

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

November 17, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Kraft – Vice Chair
Kevin Greenfield
Jim Gresham
Bill Oliver (3:05p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Mattingley
Lloyd Holman
Verzell Taylor

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Judge Griffith, Courts
Tammy Schneider, EMA
Jon Perona- PBC
Michelle Sanders, Public Defender
Sheriff Root
Carol Reed- Auditor
Sherri Doty- Circuit Clerk
Michael Baggett- State’s Attorney Office
Tammi Wilcox- County Administrator
Crystal Hugger, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Kraft @ 3:05 p.m. at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Macon County Board Justice Committee meeting (10/27/2022), seconded by Mr. Greenfield and the motion carried 4-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to approve claims, seconded by Mr. Oliver. Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –

Ms. Doty reported that they have some big changes coming January 1st, 2023 that is going to effect the Sheriff and the Judge.

Circuit Courts –

Judge Griffith reported we have a new Circuit Judge, Judge Mendenhall and I met with him today. He is going to be sworn in on December 2nd, 2022 and start on December 5th, 2022. We are very close to also hiring a new clerk and then we will be a full staff in terms of clerks. We have made some progress.

Ms. Kraft said that she had a meeting in Springfield Monday and Ms. Wilcox went with her. They said that they are going to bring up the Safety-Act at Veto but nothing is going to change.

Judge Griffith said I think they will change a few things. Ms. Kraft replied but not what we want or need. Judge Griffith said that they were not going to change the basic tenet of it no, but we have a plan in place and I think that we can make it work just fine. Ms. Kraft said that is good.

Coroner – No Report

Court Services / Probation – No Report

Emergency Management Agency –

Ms. Schneider reported that the Hazard Mitigation plan update contract has been signed by the board. It has been forwarded to Integrated Solutions and as soon as they get their piece signed I expect it to be fully executed within next week or so. We will be developing the schedule for the meeting and the strategic pieces.

We had our LEPC meeting on the 15th. We are looking to expand it and do some engagement strategy by bringing in some guest speakers and do facility tours and maybe hold some meetings at alternate sites. We are trying to get some non-traditional attendees who are not necessarily voting members. We are looking at non-traditional attendees for instance agencies, organizations, or individuals that we can use as a platform for the whole community planning. We had a train derailment tabletop exercise after the LEPC meeting and I was pleased with the turn out. Deb was there the Chairman, Tammy, along with Norfolk and Southern Railroad, Decatur Fire, MABAS 46, representative from Harristown Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, City of Decatur Municipal Services, County Board, both Hospitals, new ambulance service and their air evac section, EMA and ADM bio-service rail liaison which we had two from there.

This was a high level exercise but we really didn't get down in the meat of some of the stuff but we had excellent conversations. We learned about each other and what capabilities the various agencies had and what they can do. I was thrilled it was a train derailment exercise and Norfolk and Southern sent two people from their agency which was their cop and an operations person. We learned a lot about what they bring to the table. We have some much rail in Macon County and I think the statistics was 246 collisions in five years and the guy from Norfolk and Southern said that is probably shy of about six. There should probably be six more added to that. We are going to build off of that.

We have After Action Conference on the 30th of November at 10:00 a.m. in the EMA office. Tonight I am going to go to the County Fire Association meeting. When we did storm ready presentation we were going to present them with certificates and thank them for being good partners because they are a huge part of my network when there are storms. I will be there to give them all a personal thank you and pass out certificates to them and just let them know how much they are appreciated for what they do for my program and for the citizens of the County and City of Decatur.

Ms. Wilcox asked that Ms. Schneider have them reach out to her about the ARPA funds if they haven't already which is the Fire Department. Ms. Schneider replied that she would.

Public Building Commission – No Report

Public Defender's Office –

Macon County Board Resolution Amending the Public Defender's FY2022 Budget (End of Year Clean Up)

Ms. Sanders reported that their office does has a resolution to go to the full board eventually if it can get through the committees. We are doing a clean-up resolution from the fiscal year budget as we are ending things this year. We have been understaffed all year and one of the ways we are plugging that gap is to contract with local attorney's to try to take over some of these cases. What I am asking to do is move \$35,000 from our Assistant Public Defender salary budget and move that into our contract line for the fiscal year we are finishing up now. That way I can cover-up all of the contracts and I will reevaluate as we get into 2023 to see if any further changes needs to be made.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Greenfield. Motion carried 4-0.

Sheriff's Department –

Sheriff Root said the only thing he wanted to inform the board of is they had what they call a First amendment auditor who has come over to the Court house and caused some issues. This is not anything unique they have done it before and at other places. They will go to a building and ask for FOIA request, records and their purpose is to video tape you and get you to do something that would be contrary to the law also so they can file a lawsuit on you. If you have somebody like that make sure that you handle them properly and if you have questions you can always contact the Sheriff's office.

Ms. Schneider said that they had somebody do that to EMA last year. Sheriff Root said we have had them here before. Ms. Schneider said that he asked what their FOIA process and why he couldn't just walk in the door.

Mr. Greenfield asked how long they will be there Jim.

Sheriff Root replied that this was in the Courthouse. The courthouse has some rules that typically don't apply to some other buildings. This one involves recording in the courthouse. We have got some guidance from the State's Attorney's office on how we are going to handle it and typically in the public areas of the buildings they can record. They tried to make it into our garage area which is properly marked authorized personnel only and you can deny access. Most places that are open for business they can come in and record unless it is marked that they can't. There has to be a justification on why they can't record the interaction with you.

Mr. Greenfield asked do they have to make an appointment with you or do they just walk in.

Sheriff Root said we have had them in our lobby before, and have had them come into the courthouse. We denied them access to the courthouse because of the rules that are in place at the courthouse we don't want them to be recording in the courthouse for reasons. Mostly has to do with proceedings with the Judge and the Judge has an order that says no unauthorized recordings can be made in the courthouse and if you are media you can get that to the Judge. The general public can't bring in cell phones into the courthouse to record proceedings or take pictures.

Judge Griffith said that there is a Supreme Court rule that allows me to limit recording access in the courthouse. It is within my discretion and if they want to record in the courtrooms they have to make a media access request. I typically grant it if they come through the proper channels unless it

is a juvenile involved or something like that. You just can't come in every courtroom and start recording that obviously makes sense.

Mr. Baggett said to be clear in terms of having appointments or not. People can come into any public area of a public building. In terms of if the Sheriff would be required to let them into his office that would not necessarily be required it would be within the Sheriff discretion or any Office Holder discretion whether to admit somebody into the restricted portion of their office.

Ms. Doty said the only problem that she has is when he wants to record my girls who are waiting on somebody and they are counting money.

Ms. Kraft asked if he is still there or is he coming. Sheriff Root said he has already been here twice this week and we have got our guidance and we know how to deal with him.

State's Attorney -

Macon County Board Resolution Amending the State's Attorney's FY2022 Budget (End of Year Clean Up)

Mr. Baggett stated that we have had several non-personnel lines come up over budget towards the end of the year. We are significantly under budget when it comes to personnel expenses pursuant to statutes in order to move money from personnel to non-personnel we do have to have the County Board approval so we are asking to move \$35,000 from the personnel line down into various non-personnel lines. None of this will result in any additional appropriation to the State's Attorney's office. There will be no additional money spent it will be just spent in different ways.

Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Gresham. Motion carried 4-0.

New Business - None

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Old Business None

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING December 15, 2022

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Kraft @ 3:25 p.m. Motion approved by Mr. Oliver, seconded by Mr. Gresham.

Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Executive Secretary, Macon County Board Office