

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009

Chairman Yvonne Barnes called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Yvonne Barnes, Chairman; Bob Bless; Sue Draffkorn; Jim Heisler; James Kennedy and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Randy Donley was absent. Also in attendance: Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator-Finance; Angela Wood-Zuzevich, Sheriff's Department; Barry Valentine, EMA; Kathy Keefe, Circuit Clerk; Tom Sullivan, IT; Judge Sullivan; and Bob Ivetic, Human Resources.

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| Yvonne Barnes, Chairman | |
| Robert "Bob" Bless | Randy Donley |
| Sue Draffkorn | Jim Heisler |
| James Kennedy | Kathleen Bergan Schmidt |

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed committee minutes from the August 17, 2009. Chairman Barnes stated that she had mentioned the need to review video gambling at a future meeting and this information was not included within the minutes. Ms. Draffkorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bless to recommend approval of the above minutes as amended. The minutes were approved on a unanimous voice vote as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution authorizing a contract agreement between the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Chapter 515 and the County of McHenry: Committee members reviewed a Resolution authorizing a contract agreement between the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Chapter 515 and the County of McHenry. Mr. Ivetic stated that this is a good first contract and it preserves the integrity of the office. This is a three year contract with the majority of the contract dealing with procedural issues. This contract is tied to the sensitive changing economic times. The first year of the contract they received a 3% increase and the second year of the contract has maintained a 2 ½% wage increase. The third year will be negotiable. After review, Mr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Bless, Draffkorn, Heisler, Kennedy, Schmidt, Barnes)

Ordinance amending the County Code to allow for an increase in the Law Library Fee: Committee members reviewed an Ordinance amending the County Code to allow for an increase in the Law Library Fee. Mr. Wallis reported that a new bill allows a County Board to increase the law library fees to defray the cost of maintaining the law library. The present fee has not been increased since 2005. The fees can be increased to no more than \$18 in 2009, \$19 in 2010 and \$21 in 2011. It has been recommended that the fees for the McHenry County Law Library set at \$18 in order to meet the expenses of the department. Chairman Barnes stated that there have been complaints received regarding the high cost of the court fees but, there has also been a lot of correspondence from individuals that are happy with the services of the law library and its navigator services and how the law library has been a great service to the public. It was stated that the Ordinance needs to be corrected as it references the "Presiding Judge," which should be the "Chief Judge." Ms. Draffkorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Heisler to recommend approval of the above Ordinance, as corrected. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Bless, Draffkorn, Heisler, Kennedy, Schmidt, Barnes).

OLD BUSINESS

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

EMA – Update on Vendor Selection: Mr. Valentine joined committee members to provide information on the approval of a Vendor for the Interoperable Communications Plan. Bids were reviewed and the top four vendors were interviewed. The Lafayette Group from Vienna VA has been selected as they meet the needs for the plan.

The proposal presented by the Lafayette Group was within the budget, time frame and the standards needed to complete the task. The project has been paid for from a grant received. Grants were issues to high population areas. Committee members thanked Mr. Valentine for his update.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bless to recommend the committee enter into executive session at 8:48a.m. to discuss possible litigation and review of executive session minutes. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Bless, Draffkorn, Heisler, Kennedy, Schmidt, Barnes).

Mr. Bless made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to return to regular session at 9:24a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote. (Bless, Draffkorn, Heisler, Kennedy, Schmidt, Barnes)

Mr. Bless made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve for review by the State's Attorney's office, the executive session minutes of August 17, 2009. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

REPORTS/UPDATES CON'T

Committee members were informed that the State has put through cuts to the budget where the County is reimbursed for the salaries for our Probation Officers. Last year's reimbursement amount was \$504,000. This year the County was notified that it would receive \$388,000. Decisions will have to be made to bridge the gap for personnel and services to this department. The Supreme Court is trying to get all funds restored in the State budget, with no success so far. While talking with other Counties, it was discovered that some budgets were cut, some more than others, while other budgets were increased. These services are important so the County will have to make decisions on what should be done to fill the gap for these services. Committee members noted that the Court Services Department is one of the finest in the State and we need to try to maintain their current operations. Eliminating funds is self destructive to the State and Probation Services is vital to public safety. In additional to cutting funds, the State has changed the funding formulas for the Counties. Mr. Ulmer is staying on top of the issue and trying to find out what the total impact will be to the County. It will be late September before we will find out what the exact changes are.

Committee members reviewed a letter sent by Sheriff Nygren regarding traffic enforcement for Alden Road. Alden Road residents have raised concerning regarding traffic enforcement. Sheriff Nygren stated that Alden Road residents will continue to receive enforcement as needed.

Mr. Wallis stated that he forwarded to County Board members an electronic copy of the 2008 annual report of the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court. He stated that there has been an increase of 247% in trials in the past 5 years. An update will be provided at tomorrow's County Board meeting.

Committee members were reminded that there will not be a September meeting for the Law and Justice Committee as their regular meeting falls on Labor Day. Today's meeting takes the place of their regularly scheduled meeting. A special meeting could be called if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Mr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draffkorn to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

Resolution authorizing a contract agreement between the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Chapter 515 and the County of McHenry

Ordinance amending the County Code to allow for an increase in the Law Library Fee