is also pretty much caught up again with everything they have except for, as Judge Webber reported, the jury trials. He said he thought the more serious cases would come first, but if a serious case doesn't go, the staff is prepared to go with the other cases as well. Everything is looking pretty good right now.

#### ***Sheriff's Department –***

#### ***Macon County Board Resolution Granting Permission to Dispose of Surplus Equipment***

Sheriff Brown explained that new vests have just been purchased for the deputies. The old vests will go to a group that collects those vests. The Sheriff's department will sign a release of

responsibility so that if they give these vests out to other agencies that can't afford their own equipment.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Taylor and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Intergovernmental Agreement For Macon County Sheriff's Police Services For the Village Of Argenta, Illinois***

Sheriff Brown explained that the department used to have a contractual agreement with the Village of Argenta but because of the costs required to make sure the officers were being fiscally responsible, they were not able to do it. Therefore, they opted to go to a hireback program just like the Village of Long Creek. Basically, the deputy becomes their employee and they pay them and are responsible for 100% of the dispatched calls. That is reimbursed back to the Sheriff's Department so no revenue will be lost that way either.

Chair Mattingley asked if the terms are similar or the same as in the other hire back agreements. Sheriff Brown confirmed saying that they had just gotten the one back from Long Creek and will be requiring them the same dispatch fees.

Mr. Drobisch made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Holman and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0

***State's Attorney's Office –***

Mr. Baggett reported that the State's Attorney's since April has had two vacancies in the office. In line with the Finance Committee's request in terms of the budgetary situation and the revenue shortfall the county is experiencing, they have taken steps not to fill those positions in order to cut down on the general fund expenses that the State's Attorney's Office has. As the Public Defender's Office is at full staff, Mr. Ellison has approached yet another attorney from the State's Attorney's Office leaving the office down 3 attorneys. He said they would be seeking a replacement for the 3<sup>rd</sup> attorney. It is hoped that the current economic situation will allow them to find an attorney more easily than prior to the pandemic. He said they were going to try to hold out indefinitely in respect to the other two vacancies to see how long they can manage. As Judge Webber indicated, the courts are back in full swing, but the pandemic is still taking a toll. At this point, the office is struggling, but managing and will continue to do so as long as they can.

**CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT –**

There were no emails received via email and there were no citizens present wishing to speak.

**Old Business None**

**New Business -**

***Macon County Board Resolution Setting the Salaries for Office of State's Attorney and Public Defender Effective July 1, 2020***

Chair Mattingley presented and explained that the salaries are based on Statutory requirements.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Taylor and the motion carried 7-0

**Closed Session – None needed**

**NEXT MEETING** August 27, 2020

Mr. Holman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Drobisch and the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham , Macon County Board Office