

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

MINUTES OF MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010

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; Randy Donley; James Kennedy and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator-Finance; Dan Wallis, Court Administrator; Angela Wood-Zuzevich, Sheriff's Department; Bob Ivetic, Human Resources; Adam Lehman, Administration Intern; Kathy Keefe, Circuit Clerk; Tiki Carlson, E-911; Barry Valentine and Bob Ellsworth, Emergency Management Agency; and John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator.

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 December 7, 2009. Committee members stated that they had requested a representative from ICE invited to join the committee members to answer questions of the committee. Chairman Barnes stated that other people had requested the Law and Justice Committee review Ethics Commission complaints and not herself. Mr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt to recommend approval of the above minutes as amended. The minutes were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution authorizing entering into a contract with Nixle for municipal wire service for FY2010 budget: Committee members reviewed a Resolution authorizing entering into a contract with Nixle for municipal wire service for FY2010 budget. The contract and messages for the system have been reviewed by the State's Attorney. Committee members questioned if weather information could be included on the system. Mr. Valentine stated that the Sheriff can work with the weather service to include these announcements on the system as well. Committee members noted a typographical error in the Resolution. After review, Ms. Draffkorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donley to recommend approval of the above Resolution as amended. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Resolution approving acceptance of State of Illinois Emergency Management Assistance Grant Program Agreement for FY2010: Committee members reviewed a Resolution approving acceptance of State of Illinois Emergency Management Assistance Grant Program Agreement for FY2010. This is a grant that is received yearly with the amount varying from year to year. The department received word that they would be receiving an additional \$30,000 for last year's allocation. This year the amount approved was \$71,000. Any funds received by the department are returned to the General Fund. Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bless to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Resolution authorizing acceptance of State of Illinois emergency Management Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Planning Grant Program Grant Agreement and an Emergency Appropriation in the Emergency Management Agency's Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget: Committee members reviewed a Resolution authorizing acceptance of State of Illinois emergency Management Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Planning Grant Program Grant Agreement and an Emergency Appropriation in the Emergency Management Agency's Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget. This program is used to develop, implement, and improve hazardous chemical emergency plans under the federal and state Emergency Planning and Community right-to-know ACTS. Committee members stated that the body of the Resolution states this grant is for 2008 – 2009 and should be for 2009-2010. Mr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draffkorn to recommend approval of the above Resolution as amended. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Bless, Donley, Draffkorn, Heisler, Kennedy, Schmidt, Barnes)

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Barnes requested an update on the status of the per diem wages for the Court Security Officers as discussed during the previous meeting. The consensus of the committee previously was to increase the per diem wages for the Court Security Officers by 2%. After additional discussion with the Sheriff's Department it was determined that this should be handled as part of the budget program and will be brought back for discussion later in the year. The per diem Court Security Officers pay will remain at \$100 per day.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Ivetic joined committee members to provide an update on the labor negotiations for the SEIU Coroners labor unit. This issue has been ongoing for over 18 months. The last mediation session was held on October 6th. At that time the negotiations were very far apart. The County had tendered its last, best and final offer with a directive to take this to its membership. Before any action was taken, the union group filed a request for interest arbitration with the Illinois Labor Board to determine whether this group is covered under the Law Enforcement Act. The Illinois Administrator Law Judge ruled they are not peace officers and therefore are not covered under this Act. The SEIU filed with the Labor Board for an expedited hearing as to why this was denied. Mr. Ivetic stated that it is hopeful that the hearing will be held by the end of January. The Labor Board has never overturned a ruling from one of its Administrative Law Judges. This would take the County back to its last, best and final offer. If this offer is rejected there could be a work stoppage/strike. Mr. Ivetic informed committee members that Mr. John Kelly has done a fantastic job in the writing of his briefs and representation for the County on this issue. No date has been granted yet for the final hearing. Once a determination has been made, the group has 21 days to bring the offer for a vote to its membership. Mr. Ivetic stated he will review plans with the Coroner in case the group decides to strike.

ISS: Mr. Wallis and Ms. Keefe joined committee members to provide an update for the ISS project. The Circuit Clerk project has been completed and is running well. They are currently working on the installation of the Court Services project. The County has done a great job and has outpaced the work of ISS staff. Mr. Wallis stated that he would like to thank Roger Bacon, Doris Brady, Phil Dailing and Tina Sheldon for the fantastic job they have done on the ISS project. The training manual has not been completed so training of staff will push back the final date. The parallel testing has not been completed. They are now saying the new release will be implemented on January 8th. This portion of the project was to be completed by January 4th. A more realistic live date will be the end of January. This seems to be a good system and they are testing portions of the system as they go along. Mr. Wallis stated the problem with this is when a "bug" is discovered, it requires a fix and the system would then be retested and then this seems to cause another issue. Parallel testing is expected to take two weeks. Ms. Keefe stated that the good news is Court Services will now get "real time" reports from the Circuit Clerks office.

Mr. Heisler left committee at 9:07a.m.

Committee members were informed that there is a Resolution that will be coming before the committee to hire a Law Library Clerk to be paid for from the recently increased Law Library fees. There has been a request to take this item out of order so that this item could be placed on the February 4th County Board Agenda for consideration. With the increased use of the Law Library the additional staff is needed. The consensus of the committee is to allow this item to be taken to the Human Resource Committee and Finance and Audit Committee prior to review by this committee. Committee members were reminded that the Drug Court Training session has been scheduled for February 19th from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. The training will take place in the Jury Assembly Room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draffkorn to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

- Resolution authorizing entering into a contract with Nixle for municipal wire service for FY10 budget
- Resolution approving acceptance of State of Illinois Emergency Management Assistance Grant Program Agreement for FY2010
- Resolution authorizing acceptance of the State of Illinois Emergency Management Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Planning Grant program grant agreement and an emergency appropriation in the Emergency Management Agency's Fiscal Year 09-10 budget