

JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
April 23, 2015
3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Mattingley
Matt Brown
Merv Jacobs
Bill Oliver
Jay Dunn

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jon Baxter
Dave Drobisch

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jerry Lord, DPBC
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Rodney Forbes, Public Defender
Jay Scott, State's Attorney
Lois Durbin, Circuit Clerk
Carol Reed, Auditor
Pat Berter, Probation Director
Sheriff Schneider
Lt. Jon Butts – Sheriff's Dept
Jon Thomas - ETSB
Judge Webber – Courts
Sheri Wallace, HR
Laura Lents – County Board Office
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Mattingley at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Bill Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2015 meeting, seconded by Matt Brown and motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Matt Brown made a motion to approve the report of the claims as submitted, seconded by Bill Oliver, and the motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –

Lois Durbin reported that she is working with the law enforcement agency on the digitickets. There was another presentation with more agencies showing up and now the door has been opened with the Decatur Police Department. Chair Mattingley asked if the digitickets would save us any money. Ms. Durbin said not at first, but in the long run. Greg asked if it would save on paper costs or file costs. Lois said probably file costs when they get to the part where they're doing e-records.

Circuit Court –

Judge Webber reported that the Decatur Bar Association has sent a letter to him and to Sheriff Schneider proposing that they permit attorneys to bypass security screening at the Courthouse with a photo ID that would be issued by the Sheriff's Office. It is similar to the program in Champaign County and it is also very common in the Chicago area including Cook County. He said that he discussed it preliminarily with the Sheriff and they will be working on that.

Judge Webber said he wished he could give an update on Senate Bill 59 which is the bill that would revise the requirement that jurors be paid increased sums. That deadline is still coming up.

Coroner –
No report

***Court Services / Probation –
Macon County Board Resolution Approving Amendment to the FY15 Budget for the Probation
Department***

Pat Berter reported that this is a bucket transfer of money from the Probation Officer line to the equipment line. The reason is that they would like to implement uniforms within the Probation Department. He said he knew that a few of the County agencies already have uniforms and he thought it would look more professional for the Probation Officers that are going out in the field or testifying in court.

Chair Mattingley asked if this was taking the money from the previously discussed spot that was funded but not filled and it was being looked at as being left unfilled. Mr. Berter said no, this is not that, but is part of the supplemental funding that they had received from the state. The money Mr. Mattingley was speaking of is still there and Pat said that right now they are good on staffing and may not have to fill that position.

Merv Jacobs made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Jay Dunn and motion carried 5-0.

EMA-

Greg Mattingley said that he had been asked to attend an Emergency Management meeting and would give a report. The meeting had to deal with a federal grant for remediation of some of the properties in Macon County that are in flood plain and are recurring flood problems within the county. Jennifer with Zoning is working on preparing a grant application. The timeframe is fairly short. It is going to be around \$437,000, however, there is a requirement for a county match. The County match can come from other funds such as a state grant and / or, as with some other grants, providing services or in kind type of things for part of the valuation. There is a fairly solid belief from EMA & Jennifer that most, if not all of that match, might be met by the state, even with the current status of the state's grants. They are going ahead, at least preliminarily, with preparing the grant. Greg said he thought any grant applications do have to be approved by the board before submitting. The remediation would allow the county to take that money and buy those properties. They cannot be resold. They must be returned to green space, but it would eliminate 5 properties in the county that are recurrent flood problems. Jay Dunn asked if the money would cover buying the properties and demolition. Mr. Mattingley said yes, it would include buying the properties, demo of the properties and the cost of grading it out and restoring to green space. At that point the county would own the property and it would have to be maintained as green space or it could probably be given to the Conservation Department if they would accept it and maintain it. Mr. Oliver asked if the land could be used as park land of some type. Mr. Mattingley said yes, as long as it is maintained as a type of green space. Bill asked where the properties were. Greg said that 2 of them are on Kruse Road and two more are located on a similar road. They are not all together

and he said he was not sure if the ones on the same road are adjoining to one another. Bill said he wondered if they would be a nuisance to anyone close to them. Greg said that if anything, it should probably be an improvement to eliminate a structure that is a current flood problem and what goes with that. At least one of the two on Kruse Road, according to Jennifer & EMA is well known with the state for the number of claims / problems it has had. He said he thought it has had over 14 or more reports.

Public Building Commission –

Jerry Lord had no report

Public Defender –

Rodney Forbes presented the monthly report for March and explained that they have opened more cases in March than they closed. 431 were opened with 356 closed meaning there were 75 more cases opened than closed. The numbers are starting to go up along with the warmer weather. Most of those were felony cases and misdemeanor cases. 60 more felony cases were opened than were closed. 71 more misdemeanor cases were opened than were closed. They were able to close more traffic cases than they opened.

There has been some movement within the office with some attorneys leaving and new hires coming in. The latest new hire was Tim Tighe who began this Monday. He is a very experienced lawyer with about 14 years of experience. When asked by a committee member, Mr. Forbes said Mr. Tighe had been a partner with BreLaw and had clerked for Justice Cook. Rodney said he was very happy to have him in the office.

The jail population is at 271, so it is starting to creep up a little, but is still a good, manageable number. Mr. Forbes said he thought this was probably a result of the weather changing.

Sheriff –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Contract for Macon County Sheriff's Police Services for the Village of Forsyth, Illinois

Lt. Butts explained that this is a 55 month contract compared to the previous 48 month. He said he has worked closely and diligently with the Village Administrator, Mr. Strohl, over the last couple of months. It is a contract increase of about \$230,000 over the existing contract with about \$72,000 built in for fuel. During the contract, the Village will purchase & equip, at their expense, 5 new patrol units over the length of this contract. Lt. Butts said he had presented it to the Village of Forsyth Board earlier this month and after some discussion, they approved it.

Jay Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Matt Brown and motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Contract for Macon County Sheriff's Office and the City of Decatur Police Department for Dispatching Services

Sheriff Schneider explained that this agreement covers all government law enforcement agencies inside Macon County and fire protection districts in and around Macon County. The term of this agreement would \$350,000 per year from January 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2019 and is prorated for this year from March 15, 2015 thru December 15, 2015 at \$260,000. This is what they have been negotiating over the past couple of years. There have been some issues that have come up in reference to trying to come together with ETSB, the City and all the other agencies. At one point in time, the City of Decatur had indicated that they no longer wanted to be a part of that type of an agreement and wanted to still maintain the dispatching services as is requiring the fees that are being indicated right now to be paid. The last agreement either expired or was dissolved with their move to their current location. In doing so, they have gone ahead and are maintaining their own records. Therefore, the need for us maintaining the records is no longer there. There is an added responsibility for us regarding dispatching services. That is what this resolution has brought forth today.

Jay Dunn asked if the resolution and contract have been through the State's Attorney's Office. Sheriff Schneider said that yes, it has been reviewed by them. He said that Jon Thomas had caught one thing that does need to be modified. That was an addition that needs to be clarified regarding Probation.

Bill Oliver asked if there was discussion about relocating dispatch. Sheriff Schneider said that as of right now it would remain at the Law Enforcement Center. He said that is something he cannot control, but the building commission's and their position is that they would love to have it there. It will be determined by the City because they do have to pay the rental fees for the location. Bill asked about separate centers. The sheriff said that no, there definitely is not a need for 2 communication centers. Just one location would be considered to be ideal. The sheriff said he tried to negotiate something that he considered to be fair to everyone long term without the hidden costs of increases each year. We were able to satisfy that concern through the negotiations that took place. Mr. Mattingley said that this is more economical in the long run than the county trying to set its own center up. The sheriff agreed and said that the reason they all wanted to come together initially was that the startup price for something like that would be astronomical. We wanted to come together as one. That did not come to fruition, so they ended up negotiating what they considered to be a fair contract with the City. Realistically, the amounts that we are looking at, if we did share it across the board, would have been probably a half million dollars. We are actually looking at a pretty fair amount. This includes all the other law enforcement agencies in the county outside of the City of Decatur and the other fire districts. It's kind of the same thing we've been doing for a while, but is spelled out a little more specifically.

Merv Jacobs made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Jay Dunn and motion carried 5-0.

State's Attorney's Office-

Jay Scott had no report.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT –

None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

CLOSED SESSION – None

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 28, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Bill Oliver, seconded by Merv Jacobs motion carried 5-0, and meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office