

JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 21, 2008

The Judicial and Public Safety Committee met on August 21, 2008, at the Kane County Government Center, County Board Room, 719 S. Batavia Avenue, Geneva, Illinois.

Present: Chairman Mitchell, Davoust, Neuberger, Shoemaker, Tredup. Absent: Fahy, Noverini. Also present: County Bd. Member Van Cleave; Finance Dir. Pattelli; Public Defender Kliment; Asst. State's Atty. Barsanti; Sheriff Perez, Cmdr. Keaty; Court Services Administration Dir. Mueller, staff Owens, Hyatt, Brown; Stodiek, Anselme; Merit Commission Vice Chair Weber and staff Moore; Building Mgmt. Dir. Harbaugh; Circuit Court Dpty. Clerk Herwig; I.T. Dir. Fahnestock, staff Strike; Deputy Auditor Sanders; and Drug Rehab Court staff Scott.

Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Minutes of July 17, 2008 - were approved on motion by Neuberger, seconded by Tredup. Motion carried.

Public Comment - None

Monthly Financial Report - Pattelli reported the Sheriff's Office was at 70% and was over in Fuel, Personnel, and Corrections Board and Care (a \$1.1 million overage, or, 196%). The Merit Commission was at 92% due to additional corrections officers testing. Juvenile Custody was at 96%. (Shoemaker arrives).

SHERIFF

Monthly Report - See below.

Presentation: Public Safety Component of the Mass Transit Funding Reform Act. - Harbaugh stated this presentation had also been given to the Administration Committee. Harbaugh recalled for members that the County Board adopted Resolution 08-130 which was the financial policy for the 0.25% sales tax revenue which was to be expended. The Board committed 82% of the funds to be used for transportation and transit improvement projects, 15% for public safety, and 3% used for Kane County contingency. The Board required a three-year budget model be created with goals and expenditures on how the money would be used. Due to the economy, a revised estimate of revenue of \$14,000,000 was now being used. Fahnestock discussed the projects to be undertaken and the costs (\$3,099,551) associated for the following: the relocation of the 911 Dispatch Center, the relocation of the Office of Emergency Management, costs associated with the purchase of a Computer-Aided dispatch system with related modules (a Corrections record system for jail management), and the CAD/911 system. Fahnestock noted that additional funding sources needed to be applied to the \$3.5 million figure, such as the \$670,000 Dept. of Justice technology grant and potential funding of \$1.25 million from the Emergency Telephone Systems Board. Mitchell recalled the County Board discussed a three-year plan for the money being discussed, i.e., \$6.3 million. Asked how much money was needed for the first point with outside funding sources incorporated into the figure, Fahnestock stated the Department of Justice grant was secured, but he was still working on the ETSB funding. He estimated the county would be paying \$2,400,000 which would cover the three-year period. The total figure out of the county's budget for the first set of projects was \$3,099,551 and the first year would be funded through ETSB funds and the Dept of Justice grant. Years 10 and 11 would be the years funded by the actual revenue from the sales tax. Chair Mitchell calculated that about \$2.1 million could be spent this year on other projects. However, from a cash flow perspective, Harbaugh reminded the chair that 82% of the expenditures were from the Highway Department and some of the projects could come sooner than the three years.

Continuing, Harbaugh explained the plans and costs associated with security and parking lot improvements for the Judicial Center, i.e., expanding the parking lot, securing parking and secured parking access for judges, and installing security improvements at Building A, for a total cost of \$850,000. Mitchell inquired that if the parking expansion was approved, what would it cost and could it be completed this year, wherein Harbaugh recalled the cost was about \$250,000 but clarified that some of the parking created would eventually be lost as the Judicial Center was expanded. Mitchell voiced his concern about installing an expanded parking lot at \$250,000 only to tear it up. Harbaugh stated the Judicial expansion was years away.

Harbaugh reviewed Law Enforcement improvements, which included the vehicle replacement program for the Sheriff's Office. The \$1,500,000 projected was less than what was identified in the fleet maintenance evaluation. Sheriff Perez reported the funding will provide his fleet with 18 cars annually which would not quite replace his fleet in three years but it would do. He discussed the costs to maintain his fleet, rising fuel costs, and steps his staff was taking to reduce costs, such as keeping county vehicles inside the county and removing overflow inmates from McHenry County to back in-house. Mitchell stated that staff will have to review whether keeping cars within the county was cost effective and where money could be saved. Perez offered to sit with Gary Sivik (Fleet Maintenance) to figure out those cost figures. Perez also said that costs could be reduced by providing civil process servers with smaller vehicles and not the large recycled Sheriff's vehicles.

Fahnestock discussed the costs (\$100,000) associated with the county's court management system as it relates to the Circuit Court Clerk's court records system and integration with the jail management and records management/public safety of the Sheriff's Office. He spoke about the enhancements to the fiber optic infrastructure (\$100,000) to connect with Elgin and Aurora branch courts.

Harbaugh spoke about future capital project considerations such as the construction of the 127 bed shell space; the demolition of the sheriff's office on Fabyan Parkway; the JJC expansion; and the annual \$500,000 needed for the Sheriff's Fleet. He confirmed with Mitchell that the video visitation and surveillance system was not included in the three-year program. Mitchell understood those two components would save the county money and suggested moving them up on the priority list. Mitchell asked Keaty and Perez to return with savings figures and costs. Perez also talked about some available federal grant funding (\$75,000) to assist with funding of the surveillance system. Mitchell reminded the committee that the JJC addition could be reviewed for long-range and staff could return with figures on that. He also wanted the adult Judicial Center to be reviewed by the county board in the future. Perez briefly discussed his ideas for the last two floors of the jail build-out.

Reviewing the three areas of the Public Safety projects, Mitchell stated he wanted to look closer at the parking lot expansion figures. If the committee concurred, he suggested that the committee pass to the Finance Committee all figures with the exception of the parking expansion with staff to return with a schematic. Harbaugh said he would return next month with more information on the video visitation matter.

Discussion:

RTA Tax Revenue - See above discussion.

Projects from Administration - See above discussion

Juvenile Justice Center Addition - See above discussion

Build Out of Adult Justice Center - See above discussion

911 Tower - See above discussion

Sheriff's Maintenance Facility - See above discussion

Electronic Monitoring for Stalkers per State Law - Mueller stated another unfunded mandate has come up for the Electronic Monitoring program regarding stalkers. The bill states Probation Services will be responsible for enforcement; Probation Services does not, however, provide enforcement coverage 24 hours, 365 days per year. His office does not have the manpower in Probation Services to provide the service. The bill goes into effect January 1, 2009 and Mueller is concerned because of the offices the bill will affect: State's Attorney, Sheriff, and his office. Asked if the bill allows the offender to pay for the equipment, Mueller explained that there is a \$200 usage fee which goes directly to Springfield. Further costs for the equipment followed. Mueller said it was not cost effective to purchase the equipment due to changing technology. He asked for committee input, but would return with figures. Per Mueller, manpower costs, including the equipment, were estimated to be \$15.00 per day plus the charge for the GSP equipment. Mitchell asked for other issues possibly not raised. None followed.

Other Projects - See above discussion

Resolution: Authorizing the Budget for Public Safety Expenditures of the 0.25% Sales Tax Revenue - was amended and forwarded to the Finance Committee, except for the figures associated with the Judiciary parking lot expansion, seconded by Tredup. Motion carried.

DRUG REHABILITATION COURT

Monthly Report - Scott referenced his report. No questions followed.

JUVENILE CUSTODY

Monthly Report - Brown reported 23 youth were in placement and his budget was over. He is looking at placement alternatives and trying to get family therapy but there are associated training costs.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Monthly Report - Kliment reported his office had 1,000 more appointments this year as compared to last year and he was down three attorneys.

CIRCUIT CLERK

Monthly Report - Herwig stated the office will be publishing unclaimed monies from bond refunds, overpayments, and restitution on September 3, 2008. About \$776,000 in unclaimed funds exists. After 65 days any unclaimed money will go to the Treasure's Office, followed by the State of Illinois.

STATE'S ATTORNEY

Monthly Report - Atty. Barsanti reported \$100,000 in forfeitures was filed and judgments were \$16,000 to \$17,000 for July. The Second Chance Program had 368 cases diverted out of court this year bringing in \$160,000 in revenue. The Second Chance Drug/Alcohol Program had 500 individuals diverted out of the jail system. Approximately \$345,000 has been collected in restitution to merchants under the Bad Check Restitution program. Barsanti summarized the steps his

office was taking to obtain unclaimed bond money, which was approximately \$300,000 in bonds. On another matter he noted that 2,368 felonies were filed for the year and he estimated that if the trend continues, he will see 300 to 400 felonies less this year, which was a positive.

JUDICIARY & COURTS

Monthly Report - Naughton was not present.

CORONER

Monthly Report - West reported homicides were down, motor vehicles were about the same, and suicides were up possibly due to the economy. He discussed the fact that some of the public still underestimates the dangers of the Fox River, noting an autopsy was being performed on an Aurora victim found in the river recently. More unclaimed bodies are being seen, which he does not have a budgeted line item. He believes this may be a result of the economy. He reminded the committee his office works with various agencies, i.e., the Veterans Administration or Public Aid, etc. to locate money to bury or cremate an individual. He believes if the trend continues the Board will have to seriously consider the matter for the future. Neuberger asked about the state's policy for holding a body. Mitchell offered to speak to West about such matters in the future.

MERIT COMMISSION

Monthly Report - Moore reported that office secretary Mary Gray retired on May 31, 2008, after 24 years of service, and was replaced by Kathleen Sleezer. At the June 24, 2008, Merit Commission meeting Moore was elected Secretary, Stephen Wennmacher was elected Chairman, and Elmer Weber was elected Vice Chairman. Testing for Correctional Officers was underway with testing to start September 8. The list for Patrol Lieutenants went into effect August 2 with seven officers on the list. The Sergeants list went into effect on August 3 with 19 names on the list.

ADULT CORRECTIONS

Monthly Report - Perez reported the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new jail went well. Inmates and corrections staff will be moving in shortly. He is researching a grant for in-car cameras for the Sheriff's fleet with no cost to the county. Six new squads are being detailed for service and now include new front-end push bars (\$250 per bar). The seconded annual Sheriff's Car Show for Charity will be held on September 21, with money to be used for disabled American veterans. Keaty summarized the timeline for the move into the new jail noting ten vacancies existed. He has been working with the State's Attorney's Office to evaluate some of the inmates in the county's custody to see if they can make recommendations for alternative sentencing or bonds. The contract with Aramark is still being worked on for food, laundry and commissary services. Lastly, Perez reported on statistics noting the only category that increased was Crimes Against Persons - Battery. All other categories were down from previous years.

COURT SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Monthly Report - No specific report.

Resolution: Replacement Vehicle - was moved to the Administration Committee on motion by Davoust, seconded by Neuberger. Motion carried. The 2008 Ford Focus vehicle will be paid out of Probation fees.

Discussion: State Dept. of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Funding Cuts - Mueller discussed how the State has severely cut funding for the county's Alcohol and Substance Abuse program and its service providers. Because the service providers are not taking such individuals, many will be on the street or be in the jail. Hyatt reported that originally \$55,000,000 was to be lost, but the House decided to restore \$43,000,000. The Senate took no action. Hyatt reported on those county programs that would be losing money, i.e., Breaking Free, Renz Addiction, the Second Chance Program, etc. (Davoust steps away) Mueller asked the committee to consider contacting the senators and requesting them to restore the funding. Mitchell recommended Mueller drafting correspondence and forwarding it to the Legislative Committee and to look at other options. Mueller stated he was working with service providers already to review options and would bring more information back to this committee. (Davoust returns) He discussed the impact that would affect the various Court Services and county departments. (Neuberger steps away)

Discussion: BI Wireless Electronic Monitoring - Mueller explained a new wireless electronic monitoring program which allows certain inmates to get out of jail in a quicker manner. The old monitoring technology required a hookup to a hard telephone line and waiting for the incarcerated individual to get a telephone line; whereas, the new program allowed immediate wireless hookup. (Neuberger returns). The program will not cost the county money and he would expand the current contract to include the wireless technology at \$7.55 per day. The committee supported the equipment and Mitchell asked to report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m. on motion by Neuberger, seconded by Davoust. Motion carried.

Celeste Weilandt
Recording Secretary