

JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 9, 2014

The Judicial and Public Safety Committee met on Friday, May 9, 2014, at the Kane County Government Center, County Board Room, 719 S. Batavia Avenue, Geneva, Illinois.

PRESENT: Chairman Wojnicki, Auger (8:33 a.m.), Barreiro (8:35 a.m.), Ford, Gillam, Pollock (8:35 a.m.), & Scheflow (8:33 a.m.).
Absent: None. Also present: Co. Bd. Chairman Lauzen & staff Biggs; Finance staff Waggoner; Court Svcs. Dir. Aust; JJC Supt. Anselme; Juvenile Custody staff Tsang; ITD staff Strike; Sheriff Perez & staff Grommes, Hunger; Chief Judge Brawka & staff Naughton; KaneComm Dir. Sauer; Coroner Russell & staff; Merit Commission staff; Circuit Clk. Hartwell; Environmental Mgmt. & Water Resources Dir. Anderson; Auditor Hunt & staff Harahan; Public Defender's Office staff Amato; Asst. State's Atty. Cullen; and members of the press & public.

Chairman Wojnicki called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. when a quorum was established.

Minutes of April 11, 2014, Meeting – **approved on motion by Ford, seconded by Gillam. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Public Comment – None

Monthly Financial Reports – Written reports were provided with Finance staff reporting there were no budget concerns at this time.
Motion was made by Ford, seconded by Gillam to place the written reports on file. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PRESENTATION: Kane County Judicial Center Shoreline Stabilization Project – Referencing a PowerPoint presentation, Environmental Mgmt. & Water Resources Dir. Ken Anderson discussed the problem with the Judicial Center pond as well as the solution. (Barreiro & Pollock arrive @ 8:35 a.m.) He outlined the stabilization process and the timeline, noting the project is expected to be completed in the fall. This will be paid for with county wetland funds. Some discussion followed with Anderson responding to several questions.

STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Monthly Report – Asst. State's Atty. Cullen reported that DUI arrests are steadily and slowly decreasing mainly due to increased DUI penalties. They are changing the way they collect diversion program fees. The Clerk will now start collecting those fees.

SHERIFF

Monthly Report – Written reports were provided. Sheriff Perez reported on staffing, vehicles, grants, training, and other office activities. He reminded the committee that the ground breaking ceremony for the new range will take place later this morning at 11:00 a.m. and encouraged everyone to attend.

ADULT CORRECTIONS

Monthly Report – Commander Hunger reviewed their monthly report noting that the average in-house count for April was 618. Approximately \$236,786 in revenue was brought in from the U.S. Marshals last month for housing 96 detainees totaling 2,681 days. Hunger provided a staffing update, noting due to vacancies they are seeing more overtime than usual.

JUDICIARY & COURTS

Monthly Report – Chief Judge Brawka provided a verbal update on office activities, noting 14 participants recently graduated from Drug Court. She discussed pending legislation that could have a significant fiscal impact on their budget; i.e., bonds on traffic tickets which would require larger court calls, extending interpreting services to all areas of the courts, etc. It was requested that information on these bills be brought to the Legislative Committee for discussion. Co. Bd. Chairman Lauzen said Board members need to make legislators aware of their concerns recommending that some of this work be done through informal channels of communication. Brawka announced that Judge Keith Brown will be retiring in July. They are preparing a request to the Illinois Supreme Court for an associate judge so that they will not have to close one of their courtrooms.

COURT SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Monthly Report – Court Svcs. Dir. Aust reported they will be applying for an adult redeploy grant and hope to bring that the committee in the next month or so.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

Monthly Report – Written statistical reports were provided.

JUVENILE CUSTODY

Monthly Report – Dr. Tsang provided highlights from a written report, noting they have 22 juveniles in placement – 7 in the MST program and 13 in in-state and out-of-state placement. Two juveniles were successfully discharged last month.

KANECOMM

Monthly Report – A written report was provided. KaneComm Dir. Sauer reported they now have CAD paging available with the main recipients being the fire departments. They will be getting a new phone system hopefully in July if problems that Tricom experienced with the system can be resolved.

MERIT COMMISSION

Monthly Report – None

CIRCUIT CLERK

Monthly Report – A written report was provided. Circuit Clerk Hartwell reported case filings were trending upward. The Case Management System is moving forward, with contract negotiations going well.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Monthly Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Jenny Amato, Chief of Training & Profession Development in the Public Defender's Office, provided an update on the scanning and shredding project. They are hoping to have new indexing software next week and have hired a team of ten interns from NIU Law School to work on the project this summer. They expect to receive their records destruction permission from the Secretary of State soon.

CORONER

Monthly Report – Coroner Russell reported on staffing and an Open House that was held on Saturday where they collected 40 pounds of prescription drugs. Fifty people toured the Coroner's Office, many of whom filled out a survey on what they saw. Russell read some of the comments received noting that the majority expressed serious concern about the state of the facility. He expressed concern that a new facility was not included in the 5-year capital plan. He discussed a report that his Advisory Board put together and that he had sent to Board members that recommended the construction of a new Coroner's building. He said he is in dire need of a new facility and would like to meet individually with Board members to discuss these needs.

Co. Bd. Chairman Lauzen recognized that under the internal control statute once a budget is allocated an elected official has authority to spend those funds any way they see fit. However, he questioned how employees were compensated for working at the Open House and the collection of prescription drugs. Sheriff Perez expressed concern that the Coroner was encroaching on the responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office, calling it "mission creep," by collecting prescription drugs, pointing out that his office had invested considerable time and effort in setting up a drop-off program. In regard to the Coroner's request for a new building, Chairman Lauzen indicated it, along with other projects, would be part of a long-term facilities budget, and that the Board would determine priorities on capital projects. Lauzen estimated that work on the Judicial Center expansion, Circuit Clerk's needs, parking would be at least a 3-5 year process. In response to a question on whether or not funds allocated eight months ago for a new walk-in refrigerator and morgue freezer had been used, Russell said that repairs had been made after an emergency breakdown prior to those funds being allocated. He felt it would be irresponsible to purchase a new refrigerator/freezer after the repairs were done without knowing if they would be moving to a new facility in the next few years. Russell estimated the cost of a new facility to be approximately \$1.5-2 million.

Resolution: Authorizing a Separate Coroner's Office Bank Account for Credit Card Payments – moved to the Finance Committee on motion by Gillam, seconded by Ford. In order to offer credit card acceptance at the Coroner's Office and on-line through the E-Pay System offered through the Illinois State Treasurer's Office, a separate bank account needs to be opened to collect the funds to make reconciliation easier for the Treasurer's Office. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Motion was made by Pollock, seconded by Ford to place written reports on file. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS – None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. on motion by Ford, seconded by Barreiro. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ellyn M. McGrath
Recording Secretary