

# **Macon County Justice Committee Meeting**

## **MINUTES** September 27, 2012

The Macon County Justice Committee meeting was held on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. located at the Macon County Office Building, 141 S. Main St., Decatur, IL.

### **Committee Members Present:**

|            |             |               |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| Jay Dunn   | Merv Jacobs | Keith Ashby   |
| Jon Baxter | Bill Oliver | Mark Wicklund |

### **County Personnel Present:**

Amanda Askew, Macon County Highway Office Assistant

### **Others Present:**

|                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sherri Doty, Circuit Clerk       | Jerry Lord, PBC                     |
| Judge A. G Webber Circuit Court  | Lori Long, Probation Court Services |
| Max Austin, Sherriff             | Thomas Schneider, Sherriff          |
| Randy Waks, Asst States Attorney | Rodney Forbes, Public Defenders     |
| Amy Stockwell, Auditor           | Jim Root, EMA                       |
| Ryan Voyles, Herald & Review     |                                     |

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Wicklund at 3:00 p.m.

### **Roll Call:**

Merv Jacobs  
Mark Wicklund  
Bill Oliver  
Jon Baxter  
Jay Dunn

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Jay Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes from August 30, 2012, seconded by Bill Oliver.  
Motion Carried 5-0

### **Approval of the Bills:**

Bill Oliver made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Jay Dunn.  
Motion Carried 5-0

*Keith Ashby is now present at 3:02.*

### **Reports:**

#### ***Circuit Clerk:***

Sherri Doty stated no report.

#### ***Circuit Court:***

Judge Webber stated I have two brief matters. Last week we had a national evaluation team here to take a look at our Drug Court. They spoke with a number of people here. A favorable evaluation is

necessary to keep our grant money coming for this. I think we do view this as a worthwhile program and from everything I understand the interview went well over the two days. I am hoping for a favorable report on that. Our program is one of the better regarded, not just in Central Illinois but around the state maybe even beyond the state's borders. Also, Lori will be speaking more in more detail to this; Sangamon County is going to terminate its Juvenile Detention Contract with Macon County. We are going to have to find an alternate place to detain our juveniles. We had seven in detention in Sangamon County. It is probably going to be more expensive for us and further away. That will be happening by the end of November. There was some hint they may continue taking some cases past that, but it is Sangamon's intent to terminate their agreement with us for all practical purposes as of November 30, 2012. Mark Wicklund stated I know that Chairman Dunn and I went through the interview process with the Drug Court last week. It was a very informational and I think it was a great turn out from what I heard from a few of the other interviews they had.

***Coroner:***

Not Present

***Court Services/Probation:***

Lori Long stated I have a couple of updates as Judge Webber just mentioned to you, Sangamon County did formally notify us about a week ago that they would be terminating our contract. They will continue to provide bed space via a contract extension through the end of November. I have received reassurances that while they are not going to tell us all of our kids need to be out of there facility effective December 1. They are willing to work with us on that. We have had a good relationship with them for many years, but the transportation portion of the arrangement ends effective November 30, 2012. I was able to get a copy of the detention feasibility study that Maximus did. I just printed it off before I came here, I was going to be interested in seeing how they arrived at the per diem rate they thought would be necessary and the other recommendations that Sangamon County Board has begun to operationalize. It is really neither here nor there but there may be information in here that would be helpful as we move forward with our RFP process for getting a contract with another Detention Center. I can tell you that I have had several conversations with St. Clair County, McLean County, Peoria County, and Madison County. I think we are going to be okay. I think that many facilities are struggling with staying open because they are not filling their own centers with their own youth. Like Sangamon they are struggling with what to do with the bed space that they have available now. Quite frankly, St. Clair County has been pretty assertive, pretty aggressive at wanting to be in the competition for creating a contract with us. Even though they do not provide transportation currently they are very interested in developing that capacity in order to get our business. Through the RFP process that we will be participating in we will get our top contenders and I will share that information with you before we make a selection. We also have a sub-committee comprised of the Sherriff's Department, City Police, States Attorney Office and my department working on both short term and long term plans. This is so that we know what needs to be done and by whom until we do get a contract in place. I do want to offer my gratitude to the Sherriff's Department and to Tom and Max in particular because they have been more that forthcoming in wanting to help bring resolution to the problem that this caused for not only our department but our community and our criminal justice system. Mark Wicklund asked how many juveniles do we have detained in Springfield right now? Lori Long replied four. Our average daily population this calendar year has been at five or less all year long. So, any kind of a contract that we would be entering based on the data that we have over the last year I was looking at reducing from seven to five beds. Mark Wicklund stated my concern would be the transportation part with St. Clair County that is a good drive. Lori Long replied yes two and quarter hours away. Keith Ashby asked what we are

paying per bed now. Lori Long replied we are paying \$85 and some change per bed at Sangamon County and that included transportation but it also included the lower per diem rate because our department trains their entire department in office or safety training. They are losing that and they are going to have to pay us if they want to continue to receive that training from us. That is what they want. So we will be negotiating that as well. Keith Ashby asked how often training occurs. Lori Long replied quarterly for the entire department. It is a weeklong training for a new officer and for refreshers. Keith Ashby asked if you have a dollar figure for what you may charge for that. Lori Long replied I do but I don't have it with me. Bill Oliver asked if they came here or do we go there. Lori Long replied we go there. Bill Oliver stated I was interested in the transportation is it not conducive for us to do our own transportation. Lori Long stated that is not off the table but I can tell you that from some of the conversations that we had, there are no companies local or state wide that do that kind of juvenile detention transportation. If we wanted to hire a staff of civilians or specially trained civilians we are talking about a significant cost in vehicles, training, and issues with liability. I am not saying that is not something that we are interested in looking into but I think the reality of it is that it would probably be more expensive to do our own transports and more of a headache. Bill Oliver stated it seems like, in talking to you, that transportation is a big part of the deal. Lori Long agreed. Jay Dunn asked if you were in discussion with the Sheriff's Office about the option of the transportation. Lori Long replied yes, we are looking at short and long term with the short term being that the Sherriff has been very gracious in saying that there Department will assist us to the best of their ability at getting our kids to and from whatever detention center or centers they are placed in, until we have a contract with a facility with the hope that the contract will include transportation services. Jay stated I was talking about options other than using the Deputy Sherriff's or your people, is there some discussion going on about that. Lori Long replied yes. Mark Wicklund stated the Counties you mentioned, have you looked into what any of the closer Counties jail populations are like Shelby or Christian. I do not know where their populations are at, it is a closer option if they have the space. Sherriff Tom Schneider asked if you were talking about adult population because Shelby County does not have juvenile facilities all these other ones contract out. Judge Weber stated that is correct most of the small Counties in Central Illinois do not have a juvenile facility. They operate under an entirely different set of rules. They are very expensive and that is one reason why we closed ours some years ago. Almost all the small counties here contract with someone. Basically the Counties which Lori mentioned to you house their juveniles. We are talking about the same places that the small Counties go too. Champaign is the only other Central Illinois County and Peoria too; Champaign does not seem to be interested. Lori Long stated Champaign is not interested in entering a long term contract with us. We have what you call a contractual agreement that if they have space they could accept up to five Macon County youth however if they do not have the space they do not have to make room for us and they do not provide transportation. I did have a conversation with their Superintendent and they are not interested in making any changes to the arrangement at this time. Christian County actually utilizes Sangamon County Detention Center and it is not a contractual arrangement it is first come first serve if Sangamon County, which is reducing their population to 16 effective December 1 if they don't have room for anybody other than County youth they do not take anybody in. Sherriff Tom Schneider added that what Lori spoke about earlier in reference to extradition services for juvenile's unheard of State of Illinois at one time we used extradition services for a juvenile that was out of state. It was about three or four times the amount of what it costs for an adult. When they pick them up for a juvenile they have to go from point A to point B which is back to its destination, whenever they pick up an adult they will go on a circuit and they will drive them around for about 2 weeks. So that is the difference when it comes to transports for juveniles. There are no other facilities; we have places such as our selves, unless you are going to be taking a lot

more juveniles to be able to make up the income to be able to run a facility like that that is why we run into these difficulties. What we have learned is cost affective to go ahead and farm out.

***Emergency Management Agency:***

Jim Root stated no report.

***Public Building Commission:***

Jerry Lord stated no report.

***Public Defender:***

Rodney Forbes stated I provided a copy of the written report that is provided by statute that I must file on a monthly basis, other than that no report.

***Sheriff:***

Sherriff Tom Schneider stated no report.

***State's Attorney:***

***Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of a Drug Court Fee:***

Randy Waks stated I have two resolutions that I would like to discuss with you. The first one you have in front of you it is a resolution authorizing the establishment of a Drug Court Fee. State statute allows the County Board to create a fee of \$5 for any of the guilty or supervision orders on traffic, felony, or misdemeanor, petty and business offenses. The funds are to be used for Drug Court services we are asking at this point this point that the fee be authorized and the Circuit Clerk will then begin collecting the fee. We are not asking that anything be done with the fee at this time. We are projecting that it could collect up to \$40,000 a year. Mark Wicklund stated is the \$5 fee on that mandatory, is that the maximum it could be. Randy Waks replied that is the maximum. Motion made by Keith Ashby, seconded by Merv Jacobs. Motion carried 6-0.

The second resolution you do not have before you and it not on the Agenda and you will not be able to vote on it. I wanted to tell you about it. It is a resolution we would like to a bucket transfer in the States Attorney DUI Grant we have an excess in the indirect costs line of \$6,000.00. We would like to do a transfer to salaries, travel, contractual services, and commodities. I do not have it ready to present to you today but we would like to go ahead and present it to Finance Committee on October 1. The DUI Grant is on a Federal year and it expires October 1. We would like to get it through as quickly as possible. Keith Ashby asked how many different accounts are you transferring this too. Randy Waks replied it is going from indirect costs to four accounts personal service, travel, contractual, and commodities. Personal services is salaries would be \$4,647.00 it goes directly to the States Attorney DUI Grant, Travel is \$534.00, contractual service is \$201.00, and commodities looks like \$618.00. Keith Ashby asked what comes in on the commodity account. Randy replied I would guess that that is supplies like paper. The commodities is what IDOT calls it I am sure we have a different definition in Macon County. Mark Wicklund stated my question of concern would be that this is going to salaries is there other use for this DUI Court money other than dumping it into that bucket. Could it be spent on programs for DUI offenders? Randy explained you spend it on what the grant tells you to spend it on. IDOT is interested increased prosecutions and also the programs that they have on high risk weekends where they will set up mandatory blood tests and things like that. The grant basically loads up the salaries. The whole grant was \$208,000 and almost a \$149,000 was salaries. That is what they are calling for. There may be some other grants out there that target the programming as well. That is not

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any of them that we have. They tell us where to spend the money. If there are no objections I would like to be able to present this to the Finance Committee. Mark Wicklund asked if the Committee was okay with that or if they would like to see it come back though. It is just a consensus. Randy Waks added that the Federal year ends the end of September. Everyone agreed to that was okay for Randy Waks to present this to the Finance Committee.

**No Public Comments**

**No Old Business**

**No New Business:**

**No Closed Session**

**Adjourn:**

Jay Dunn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Oliver. Motion Carried 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

***The next Justice Committee Meeting held at the Macon County Office Building will be Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.***

Minutes submitted by:  
Amanda Askew  
Macon County Highway Department