

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

September 22, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Verzell Taylor

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Judge Griffith, Circuit Court
Pat Berter, Probation
Sheriff Jim Root
Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk
Tammy Wilcox, County Administrator
Michelle Sanders, Public Defender
Jon Perona, PBC
Scott Rueter, State's Attorney's Office
Jean Moore, C1C
Crystal Hugger, County Board Office
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

Chair Mattingley called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 23, 2022 & July 28, 2022 meetings, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 6 - 0.

CLAIMS

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –

Ms. Doty reported that she has lost 3 employees. One has already been replaced. It is kind of a compliment because two of them went to work for the Judge. She said she is very proud of them. The other will be replaced within weeks.

Circuit Courts –

Judge Griffith reported that by the first of December of this year they will have been down 4 judicial clerks. Thanks to the Circuit Clerk's fine people, they have hired 2. He explained they just posted the jobs and people applied. They were not purposely trying to steal her help. A third one is in the works of being line up. The fourth person will not be replaced. He explained that he had spoken with Chairman Greenfield about restructuring the office. It will not affect the budget. He said he would keep the committee informed.

Jury trials have been going on all week.

Coroner – No report

Court Services / Probation –

Mr. Berter reported that he will be meeting Brian Brown tomorrow. Brian is the superintendent of the Peoria County Juvenile Detention facility. They will be trying to get a contract squared away for 5 years. He explained that he had informed the Finance Committee at his Budget Hearing that he was trying to get a contract for 5 years. Champaign County actually closed their Detention Facility of housing kids because of not having enough staff to work. This is an ongoing issue with detention centers in the state. Peoria County's detention center has 18 vacancies. Mr. Berter said he is afraid that the different detention centers in the state are going to start outsourcing to detention centers that are running. He said he is in hopes of getting a good 5 year contract.

Emergency Management Agency

Sheriff Root reported that Tammy is working on a Reunification Plan for the school districts in Macon County, including some in Piatt County and Moweaqua. A meeting was held this morning. They are working with the Regional Office of Education to provide some type of reunification plan in case there is an active threat environment for taking the kids and making sure they get reunited with their families afterwards. The response plan with the Sheriff's Office and most Law Enforcement Agencies is to deal with the threat and after that, but not so much to deal with the kids and how those kids get reunified with the parents. That has always been a place in the planning process that got overlooked. Right now, Tammy is working with Jill Reedy, the new Superintendent with the Regional Office to get that conversation going. It was a good meeting this morning that lasted about 2 ½ hours. It will take almost a year to do it.

Sheriff's Department –

Sheriff Root reported that at last count, there were 349 people in the jail. There are still 50 federal inmates and 10 from Champaign County. Champaign County closed one of their facilities and we are housing some of their inmates for them. That goes along with the staffing issues everyone is apparently having.

Macon County Board County Board Resolution Approving Acceptance of JAG Grant

Sheriff Root explained that they are currently running one of these grants. This is for gun related crimes. The City of Decatur gets this grant. They have to offer a portion of that money to the County. We either reject or accept it. We accepted last year and the year before. We did not use all of the funds, so that money will be forfeited back to the city or another jurisdiction. This 2022 grant is for \$9,020.25. He said he is requesting approval so the funds can be used to combat gun related crimes.

Motion to approve forwarding to Finance with recommendation to approve made by Ms. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Oliver. Chairman Greenfield asked if there was a reason why all of the money had not been used. Sheriff Root explained that they get it and offer it out as overtime to the deputies. This cycle, with all the police reform and all the things that are happening in Law Enforcement, people are reluctant to put themselves out there and do the extra. These are working in some hazardous environments stopping cars, gun related, and those types of things that carry a little more risk both as potential harm to you and in addition, the liability of if you make a mistake,

you will get sued. We have less people wanting to do it. We encourage them to get out and do this stuff. This is specifically coming from outside the city where we normally police and going into the city environment and dealing with the people within the city that we don't know how to deal with. The motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Decatur for Task Force

Sheriff Root explained that this is what is currently referred to as the Narcotics Task Force. The City of Decatur has asked us to re-envision this as a multi jurisdictional street crimes. They wanted to make sure they encompass burglaries and stuff like that as part of the responsibilities to go out there and look at people that are actually committing the crimes whether they are gun related, prostituting or anything of that nature that occurs out on the street. They are under cover officers that go out and operate in that environment and provide that type of investigations for the county and the city.

Motion to approve forwarding to Finance with recommendation to approve made by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Greenfield. Mr. Oliver asked if the police departments would be able to operate in the county jurisdiction and the county within the city. Sheriff Root explained that yes, it does do that. The County already has jurisdiction in the City. The City would now, those people working in that Street Crimes Unit would be deputized by the County. The only thing that the City recommends is that we follow their pursuit policy since their supervision actually supervises our one employee that is assigned to that unit. But, it gives the ability for the Street Crimes Unit to go anywhere in the County and investigate these types of crimes. Mr. Oliver clarified that not every patrolman would be able to do that. Sheriff Root explained that patrol officers that are not assigned to the Street Crimes Unit Task Force would not have jurisdiction outside the City of Decatur. But, this would give those particular officers that are sworn out to that Task Force the ability to go out and make arrests and do investigations in the County in our jurisdiction. Mr. Oliver said he hopes that that is understood by the public when they see City officers in the County. This may cause some problems. Sheriff Root said that a couple of years ago they would get calls about why is there city squad cars out on the interstate. That is part of this Task Force Agreement. We don't do the interdiction part of it anymore, but that was the question that we had and that is how we explained it. They have the ability to go out on our authority and investigate crimes in the county. Mr. Baggett clarified saying that there is an indemnity clause in the IGA which would make the City be required to indemnify the County for any actions omissions that may be committed towards its officers even though they are deputized by the Sheriff. If it is a City Police Officer acting under this agreement, if a lawsuit arises out of any of that conduct, then the city would have to indemnify the County for its defense and we would have to indemnify the City for the conduct of our one sheriff's deputy who might be operating pursuant to this agreement. The motion carried 6-0.

Decatur Public Building Commission – no report

Public Defender's Office –

Ms. Sanders reported that like the other agencies, they are having difficulties with employment. She said she is getting concerned as they are about to hit crisis level because there are now 4 vacancies in the office. That means there are 6 attorneys in the office, 4 openings. She said she

has plugged some gaps with contracts, rapidly throwing them out there trying to get people to cover our calls, but she is not getting applicants. She said she is getting nothing.

Chairman Greenfield asked if they has looked at the insurance issue discussed at the budget hearing. Ms. Sanders said not yet but they need to do that. It might help with more people contracting. Part of it is that so many hearings pop up and there's nobody to cover but people in the office. There could be as many 5 or 6 of the attorneys in Court and that leaves only her. Problems are going to be run into now.

States Attorney's Office

Mr. Rueter reported that they had one attorney, a promising young lady, leave to go to the Attorney General's office at \$20,000 more than what she was getting paid here. That was tough to lose her. However, one attorney that had left to go to Springfield has returned and is back in the office. A new hire is coming a week from Monday. He does not have an Illinois law license yet, but does have one from Tennessee. The way the rules work, he can submit those scores to Illinois. He had already done that. He accepted a position with this office and starts a week from Monday. There are a couple of Admin Asst type jobs, an IT person, coming to replace some people that left. It still leaves the office at least two down if not more. They have had to raise salaries in order to attract people. It is a problem.

Macon County Board Resolution Amending the FY22 Budget for the Child 1st Center

Ms. Moore explained that they had developed a Crisis Response Program with the City of Decatur Police Department with the HEALS Program and in doing so, have attained some additional revenue and expenses for this fiscal year. Funding was received from the United Way, donations from Decatur Rotary, Family Services, ARPA Funds from the Child First Center programming.

Motion to approve forwarding to Finance with recommendation to approve made by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Kraft, and the motion carried 6-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Old Business None

New Business - None

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING October 27, 2022

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mattingley @ 3:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office