

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 25, 2015**

**3:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jon Baxter  
Jay Dunn  
Dave Drobisch  
Bill Oliver  
Grant Noland

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Jerry Lord, DPBC  
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office  
Lois Durbin, Circuit Clerk  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
Pat Berter, Probation Director  
Jay Scot – State's Attorney  
Mike Day, Coroner  
Lt. Jon Butts – Sheriff's Dept  
Judge Webber– Courts  
Lt. Jim Root – EMA  
Ralf Pansch – Court Services  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Greg Mattingley  
Matt Brown

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jon Baxter at the Macon County Office Building.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

Jay Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 28, 2015 meeting, seconded by Dave Drobisch and motion carried 5-0.

**CLAIMS**

Dave Drobisch 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 a 2 week jury term was just completed. This is the first term under the new fees. For both weeks, \$30,425 was paid out. There were 2 big cases with one lasting 9 days and the other 8 days. There are 8 more weeks of jury before the end of this fiscal year with one more possible big murder trial. Ms. Durbin placed a copy of a resolution that did not make the agenda in front of the committee members explaining a request for an increase of \$125,000 in the jury fee line in the general fund budget in order to pay for the rest of the jury terms. There is also Grand Jury coming in next month. The Grand Jury serves for 18 months. Next month a new Grand Jury is being seated. This is due to the public act that the legislation passed and went into effect June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jay Dunn said he would agree to putting it on the Finance Committee agenda, but he asked Ms. Durbin to talk with Chairman Greenfield first because the committee might want to look at this like they look at the funding for Judge Webber's cases where outside professional fees have to be paid on a case by case basis. Rather than putting \$125,000 in there, put somewhat less and take it

case by case. He said he didn't really care either way, but would like for her to speak with Mr. Greenfield about the options.

***Circuit Court –***

Judge Webber reported that there is, once again, a potential crisis with the funding of the court reporters. If the state does not come up with a budget by July 1, the court reporters, who are paid by the state, will not get a pay check as of July 15. He said he did receive an email from the Administrative Office which takes care of the court reporters saying that they have been in communication with the Governor's Office of Budget and Management and that office says that all Executive Branch employees are going to be directed to report to work as of July 1<sup>st</sup> and that while they cannot guarantee when employees will be paid for the work, they will be paid at some time. Judge Webber repeated that if there is no budget, the Court Reporters will not get a pay check on July 15 and he will just have to ask them if they want to continue to work, they will get paid, hopefully, at some point for their work, but there is no promise as to when. If we don't have a court reporter, we cannot conduct felony trials, juvenile abuse & neglect proceedings and other matters which require the presence of a reporter.

This was a heavier month than most for jury trials, and there seems to be no relief in sight, so you can expect the jury fees to continue to climb. We can try to adjust some of the ways we call jurors in & move to what they do in federal courts to a rolling docket, which is very unpopular with the attorneys and the people involved because it requires them to be on call for trial at all times. If that is what it takes and the fees remain as high as they are, we will have to explore some other options to reduce those fees.

On June 15, there was a power outage at the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center at about 4 p.m. when the lights went out. Ameren decided that there was a tree limb infringing on a power line and they called tree trimmers to come and take care of the limb and the tree trimmers had the power line de-energized. It was the power line that powers the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center and so, in the middle of two trials, including the felony trial just concluded, the lights went out with no warning and there was only enough power on the back-up system to take care of emergency lighting. The court officers were running around trying to determine if people were trapped in elevators. Prisoners could not be moved securely because the jail elevator was out of commission. The recording system was lost and did not come back up in two courtrooms for 2 days. A lot of work in progress was lost. Judge Webber said he was surprised to find out that the Courthouse is not on an underground line as is the rest of the downtown area. It is on an overhead line that goes down Washington Street. Judge Webber said it upset him that Ameren could not be bothered to pick up the phone and call either the Public Building Commission or the sheriff or somebody to let them know that this was going to happen. It was not instantaneously that they found this limb on the line and got a tree trimmer there to cut it out. He said he had asked Jerry Lord to inquire as to whether Ameren had plans to reinforce or bury that line as the rest of the downtown area is and their response was no. This presents all sorts of problems, especially without any forewarning when some could have been made in this instance.

Jay Dunn asked Jerry Lord if there was a standby generator for the Courthouse. Mr. Lord said there is a small one that was never intended to power anything in the building. Its intent was for emergency usage that will carry all the emergency equipment & lighting, but not a big load as far

as the courtroom equipment.

Judge Webber added that if they would have had 10 minutes warning, they could have secured all prisoners, let the people know in the courtrooms, power down the computers and been ready for it, but there was nothing.

Lt. Root said that he had a similar incident in Mt. Zion where Ameren came out and cut power to a radio tower by accident when someone called in to have their service disconnected and the power to the tower was disconnected as a result. He said he contacted the radio vender that set temporary power up at a cost of \$750. Jim said he then submitted a claim to Ameren and they did pay it. He said he thought there might be a chance Ameren would pay for any losses as a result of this instance as well. Mr. Lord said that throughout the whole event, it was state owned equipment that failed to come back on after the power came back up. We don't have damaged from that standpoint, but obviously critical information was lost.

Jay Dunn asked if it might behoove us to write a report about what actually happened and submit it to Ameren in writing and ask for: 1) notice for the next time, and 2) an underground feed. Mr. Lord agreed saying all of his correspondence was verbal with the people he called, but they did respond back in a timely manner. One other option may be to look into another generator that would power critical courtrooms to minimize that impact because even if the wire is underground, you could still have issues. Dave Drobisch asked if Jerry could get the costs for a larger generator. Jerry added that the jail is already covered with a current generator. The Law Enforcement Center has minimal impact if we lose power. They have all the critical equipment they need to carry on business on a generator as well. They were not impacted nearly as much as the courthouse. Dave asked whose responsibility it is to bury wires. Jerry said it is theirs (Ameren's) – up to the transformer. Mr. Drobisch wondered if they've done it for the rest of downtown why the county area would not be covered also. He too suggested writing a letter to make an official request. Jay Dunn asked about access to 2 different feeds as in a loop system so if power is lost in one, the other would pick it up. Jerry said no, but he didn't know about further down the line if there would be a way to switch something over if power were lost. Jay suggested checking to see if they have one close by. Hospitals, ADM, etc... try to tie into a loop system so if they lose it at one end, they can feed it the other way.

**Coroner** – No report

**Court Services / Probation** –

Pat Berter said he had received a letter from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts and it looks like we will be receiving more supplemental funding from AOIC. There was some money left over from the Cook County detention facility and it took them a lot longer to bring it up to speed, so there is some supplemental funding there that we will be receiving. He did not have a dollar amount, but said he felt fortunate for any money.

The process of how Probation Officer's positions are vouchered will be changing for the state's next fiscal year. This means that right now the vouchering is sent in for the month and it just states who the officers were that worked that month. Now, daily hours will have to be submitted. This could mean that if we have someone on unpaid leave, we could receive less funding from the state.

Mr. Berter said he and Lori Norfleet have a phone conference call scheduled with Rich Atkins from the AOIC to make sure we get good information. Once he has it, Pat will bring it to the Auditor's office to let them know. He said they do not have a lot of unpaid leave, but it could affect the amount of money received from the state.

Ralf Pansch informed the group that the 4<sup>th</sup> Hybrid Court graduation will be held on Friday, July 10. Court proceedings will be at 1:30. The ceremony will be at 2:30. So far, 34 people have graduated. On July 10, anywhere from 9 to 12 will graduate with the final call being made tomorrow at the weekly staffing. Four from the DUI side and five to eight from the drug side will graduate. Several more people came into the Hybrid Court today. There are 55 people currently in Drug Court, 23 in DUI Court with 11 outstanding referrals that are still open which include 8 for Drug Court and 3 for DUI Court. Mr. Pansch expressed gratitude and appreciation for the support given by the Justice Committee. He said it has been a very successful program.

***EMA-***

Lt. Jim Root said his office conducted a hazardous material exercise on Tuesday. Everything went well. A test on the new Macon County Emergency Alert & Notification System was done that reached out to 66,000 people. As a result, only about 20 complaints on how it went were received, mostly from people not being able to understand the message. There was one correction that has already been made on a setting which allows reaching out to a few more people that were not on the first test.

There is another exercise coming up on October 18<sup>th</sup>. That is the IEMA Region 7 exercise where we will be graded by IEMA. After that, on November 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have a nuclear plant exercise that will be graded by FEMA.

***Public Building Commission –***

Jerry Lord had no report

***Public Defender –***

No report

***Sheriff –***

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in FY 2015 Sheriff Budget for Purchase of Weapons – Re-appropriations from FY 2014 Funds

Lt. Butts explained that the original donation was for \$20,000. There is an outstanding invoice in the amount of \$2495.98 due to the Ray O'Herron Company for duty weapons. The original line had \$926.37 that was not spent in FY14 and Lt. Butts asked that this amount be carried over into the FY15 budget so it could be used toward payment of this outstanding invoice.

Dave Drobisch 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.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in Sheriff FY 2015 for Motorcycle Program

Lt. Butts explained that a donation from Mr. John Hansen for equipment for the motorcycle program in the amount of \$16,121.97 via Resolution G-4041-2-14. There was an outstanding balance due to the Ray O'Herron Company in the amount of \$2,988.18 for radios & equipment for the motorcycles. At the end of FY14, there was a balance of approximately \$5,100 left from the donation. Lt. Butts asked that this money be forwarded to the FY15 budget to pay this invoice and an additional piece of needed equipment for the officer. It would be an expenditure of \$3,236.13 which would come from that remaining \$5,126.28.

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

*State's Attorney's Office-*  
No Report

**CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT** –None

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**CLOSED SESSION** – None

**NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, July 23, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Jay Dunn, seconded by Bill Oliver. the motion carried 5-0, and meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office