

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

MINUTES OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Chairman Yvonne Barnes called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Yvonne Barnes, Chairman; Sue Draffkorn; Randy Donley; James Kennedy and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Jim Heisler arrived at 8:31a.m. Bob Bless was absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Gene Lowery, Undersheriff and Angela Wood-Zuzevich, Sheriff's Department; Tiki Carlson, E-911; Jamie Rein, States Attorney; Judge Michael Sullivan; Marisola Foley, Court Administration 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 January 4, 2010. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draffkorn to recommend approval of the above minutes as presented. The minutes were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Heisler arrived t 8:31a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Marengo Rescue Squad – Trustee Re-appointments (for 4 year terms ending 12/2013) Eugene Carroccia, William R. Weirich and Caryn Beisner): Committee members reviewed trustee applications for the reappointment to the Marengo Rescue Squad. Mr. Donley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draffkorn to recommend the reappointments of Eugene Carroccia, William R. Weirich and Caryn Beisner to the Marengo Rescue Squad for a four year term ending 12/2013. Committee members requested that any application that may be requesting a reappointment to a position to provide an updated application, if their application for a position is over one year old. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Draffkorn, Heisler, Kennedy, Schmidt, Barnes)

Resolution authorizing the creation of a new position in the Law Library Departmental Roster and budget line item transfers in the Law Library Fund FY10 budget: Committee members reviewed a Resolution authorizing the creation of a new position in the Law Library Departmental Roster and budget line item transfers in the Law Library Fund FY10 budget. Judge Michael Sullivan joined the committee to discuss the need for this position. Judge Sullivan stated that they previously had a part time position that was paid for from grant funds. This grant has expired. At the end of last year the County Board approved an increase of the Law Library fees in order to pay for this position. Also, with the increase of foreclosures in the County, the center is getting a lot of use. Mr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Heisler to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Draffkorn, Heisler, Kennedy, Schmidt, Barnes) This Resolution went out of order in order to get this item placed on the County Board agenda for consideration.

Committee meeting date for March 2010 (currently set at Monday 3/1/10): Committee members entered into a discussion regarding the March committee meeting date. Chairman Barnes stated she had this item placed on the agenda because both her and Mr. Bless will be unable to attend the March 1st committee meeting and she wanted to make sure there would be a quorum prior next month's committee meeting. Chairman Barnes stated that she would be attending a legislative breakfast in her district. Committee members elected to keep the committee meeting as scheduled.

Judge Sullivan introduced Ms. Marisola Foley, the Assistant Court Administrator to the committee members. Mr. Wallis, the Court Administrator was unable to attend today's committee meeting and Ms. Foley joined the committee meeting in his place.

OLD BUSINESS

There seems to be a lack of parking spaces available at the Courthouse. Because of this, Mr. Austin informed committee members that he has made a request to the City of Woodstock to allow for on street parking along Russel Court. This would allow for 12 to 15 additional parking spots along the street. The street would be striped to show

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where parking is authorized. This situation is multiplied with high amount of unemployment claims and increased traffic at the unemployment facility. Woodstock City Officials seem to think this is a do-able request but the request needs the permission from the City Council. Mr. Austin stated that a formal request would be presented during the next City Council Meeting. Committee members questioned if it would be feasible to pay for additional parking from the large facility located at the end of Russel Court. Committee members were informed that the owner of this property has been approached in the past with costs being too high. The Workforce Network is also seeking permission to create a drive out area for their parking lot since the lot is so small that it is hard to navigate around. Committee members were informed that when someone parks in this private parking area their vehicles are towed shortly after parking. Committee members stated they are hopeful that this request will address some of the parking shortages seen at the courthouse.

Mr. Austin provided committee members with information on ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement). He informed committee members that even though ICE will not speak on specific issues regarding specific companies, they will discuss enforcement issues. He stated that he was put in touch with an area agent, though this agent has stated he is not in a position to speak about a "raid" in the County. He stated he would speak with his bosses to find out what, if any, information could be given to the County. Mr. Donley stated the only concern he has is that ICE came into a company in the County, told them 140 of their employees were not documented and were not deported and a number of these undocumented workers are now working directly with this company's competitors. He stated that some of these employees were running specialized equipment and these workers have taken this process over to the competitor, creating an unfair advantage for the competition. This company has lost half of their business because they are unable to produce their products with employees that were deemed "undocumented" workers that are now working for the competitors. Mr. Austin reminded committee members that the agent is unable to speak about a specific case but will request a better understanding of the issue.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

ISS: Mr. Austin provided committee members with a copy of a summary and its response following a meeting with Michael Locascio of ISS. The Circuit Clerk is happy with the product created for their department. Parallel testing is scheduled to begin today for Court Services. It is hopeful that Court Services will be ready to go live by the end of the month. ISS would like to be under contract to begin the next piece of the automation system for the State's Attorney and thereafter the Public Defender and get a clear understanding of what this portion of the project may entail. Mr. Austin stated there are two options to consider, one would be whether the County should continue with ISS and the second would be if we look for an alternative vendor to purchase something off the shelf that would be less customized. Upgrades could be used to create a semi custom project. The ISS project is projected to cost \$110,000 per month for the next nine months with additional costs to follow into next year without a prediction for the total cost. Committee members questioned why the Law and Justice Committee is involved with these decisions. It was stated that the previous project was a Court project where funding was being borrowed from the County but paid for from the Court Automation funds. The remaining projects would be funded by the General Fund. The committee's responsibility is to understand what is going on in the court departments, what the initial costs are to each department, oversee these costs and approve general fund expenditures. ISS has met with the States Attorney to review the options for the automation of its department. ISS would like to move forward, but, the project is up to the County. The County will review alternatives, find out what the cost would be to hire a new company, review the numbers on specific deliverables. Some committee members stated they are not happy with what has taken place with ISS and feel additional vendors should be researched to see what the costs would be to complete this project. Committee members were reminded that even though we have not been thoroughly satisfied with the work done by ISS, the Circuit Clerk is happy with the end product. It was stated that the next steps need to be done with full due diligence and the process should not be hurried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Mr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Heisler to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

Resolution recommending reappointment of Eugene Carroccia, William R. Weiricha nd Caryn Beisner to the Marengo Rescue Squad

Resolution authorizing the creation of a new position in the Law Library Departmental Roster and budget line item transfers in the Law Library Fund FY10 budget