

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

November 19, 2020 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Kraft – Vice Chair
Jim Gresham
Lloyd Holman

MEMBER PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY

Bill Oliver
Verzell Taylor (@3:01 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave Drobisch
Greg Mattingley – Chair

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk's Office
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Jon Perona, PBC
Carol Reed, Auditor
Judge Griffith, Courts
Pat Berter, Probation
Jessie Smalley, HR
Kevin Greenfield, County Board Chairman
Dave Ellison, Public Defender
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Kraft @ 3:00 p.m. at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Holman made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Macon County Board Justice Committee meeting (10/22/2020), seconded by Mr. Gresham and roll call vote showed the motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Taylor joined telephonically

CLAIMS

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Holman and roll call vote showed the motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –No report

Circuit Courts –

Judge Griffith reported that jury trials were supposed to be taking place this week, but this month's jury trial setting had to be cancelled due to the rapidly rising COVID rates combined with the fact that the trials they were left with had both of the defendings out of custody. The charges were not all that serious. The hope is to have jury trials during the month of December, but that is a hope that does not look terribly promising at this time.

Per the Governor's suggestion, Judge Griffith reported that they may go to shifts starting sometime next week where all of the judges show up each day, but one week one shift goes home when their work is done while the rest stay around for emergencies. The next week they reverse the process. There are 8 judges total now, so there will be four judges that will be at the Courthouse full time next week and four judges full time the following week and the other four judges will work until they get their work done and then go home as will their clerks. He said he was going to speak with Ms. Doty about both the Clerk's office and the Court Reporters doing the same thing.

The process of hiring an Associate Judge is currently taking place. Interviews are set for December 10th. It is possible there will be a new Associate Judge in place sometime in January.

Coroner – No Report

Court Services / Probation –

Mr. Berter reported that contract negotiations are currently underway. The union's proposal was received. A counter proposal was offered which Mr. Berter said he thought was fair and was based on their financial situation. Another proposal was received back. Mr. Berter said he had met with Mr. Flynn yesterday and came up with what they considered their best offer based on the County's financial situation, the probation fee collection, & the anticipation of possible 10% cuts next year from the State. Mr. Berter said he really believes this is a really good proposal. A letter is being sent out. Mr. Berter said he has really good staff and all of the issues are financial and the department's financial situation is just tight like everyone else's.

Emergency Management Agency – No Report

Public Building Commission – No Report

Public Defender's Office –

Mr. Ellison reported that due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in Macon County, they are requesting their attorneys work from home as much as they can. They come in for court appearances. Interviews with clients are encouraged to be conducted over the phone.

Because of the election, the Public Defender's office is in need of finding another attorney. There is one promising prospect that will be interviewed next week.

There is now a strict mask policy in the office. Anyone that is out of their office must have a mask on and if they are in their office, the door is shut. There have been a couple of positive cases, but they are now back to work.

Ms. Kraft commented that we just all need to be proactive and follow safe practices. It's just as simple as can be.

Sheriff's Department – No Report

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 FY2021

Mr. Baggett explained that this is the same amount as last year, \$28,000. This allows the Appellate Prosecutor to handle all appeals coming from Macon County on behalf of the State’s Attorney; it also allows for them to handle certain tax cases as well as certain prosecutor cases. The \$28,000 was allotted for in the FY21 budget, so it has already been appropriated and now they are just asking it be approved.

Mr. Gresham 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 5-0

Macon County Board Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property by the State’s Attorney’s Office

Mr. Baggett explained that the office has already done this two or three times this year, but just have some old technology and equipment that has been identified so it can be cleared out and the space can be utilized. Everything is either obsolete or broken. Ms. Kraft asked what would be done with the items. Mr. Baggett explained that they work with the Environmental Management Department and the Public Building Commission to make sure they are appropriately disposed of.

Mr. Gresham 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 5-0

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

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING December 17, 2020

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Holman, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Kraft at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham , Macon County Board Office