

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

June 22, 2023 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Greg Mattingley
Andrew Hogan
Bill Oliver (3:02)
Grant Noland
Debra Kraft

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Judge Griffith, Circuit Court
Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk
Pat Berter, Probation
Jon Perona- Public Building Commission
Michelle Sanders, Public Defender
Sgt. Atkins- Animal Control
Scott Reuter, State's Attorney
Carol Reed- Auditor
Tamara Wilcox, County Administrator
Crystal Hugger, County Board

Chair Mattingley called the meeting to order 3:00 p.m. at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the minutes from (05/25/2023), seconded by Mr. Noland and the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Mr. Noland. Motion carried 3-0.

REPORTS

Sheriff- Sgt. Atkins reported that Sheriff Root could not make today's meeting and he will be presenting for him.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Labor Agreement between Macon County and the AFL-CIO/CLC on Behalf of the Corrections Sergeants

This has been negotiated through Mr. Flynn's office and it is a three-year contract. The first year reflects a 6% raise to bring the Sergeants up closer to comparable wages and what they deserve to get paid and that is followed with 2% for the second year and under the 2% for the third year.

Chair Mattingley asked how many Sergeants we have.

Sgt. Atkins said there is four Corrections Sergeants.

Chair Mattingley asked if the Sergeants essentially serve as the Warden.

Sgt. Atkins said in essence it would be Shift Warden of sorts. They would be the highest authority working in an operational level at any given time whether it is day or night.

Mr. Noland made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft. Motion carried 5-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation from Sandemac Kennel Club
For K-9 Bite Suit***

Sgt. Atkins reported that the Sandemac Kennel Club has most graciously offered to donate a bite suit for the department canine program. It is \$2695 dollars for this type of suit, and they are donating it to us, and we would like to accept it.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion carried 5-0.

Circuit Clerk- Ms. Doty reported that they paid the juror's the new fee this month. We had 102 juror's show up and two felony cases and one civil case that was resolved and a coroner's juror. Last month was \$2000 dollars this month there was \$7292 dollars we paid out. That is what we must look forward to about \$7000 dollars each month. We had to pay a little bit more it was just so low, and the judge discussed it that it was way too low. It was \$10 dollars now it is \$20 dollars, but they get that money every time they show up. All of them did not have to show up on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday except Wednesday we did have ten for coroner's jury.

Circuit Court- No Report

Coroner- No Report

Court Services / Probation – Mr. Berter reported that with the juvenile detention issue currently right now we have eight kids and all of them are in Peoria county. They are all in there for either murder or gun charges. I think we do have a pretty good plan in place as far as if there are no detention beds available. There are still some details that needs to be worked out with that. I am on the Probation Advisory Board for the Supreme Court, and we have a meeting July 6th to discuss detention issues within the State. We are not the only county who has experienced being turned away due to not having any bed spaces in Illinois. It has happened in Effingham County and another county down south. Personally, what I would like to see happen would be almost like an intergovernmental agreement with every detention in the State of Illinois for the simple fact Vermillion County they only house kids in their circuit. Talking with Mike Torchia who is the AOIC (Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts Probation Services) Field Rep they are not at capacity, and they are fully staffed but because we are not in their circuit, they will not take any of our kids. I would like to see something open up statewide for everyone.

Chair Mattingley asked if the constraints placed on us when we had Bivens, Whitten about all the programs and all the things that we had to have when we detain them imposed upon the probation department through the Illinois Supreme Court or are they imposed by the Legislator. We had to have school and there were a lot of other things required besides just detaining those kids.

Mr. Berter said correct, in the Peoria County and the other detention centers take care of that now.

Chair Mattingley said was any of that imposed by the Supreme Courts upon you or were they statutory.

Mr. Berter said I think it was statutory.

Chair Mattingley said my concern is if this keeps up the Legislator needs to change the way they look at juvenile detention and they may need to be lobbied on that point. The guys running around out there shooting people sit and forget about all the other cost prohibitive measures that prevent you from being able to maintain a detention center in your own county.

Mr. Berter said I think there is just a lot of issues that is surrounding it. I know that one of the individuals in question he only spends thirty days in IDJJ and was released and right now that is what we are experiencing. We are having kids go to IDJJ and they are out within thirty days, and they are doing the same thing. Talking with Champaign County they had a kid in their detention center for one hundred and sixty-five days that was sentenced to IDJJ and they took the individual down to Harrisburg and the individual reception told them that, that kid would only be there a week and be released. They had a kid last November they were saying that only served thirty days in the detention and was released and the next day he was killed at his doorstep. We will continue to try and do the best we can to make sure that they will house these kids. I did talk to Brian Brown who is the Director of Peoria County god forbid we ever had someone arrested for murder and we could not get bed space no matter what they are going to take them.

Chair Mattingley said you mentioned having a plan in place, what we are looking at with that.

Mr. Berter replied what we would like to do is set something up with the GPS. It is not the best-case scenario but what we would do is Decatur Police Department contact us we would then find bed space and if we could not find bed space then they would notify the court and Decatur Police Department would be responsible for hooking that individual up on GPS. They will monitor their whereabouts and then we would get that individual in the court during the whole process and continue to try to find some sort of bed space. I don't anticipate it happening a lot but it still probably going to happen but one of the circumstances we called St. Clair County, and we were told to give us a call back in the morning because we don't want to disturb our Superintendent.

The reason why we are having these issues is because of staffing levels. They cannot staff these detention centers so Champaign County they are down eleven staff. Sangamon Counties are down more than that and just like Peoria County they are a sixty-bed facility, but they don't have enough staff to fully staff and it is a safety reason. Champaign County the new Superintendent in December got a concussion fighting kids and that is what we are dealing with. We are not locking kids up in retail theft like some people may think we are not doing that. These kids are being locked up for guns or for murder. Hopefully we can get the plan put into place and like I said it is not a great plan and it would be nice if the city officers would monitor it that way, they can figure out what they wanted to do. There are different things you can do with a GPS setting up zones and stuff like that to where it can keep kids out of certain areas or at least get notified.

Judge Griffith responded hang on Pat this has happened one time when you couldn't find a bed. I guess it could happen again but hopefully there is more funding for beds and so it resolves itself. The GPS is probably a terrible idea but again this happened one time, so I think we don't need to get overly excited.

Mr. Berter said working with Peoria County I know that last year when I met with Brian Brown at that time, he was the Superintendent and we requested to have additional bed space. We were

turned down because of staffing levels I will be doing the same again this year. We have five I don't know if we go for seven or eight. Peoria County they are the only detention facility in the State that provides transportation which is very nice. They come out and pick the kids up in the morning and they bring them to court and once again the Sheriff's Department they are very good about transporting the individuals. If we must go to a different facility, then my staff would be responsible for bringing them to court. We all do what we can to make sure the community is safe and try to hold these kids accountable.

The only other business that I have since speaking of transports and with doing the increase of transports and increase of our home visits based on standards and creating a field team what I would like to do is to start looking for some vehicles for my department again. We have three vehicles that are 2007 and two cars that are 2008. The lowest mileage on one of the cars is 46,000 and we will keep that but the highest is 105,000. We had a situation happen last week to where the coolant fan ended up disintegrating while the officer was driving, and it went through the radiator. The Highway department was good in getting us some used parts so that it didn't cost us a lot, but I would like to start looking at vehicles. I don't know if we will get Impalas or maybe a small SUV. I don't want anything like a Tahoe or anything like that but anything economically would make sense but that is what I would like to start doing if possible. I do not currently have any money in my budget for any vehicles. Respectfully I would like to look at two for this year and two for next year. We would get rid of then the other four vehicles and then once our other Impala broke down, we would just stick with four vehicles but two of those vehicles that we purchase I think we will need to purchase cages with them also.

Emergency Management Agency- No Report

Public Building Commission- No Report

Public Defender- No Report

State's Attorney- No Report

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Public Comment- None

Closed Session – None needed.

Adjournment- Chair Mattingley adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

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