

JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 18, 2008

The Judicial and Public Safety Committee met on September 18, 2008, at the Kane County Government Center, County Board Room, 719 S. Batavia Avenue, Geneva, Illinois.

Present: Chairman Mitchell, Fahy, Neuberger, and Noverini. Absent: Davoust, Shoemaker, and Tredup. Also present: Finance Dir. Pattelli and staff Rossman; Sheriff Perez and staff Keaty; Drug Rehab Court staff Scott; Court Services Admin. Dir. Mueller and staff Hyatt, Brown, Anselme; Judiciary & Courts Admin. Naughton; Merit Commission staff; Building Mgmt. Dir. Harbaugh; I.T. Dir. Fahnestock, staff Strike; Deputy Auditor Sanders; Coroner's Office staff; and members of the press and public.

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

Minutes of August 21, 2008 - were approved on motion by Noverini, seconded by Fahy. Motion carried.

Public Comment - None

Monthly Financial Report - Pattelli reported not much had changed for this committee since last month. They are still over budget in Corrections Board and Care by approximately \$1.3 million, and Juvenile Custody by \$83,000. She noted there was a resolution coming to Finance this month for the Sheriff's union salary increases. Right now that budget is at 80%, but once the amendment goes through, it should look better. They are still over budget, however, in the Contractual and Commodities areas mostly due to fuel costs. Most of the other departments are within budget.

Discussion: Parking Lot Improvements at Judicial Center - Mitchell recalled this was continued from last month. Harbaugh explained he had spoken with the Chief Judge who understands more time is needed. Once he has gathered all the information, he will report back to the committee. Harbaugh confirmed he would work with the new chief judge on this.

SHERIFF

Monthly Report - Perez reported they were recently awarded a \$164,000 grant for in-car cameras in their patrol vehicles. This is no cost to the county. He felt this was one of the best officer safety tools they have. It provides them with good evidence when they do have a case in court, and its good accountability for their people. Rossman indicated bids would be going out for the cameras this afternoon. It was the consensus of the committee that Perez prepare a resolution accepting the grant and forward it to the Executive Committee.

DRUG REHABILITATION COURT

Monthly Report - A written report was provided. There were no questions.

JUVENILE CUSTODY

Monthly Report - Brown reported that despite the fact that they are significantly over in their budget, they are making an effort to work with the State's Attorney's Office and the juvenile court judge to enforce parental contributions. The legislature has approved a bridge between the school districts and juvenile court, so that they are now allowed to bill school districts for tuition.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Monthly Report - A written report was provided.

CIRCUIT CLERK

Monthly Report - None

STATE'S ATTORNEY

Monthly Report - None

JUDICIARY & COURTS

Monthly Report - Naughton announced that F. Keith Brown was elected last night by the Circuit judges and will be replacing Chief Judge Hudson on December 1. Naughton indicated that they are currently under budget. Mitchell expressed appreciation to Chief Judge Hudson for all his work.

CORONER

Monthly Report - A written report was provided. There were no questions.

MERIT COMMISSION

Monthly Report - Staff reported they were currently collecting applications for Correction Officers.

ADULT CORRECTIONS

Monthly Report - A written report was provided. Keaty reported their count was currently at 685, and they are in the process of working out some minor issues at the new facility. They currently have ten officer vacancies, and will hire two off of the current list, which will exhaust that list. There was a brief discussion on whether or not the vacancies had to go through the Finance Committee as outlined in the new financial policy. Fahy thought the Sheriff could replace these positions without Board approval, but they couldn't add additional positions. Perez clarified that these were not additional positions or replacements; this just gets them to their authorized number. It was the consensus of the committee that this should be forwarded on to Finance in the event they need to approve it.

Keaty provided information on a video visitation program. He noted that the new building was designed so that inmates could stay in their housing unit instead of using additional manpower to escort them to the visiting area. Moving visitors through public areas is more efficient and secure than moving inmates through security areas. Keaty noted that they could achieve further efficiencies by investing in a basic video visitation system. Visitors would visit from the AJC's lobby with the inmates in the housing unit via an in-house video conferencing system. He outlined the benefits of the system, including increased capacity to conduct visits, future capability of monitoring and recording visits for investigative purposes, the elimination of security checkpoints, etc. The initial cost of the system is estimated at \$230,000-\$270,000. Keaty said this will improve security and save the county approximately \$77,000; it would pay for itself in 3.5 years. Keaty clarified that this was not an actual dollar savings, as these officers would be used elsewhere. It was the consensus of the committee to move this to the Finance Committee. In response to a question, Harbaugh said he thought there might be money in contingency that could cover this, but couldn't guarantee that. Per a question, Keaty said 158 prisoners were currently outsourced. Mitchell asked that Perez update the resolution that addressed the maximum number of inmates housed at the AJC before being outsourced and send it to the Executive Committee.

COURT SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Monthly Report - Mueller indicated they had been asked to estimate the cost to implement the stalker law which goes into effect January 2009. This law allows judges to place defendants on GPS monitoring at both the pretrial and sentencing stages in connection with charges of Violation of Order of Protection. Mueller said there was no guarantee, but they were working with others on trying to get this modified. Hyatt provided a written report explaining why this was a difficult number to estimate. Estimates were based on total numbers of Violations of Order of Protection filed, as well as those that resulted in a finding and sentence during the time period of August 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008. Based on the maximum expected if 100% of the cases were ordered on for the average length of time available, she estimated offenders in both categories combined would cost approximately \$358,540. This cost applies only to equipment rental, and does not take into consideration the additional operating costs of staffing a 24/7 program, which is what would be required, or any additional equipment for the victim, if that is necessary. It would need to be determined whether resources outside of the department could take on the after hours monitoring function, or whether additional Court Services staff would be required to fulfill this function. If Court Services expands staff to provide this service, Hyatt estimated this would add approximately \$85,000 in salary and benefits. Mueller indicated they were working to address their budget proposal for next year. They have mandated services and those will come first, so cuts will need to be made in other program areas.

Food Provider for Juvenile Justice Center - Anselme explained the JJC put out a bid for their food providers and there were some exceptions to those specifications that came back. They are currently reevaluating it. In response to Anselme's request, the committee agreed that if the details were worked out, this could be moved to Executive Committee next month.

Vehicle Replacement - Hyatt reminded the committee that last month they had approved replacement of a vehicle out of their Probation Fee Fund and forwarded the resolution to the Administration Committee. She was not present at the Administration meeting, but it was her understanding that a vehicle replacement policy was introduced at that meeting that requires paperwork be completed, and that an inspection of the old vehicle by Transportation be done to determine its condition. She was in the process of completing the paperwork, but reminded the committee that these were probation fees and not county funds, and it was budgeted in this year's budget. Fahy thought it was good to have a policy even though the money was there, and felt it was a good idea to put this vehicle through the process. Mitchell thought the Board should approve the policy before it is implemented, however. Mitchell asked Hyatt to keep them informed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. on motion by Fahy, seconded by Noverini. Motion carried.

Ellyn M. McGrath
Recording Secretary