

JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 28, 2012
3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Mark Wicklund
Keith Ashby
Dave Drobisch
Jay Dunn

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jon Baxter
Merv Jacobs
Bill Oliver

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Lt. Tony Brown, Sheriff's Office
Amy Stockwell, Auditor
David Kidd, State's Attorney's Office
Mary Cole, State's Attorney's Office
Dawn Pyles, State's Attorney's Office
Lois Durbin, Circuit Clerk
Judge Webber, Circuit Court
Jack Ahola, State's Attorney
Randy Waks, Asst. State's Attorney
Tom Wheeler, Asst. Public Defender
Sheriff Tom Schneider
Lori Tharp, PBC
Linda Koger, County Board Office

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of prior meeting made by Keith Ashby, seconded by Dave Drobisch, and motion carried 4-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims made by Dave Drobisch, seconded by Keith Ashby, and motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk

Lois Durbin had no report.

Circuit Court

Judge Webber said there was an article today in the Chicago Tribune quoting data from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists which said that for 2011, Macon County was number 6 in the state in DUI arrests with 448 arrests. We are number 12 in population, but number 6 in DUI arrests. Although we all applaud those efforts, DUI cases do place a burden on the courts, the sheriff, and the police that is increasing every year because the legislature sees fit to increase the penalties and the procedures, also the public defender and state's attorney. Although the law enforcement efforts are obviously paying dividends, it does increase the work for every department.

He learned this morning there is an email scam going on in Macon County about jury service. People are getting emails saying you failed to appear for jury service, you will be arrested and will have to pay a fine, but if you give us your credit card information or bank account information you can pay the fine online and get out of the problem. They have had several calls about this, this is not legitimate but a scam, and he did send today a press release to the media warning it has happened other places and he thinks it has happened here before. If any of you are contacted by a concerned constituent, if it comes over email, it is not from them; neither the courts nor the sheriff contact any juror by email about jury service or missing jury service. Chair Wicklund received an email today more for legal representation, when he google searched the name that was attached it come up with a legal services scam, and it was a complete run on that.

Public Building Commission

Lori Tharp had no report.

Sheriff

Resolution Approving Contract for Alien Assistance Program Services with Justice Benefits

Copies of resolution were distributed, and Sheriff Schneider asked if there were any questions.

Consider it a grant but JBI is the grant writer for that, they receive a percentage in reference to the amount that comes back, references housing of illegal aliens that have been incarcerated for criminal offenses, and they get anywhere between \$5000 - \$10,000. This is recurring and has been going on for six years now. In response to a question from Keith Ashby, Sheriff Schneider said it should be good for another 12 months, this one will be actually when they submit, this has been in question and they have tried to cut it back and reduce it at the fed level, this one is really going to be in question a year from now, there is nothing they purchase out of this with exception of some supply lines, so it is one they consider an additional amount to what they have right now.

They really don't count on it like a lot of the others, but it will be in question the year after this time period. Motion to approve resolution made by Dave Drobisch, seconded by Keith Ashby, and motion carried 4-0.

Sheriff Schneider discussed the recurring contract with the city of Macon regarding contractual police services, he will bring it in front of other committees if deemed required, they have to get it approved before their board with our negotiation, and finally we have to get it approved by our board. It is basically a 3% increase to what we already got for services itself, amounts that are included in the resolution that will be distributed will actually be amounts that does not include the purchasing of equipment, they have different contractual services throughout the county including Forsyth (Full Time 5 Officers), Argenta (Full Time 1 Officer); Macon (Full Time 1 Officer). Total amount of this three year contract will be \$202,817.97 and again it is a 3% increase on each year.

Since it is not listed on the agenda for today, Chair Wicklund said it is the renewing of a contract; we can't vote on it but with consensus of committee, we will pass this on to the full county board in July with contingency of Macon accepting the agreement. Dave Drobisch commented go for it. Keith Ashby asked the manpower it takes and if they don't renew this 12 months from now, would we have to lay off an officer. Sheriff Schneider replied one person, hours are 40 per week, he didn't replace one before in reference to a contractual position added a while back, and would it be less revenue coming in from them, yes; the City of Macon meets to discuss this on July 9, and will make a decision then.

State's Attorney

Jack Ahola introduced some of his office staff present if questions come up on different grants. He has a new supervisor, Mary Cole, soon to have a baby, she and her husband live in Decatur, Macon County, she is now in charge of the Domestic Violence Unit as he does some restructuring in his office. They are putting together a Crimes Against Family Unit, part of that is Mary Cole's unit, she has been here for a couple years, and has done dozens of trials. Dawn Pyles is in the Domestic Violence section also, but has new duties as Grant Coordinator for several different grants. David Kidd is a former educator, started out with Teen Court, but now he runs several different projects for the state's attorney's office; he is going to be part of a grant unit, and they are trying to streamline their grant process to have less people involved with them.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Wicklund sent out a letter to all departments requesting what grants they have, amounts, when they are due to expire, and he heard back from everybody and has met with everybody since then. Everybody is on board and up to date, and are trying to take a proactive role for continued support of these grants. He received the state's attorney's today and has a copy here, met with them right before this meeting, there are some questions he has, one there is no grant line to them, and his main concern is all these grants are due to expire this year, 13 of them. A couple are pass-through on here, and one says no funds received. He has asked the state's attorney to follow in the probation/court services footsteps of setting up a meeting with the auditor's office on a quarterly basis to reconcile these accounts so everybody is on the same page with the concern if there is ever an audit on this, the records they would look at would come from the auditor's office, and the state's attorney has agreed to set something up. He appreciates everyone working with him on that. Keith Ashby asked that he disseminate that information to this committee, Chair Wicklund has a copy here, and Linda Koger commented the state's attorney's report was emailed earlier today to the Justice Committee.

Jay Dunn asked if Dawn will be over some of the grants or all of the grants. Jack Ahola replied there are many grants, she and David Kidd and Melanie Long will be doing the vast majority of the grants because some are small, David Kidd's grants are small and he has had them for years so he has good understanding of them, Dawn's are some of the larger (Domestic Violence Against Women grants), he is trying to streamline that procedure so they will be the point of contact, they have been talking to Amy's office, and they appreciate her cooperation as they reduce some of these numbers. Jay Dunn said then most of the grants if not all will be handled with the auditor through Dawn, and Jack replied most of them but only his grants since he is not talking about anybody else's.

Amy Stockwell said since law enforcement is here, she has a perfect analogy to clarify this situation; records kept in the offices are like the attorney's notes, very helpful but when the attorney goes into court, the notes aren't part of the court record; they help the attorney generate court record, but are not actually the court record; with grants, the court record is the general ledger and that is the only official document. She appreciates working with everyone to make sure they are all on the same page, grants are very complicated, have separate rules that when you accept a grant you are accepting a 60 page contract, and she has an inventory of grants she is tracking and their corresponding account number where they come into the general ledger.

She also has the detailed statement at the end of March, she provides this detail to officeholders, and thought you would be interested in seeing how grants are structured; grant revenue line is highlighted, we vastly prefer to have big grants in their own department segregated from other activity to see exactly what is going on, and in the case of all big grants that is what they have done; when getting into the smaller state's attorney's Teen Court grant, there are a number of grants inside either temporary or reimbursement of expenses without elaborate reporting requirements so she passed out both.

NEXT MEETING

July 26, 2012, Chair Wicklund sent a letter out today which he read regarding the Justice Committee hearing proposed FY13 budgets at their July 26 meeting.

Chair Wicklund asked Judge Webber if the law library committee has met. Judge Webber replied no because that was going to be a project for Jon Baxter to work on, with Jon's illness and uncertainty about when he will be able to resume his duties, it is on hiatus right now; if Chair Wicklund wants to bring that back, Jon said he was going to serve on that committee, he doesn't know what Jon's situation is as to whether he wants to continue to do that or not, if he intends to resume his duties here on the board/committee in full or in part, and that is why they have not moved on it. Jay Dunn said he met with Jon yesterday, he is planning on being back in July, so he is sure Jon still wants to be on that committee since he asked if Mark had done away with it and he told him no. Judge Webber said it was left that it was going to be a person from the county board, person from the Bar Association of local lawyers, and one of the judges to serve on it; until he had heard otherwise from the board, he assumed Mr. Baxter would be the one to serve, and if he hears differently, they will move forward with a different person.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Dave Drobisch, seconded by Jay Dunn, motion carried 4-0, and meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Koger
Macon County Board Office