

JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 8, 2014

The Judicial and Public Safety Committee met on Friday, August 8, 2014, at the Kane County Government Center, County Board Room, 719 S. Batavia Avenue, Geneva, Illinois.

Present: Chairman Wojnicki, Schefflow, Barreiro (8:55 a.m.), Ford, Gillam, Pollock (8:35 a.m.). Absent: Auger. Also present: Co. Bd. Chairman Lauzen & Co. Bd. members Lewis, Haimann; Co. Bd. Atty. Kinnally; Court Svcs. Dir. Aust & staff Tsang; JJC staff Sierra; ITD Dir. Fahnestock & staff Strike; Sheriff Perez & staff Hunger, Grommes; Chief Judge Brawka & staff Naughton, O'Brien; Public Defender Childress; KaneComm Dir. Sauer, Guthrie, Chidester; Law Library Dir. Cox; Auditor Hunt; Finance staff Waggoner; Circuit Clerk Hartwell & staff Herwick; Merit Commission staff Wennmacher; Coroner Russell & staff; Asst. State's Atty. Lulves; and members of the press & public.

Chairman Wojnicki called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. after a quorum was present.

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

Public Comment – None

Monthly Financial Reports – Written reports were provided. Staff Waggoner reported they will continue to monitor the Coroner's budget which is trending slightly higher in the General Fund. (Pollock arrives @ 8:35 a.m.)

KANECOMM

Resolution: Authorizing Payment for Antenna Installation & Equipment – Supplemental Budget Request (Public Defender)

–This authorizes payment to Awarded Bid Company: United Radio Communications in an amount not to exceed \$40,000. **Motion was made by Ford, seconded by Gillam to move to the Executive Committee. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

FY2015 BUDGET REVIEW – Initial budget reviews took place at last month's meeting. The following offices provided an update on their budgets:

LAW LIBRARY – Judiciary staff Naughton reported no changes were made from the budget presented last month. He reminded the committee that the Law Library is a special fund supported through civil filing fees and draws no General Revenue funds. With the raise in the fees that the Board approved, revenue has gone up about 25%. Expenditures will be less than is shown on the budget summary as software requires that expenses equal that of revenue. It is their intention to hold back costs in order to build up financial reserves.

A change in the order of the agenda followed.

SHERIFF (Court Security/Public Safety/Corrections)

Sheriff Perez reported there were no changes to the Court Security and Public Safety budgets from what was presented last month. Court Security's budget is expected to increase by 3.27% and Public Safety by 3.7%. Perez commented that they have kept their Court Security and Public Safety budgets very close to the vest. The Court Security budget is also being addressed by this fee study. The \$25 Court Security fee has not been increased since 2003. Commander Hunger reported there were no changes to the Adult Corrections budget, which is a 1% increase over last year. He did not believe there was any place to make cuts.

STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (SAO) – State's Atty. McMahon reported that a flat budget was presented last month, noting the two additional positions in their budget have no impact on the General Fund. Since the last meeting they have reviewed their budget and are able to reduce the budget further by \$25,000. That will show a General Fund decrease of \$17,732. They are able to reduce their bond call, witness costs, and employee training – specific breakdowns have been provided to Finance. Other than that, the budget remains unchanged. McMahon said the Board has been a good partner with his office in trying to address salaries. They have reduced their headcount over the last several years, and their budget has come in under budget every year for the last four years.

JUDICIARY & COURTS – Chief Judge Brawka reported no changes were made from what was presented last month. She reminded the committee that it was difficult to reduce their budget as they deal with mandates. She noted that the Psychological/Psychiatric Services line item has a significant estimated increase for mental health examinations and is the one line item that could possibly be discretionary at this point in the process. She stressed that this is a mandate, so if they don't budget correctly they would need to draw from contingency at the end of the year. If that line item were to remain flat from last year, they would show an overall budget increase of 3.7% instead of the 6.9% that is currently shown. She felt this is a committee decision on whether to reduce that number or not, keeping in mind that if it is reduced they may or may not have to come back later asking for a budget adjustment as that number is hard to predict.

COURT SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER & JUVENILE CUSTODY – Court Services Dir. Aust reported they have taken another look at their budget and have been able to reduce it in several areas. They were able to reduce some of their healthcare costs down to the single HMO level, which was a reduction of \$83,148. She discussed a new approach to staffing at the

JJC that they were going to try. They are looking at having a floating headcount, and reducing the need for four new positions down to three. They know they have natural turnover and hope to be able to take advantage of that. That would be a \$143,472 reduction in costs at the JJC. She noted, however, that per PREA standards, they have to be fully staffed for the highest possible ratio no later than the fall of 2016. This gives them one year to experiment and see if they can make it work. She mentioned that she had missed the healthcare line item for the Diagnostic Center for their four doctoral students. Right now that is budgeted for an increase of \$72,000, which is assuming everyone will take family PPO. That has been reduced to the single HMO option which reduces that line by \$57,000. With the idea of the floating headcount and reducing their healthcare estimates, their requested increase is reduced to \$473,000, which is a 4.3% increase. (Barreiro @ 8:54 a.m.) They have shifted \$50,000 from Probation fees to be used for Juvenile Custody which is an 8% reduction for that line item. That line item has been as high as \$1.4 million in the past compared to \$550,000 this year. She provided a heads up for next year, noting they would be looking for outside funding for a PREA Coordinator position at the JJC which needs to be a management level position. In addition, JJC contracts for housing youth from outside the county would be up next year, so that revenue source will look different next year. Aust responded to several questions.

KANECOMM –KaneComm Dir. Sauer reported no changes were made to what was presented last month - their budget remains flat. The budget will be presented to the KaneComm Board for their review as required by the code.

MERIT COMMISSION –Merit Commission Chairman Wennmacher reported there were no changes from what was previously submitted – an increase of 5% (\$5,000) over last year.

CIRCUIT CLERK –Circuit Clerk Hartwell reminded the committee that in 2013 his office was \$1.1 million under budget and that in 2014 they were able to cut their budget by 2.77%. In 2015 they are requesting a 3.5% budget increase over last year due primarily to increases in healthcare costs (\$121,000), publication and other costs for indigent filings (\$11,000), and contracts for computer licenses (\$160,000). This increase puts them barely over what their budget was back in 2013. Hartwell felt it was important they get the resources they are asking for as this a bare bones budget. He said he would explore the option of using some special funds to take pressure off the General Fund.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Public Defender Childress reported no changes from last month. Their budget remains flat. She reiterated the need to add a receptionist position in her office. There was some discussion on whether or not this position could be filled by a part-time employee or with a job share to eliminate the cost of benefits.

CORONER – Coroner Russell announced that his office is the first accredited Coroner's Office in the State of Illinois; only 20 in the country are accredited. A certificate was presented.

Referencing a PowerPoint presentation, Russell discussed the status of the morgue noting that where they do business will affect the budget significantly. He provided some history on the freezer and cooler issues they've experienced. Rather than having two separate units, he is looking at a combined unit which will save space and could be expanded and moved to a new facility. He discussed the pros and cons of capital replacements and renting space from DuPage County. He estimated Capital Replacement costs (freezer/cooler, HVAC, Key Card) to be \$93,000 (\$76,000 is already in the budget), with the cost of renting the DuPage morgue at \$30,000 per year. He is hoping to receive a grant for an x-ray machine. The cost of putting the capital in the building would be recouped in about three years. He felt that while renting the DuPage facility was a good short term solution, expenses would exceed benefits long term. He recommended they get the current building functional by addressing immediate needs and move to a new building within five years, which would require planning in the 2015 budget and should be formally placed in the five-year plan. Considerable discussion followed. Committee members were supportive of making the necessary improvements/repairs to the current facility in order to get it back up and running. They felt the Coroner's budget should remain flat for the next three years at \$843,000 as he had previously committed to in writing. Russell said that due to the number of autopsies done last year, a budget adjustment was required which brought their 2013 budget up to \$867,000. He said that since they were on target to do the same as last year, the 2013 number (\$867,000) is what they started with. Russell said he would be looking at reducing the costs for the pathologist, but stated he would not make a decision on autopsies based on finances. Barreiro questioned the decision to hire a "Financial Advisor," which she felt was an unnecessary cost and not a good use of tax dollars. She asked that Russell honor his commitment and stay within budget. Pollock said they need to look at what's required/mandated separately from wish list items. Ford said capital improvements need to be prioritized in order to get the office back up and running in Kane County.

Co. Bd. Chairman Lauzen stated there was some ambiguity on the budget numbers the Coroner was presenting, questioning which of the three different numbers was correct. Referencing several slides, Lauzen reminded the committee that the Coroner had agreed in writing to hold his budget at \$843,000 for three years excluding raises, healthcare costs, etc. that are beyond his control. He pointed out that the total 2015 Coroner's Budget after changes to payroll, health & dental (as calculated by Finance for all departments/offices) was expected to be \$856,759. Referencing Russell's earlier comment about using the 2013 budget number of \$867,000 as a base for 2015, Lauzen pointed out that the Coroner submitted a budget of \$949,547 for 2015, which is 14% (\$92,788) above what he had voluntarily agreed to and what was expected (\$856,759).

Russell responded to several questions, noting that the benefit of accreditation is that they will receive more grants. When asked when the morgue would be moved back to Kane County after the installation of equipment, modification to HVAC, and keycard

security was done, Russell replied that they would be moved back into their building within 24 hours. Lauzen felt it was important that the Coroner take responsibility for a maintenance plan so that there is no confusion regarding responsibilities. Lauzen discussed how others handled salary increases spreading them over several years. He questioned spending in the Coroner's Office, including the hiring of a Compliance Officer. In response to Russell's statement that the Compliance Officer was responsible for generating grants and making sure rules are followed, Lauzen asked how much the office received in grants last year and was told it was zero, and indicated it was the elected official's responsibility to make sure the rules are followed. Lauzen suggested the Coroner take a look at the number of vehicles he needed noting there are currently 8 vehicles for 8 employees +1. Russell explained that two of the vehicles were decommissioned and will be sold, and one is a loaner that was not purchased through his office. Lauzen asked about the financial qualifications/credentials of the Financial Advisor who is the chairman of the political organization of which the Coroner is a member, who was hired and paid \$7,600, and questioned spending \$1,221 of taxpayer money for 1,000 units of Silly Putty given they were over budget. Lauzen discussed the review of autopsies which is business from last year. He said that correspondence with the State's Attorney's Office says that when budget expenditures go over, a review needs to be done. On July 3, the Financial Advisory Group unanimously recommended that the County contract with former Kane County Coroner Mary Lou Kearns to be paid \$10,000-\$20,000 out of the County Board's consulting budget to perform a review of authorized autopsies. Russell questioned spending that amount of taxpayer money on something that can't be changed. He suggested instead that he put together a task force to conduct the review at no cost to the county. Lauzen declined and has decided to use the Financial Advisory Group's recommendation.

Chairman Wojnicki felt everyone was trying to do the best they could and that she could certainly see both sides. She acknowledged that the Coroner's Office had been neglected and forgotten in the past. However, she asked that the Coroner stay within budget and acknowledged that communications need to open up. She congratulated the Coroner on receiving accreditation. In summary, Wojnicki said it was the committee's desire that the Coroner proceed with replacing the freezer/cooler and work to keep his budget flat as he had agreed to. She thanked everyone for working to stay within budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m. on motion by Barreiro, seconded by Gillam. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ellyn M. McGrath
Recording Secretary