

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2012
3:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Jon Baxter
Dave Drobisch
Tim Dudley
Merv Jacobs
Mark Wicklund

MEMBERS ABSENT

Keith Ashby
Bill Oliver

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jack Ahola, State's Attorney
Mike Day, Coroner
Lois Durbin, Circuit Clerk
Judge Webber, Court
Jim Root, EMA
Jerry Lord, Public Building Commission
Max Austin, Sheriff's Office
Lori Long, Probation
Tom Wheeler, Asst. Public Defender
Linda Koger, County Board Office

This meeting was called to order by Chair Baxter at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of prior meeting made by Mark Wicklund, seconded by Tim Dudley, and motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims made by Merv Jacobs, seconded by Dave Drobisch, and motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk

Lois Durbin had no report.

Circuit Court

To follow up on some of our discussions from last fall apropos with the law library, Judge Webber wanted to bring back the advisory committee they had some years ago to look at what we have there, what we need, and what we don't need. He suggested bringing the committee back represented from the county board, judges, the Bar here in Decatur, and our law librarian as ex officio member to let us know what we actually have in there. He will get in touch with the Bar president and see if they want to designate someone, Chair Baxter can talk to the board, and he will decide among the judges. Chair Baxter said he would take the board position since he is over there quite a bit. Also, Chair Baxter mentioned the sign in sheet will be put in boxes since Sundi had to go to court and didn't have time.

Coroner

Mike Day had no report.

Probation

Lori Long has talked with the committee about their DUI Court and Drug Court both of which are grant funded programs that began October 1, that is when the funding began. They are implementing and accepting clients into those effective February 3, and have done a lot of hard work getting protocols and procedures in place. Juvenile Reentry, the Second Chance Act Grant they also received with a start date of October 1, they have been really busy the last couple of months gearing up for these things. They will begin accepting juvenile clients into that program on February 6.

Last week she received the RFP from the Department of Transportation Local Alcohol Plan for projects for the federal fiscal year 2013, they haven't even accepted clients into their first grant, they are applying for the second grant to continue what they started this federal fiscal year, and this is due the middle of February.

They have very important services for a variety of high risk target populations that they work with, and it is a reflection on the collaborative effort that has been going on with not only the criminal justice stakeholders but community stakeholders also.

Chair Baxter asked for an explanation of the Justice Council's Macon County Criminal Justice Strategic Priorities which he put in committee boxes. Jack Ahola commented the Justice Council which you guys are members of, Mr. Baxter is a faithful attendee every third Friday of every month, and the document is self-explanatory. They would like your feedback on this as their oversight committee because it is us, the Courts, Public Defender, and almost every one of your officeholders on this committee are members of the Justice Council. They are trying to be forward thinking, and it is a self-explanatory document; it says what goals should our county have to improve the quality of life for our citizens, these are developed through a sub-committee of the Justice Council that put this together, and looking back several years now of work we have done.

Listed on page 3 are the priorities they would like to have our county look at. Information management is top priority because that is how you get grants, you can trace how projects are working, what is successful and what is not, and collaborative about the specialty courts that are already going. Reduce incarceration which was on page 6, that is an interesting chart, and we are number one in the state per capita for sending people to prison, 9.43 for every 1000 people well ahead of everywhere else. Cook County is halfway down the list, the most dangerous county in the state Sangamon, most dangerous city Springfield is way down the list, so maybe they are dangerous because they don't send enough people.

We need to do something to break that cycle because it is not healthy for our community not to do something to rehabilitate people looking at juvenile justice, domestic violence, sex assault, and ethnic and racial disparities in our system. We have been studying that, how it is in the schools, and what we can do about it. It is a community effort to improve the quality of life in Macon County, and they would like your feedback. They intend to vote on it at the next Justice Council meeting next month, and then it would come to you again for approval to go on to the county board to be adopted as our vision for the future.

Lori Long added it reduces to writing all the work and focus that has been going on with the Justice Council since it originated, and what they found when they submitted a grant was their application would have been stronger had they reduced to writing what they were only talking about, so this is going to serve an important purpose to help grant applications.

Chair Baxter commented the common information management system is going to help coordinate all the various courts and treatment programs. Jack Ahola said there has been a lot of talk with this committee about trying to streamline all the different agencies and computers, and this would fit in with those type of activities in trying to streamline county government as much as possible but make it useful; you can retrieve information for grant purposes, intelligence purposes, see if it works or what doesn't work, and are we making any difference during some of these programs. They are not asking for any money which is a good thing but they need to get a plan in place so they can, as things are proposed to the council, ask does this fit in with our strategic plan and if it doesn't, maybe that should be part of our plan or maybe it is not worth pursuing. They are not asking for a vote, just look at it, and work through Mr. Baxter since he is an active member of the council if you have any ideas how you would like change in that.

EMA

Jim Root reported the Macon County Hazard Mitigation Plan is kicking off, and the first meeting will be February 22 at 1:30 in the county boardroom. They met with the contractor, Stantec, who will be the ones actually headlining and drafting the plan, and they came up with several meetings that will take place and how we will get this plan completed. The first meeting is the kickoff meeting, and every jurisdiction in Macon County that is participating in the plan will need to come and actually provide information or get the information so they can provide information that goes into the plan so they are represented as a community. They sent letters out yesterday, actually drafted letters yesterday, and sent them out today to all those jurisdictions inviting them to the planning process. They did not send notices to county board members directly, but they are welcome to come participate in the planning process.

He has a meeting tomorrow with the city of Macon, they are replacing a water tower, and attached to that water tower is our communications systems for our backup for the sheriff's office. There is going to be some occurring cost to move those from the old tower to the new tower, he doesn't know what the estimated cost is going to be until he meets with the village tomorrow to see what their proposed plans are, and what the responsibility of the sheriff's office and the county as far as movement of those items. He will get a price from our vendor, Barbeck, on the communication system to see what it is going to cost, and he will then come back to discuss revenue and what it is going to cost.

Jack Ahola asked if part of that plan is talking about what happens if the courthouse shuts down since they had talked with Judge Paine and they were working on some sort of plan like an epidemic or a catastrophe, how we would keep the criminal justice system moving, and is that part of the plan. Jim replied no, this is a hazard mitigation to mitigate any hazards such as floods, flood prone residences in jurisdictions, how to strengthen structures for tornadoes, etc., but is not something for that.

Public Defender

Tom Wheeler commented Mr. Forbes is sick.

Public Building Commission

Jerry Lord had no report.

Sheriff

Resolution Approving Command Officers Association Contract

Chair Baxter said they are pulling the resolution. Max Austin reported jail population 299 today, 18 federals, and they pulled that resolution since it has to be tweaked one more time.

State's Attorney

Jack Ahola had no report.

NEXT MEETING

2-23-12

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mark Wicklund, seconded by Merv Jacobs, motion carried 5-0, and meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Koger
Macon County Board Office