

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

MINUTES OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011

Chairman Provenzano called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The following Committee members were present: Chairman Nick Provenzano; Bob Nowak; Sue Draffkorn; and Randy Donley. Mr. Heisler arrived at 8:22a.m. Mr. Jung arrived at 8:28a.m. Bob Bless was absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Undersheriff Andy Zinke and Angela Wood-Zuzevich, Sheriff's Department; Dave Christensen, EMA; Phil Dailing, Phil Hiscock, State's Attorney; and Chairman Ken Koehler, County Board.

Nick Provenzano, Chairman	
Robert "Bob" Bless	Randy Donley
Sue Draffkorn	Jim Heisler
John Jung	Robert "Bob" Nowak

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes from November 7, 2011. Mr. Donley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draffkorn, to recommend approval of the above minutes as presented. The minutes were approved with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Ms. Draffkorn informed committee members that they have had discussions in the other committees where they decided they did not need to have minutes so detailed. Mr. Donley agreed stating that during a previous meeting he had a little debate with Judge Sullivan. He stated the debate was summarized even though he felt that more detail should have been included in the minutes. He stated that he was okay with having just a good summary included as long as the committee meeting is kept on topic and kept moving he has no issues with summarizing the minutes. He stated that those meetings that have contentious issues should be taped. It was stated that this issue will be discussed by the Management Services Committee. Chairman Provenzano voiced concern regarding the taping of meetings. He stated there is currently no mechanism to do away with these tapes. State Statue currently requires that these tapes be retained indefinitely. Mr. Nowak stated that he feels the minutes are too involved and should be more general. He stated the current format requires too much paper storage.

PRESENTATION

Community-Specific Integrated Emergency Management Training in 2013: Mr. Christensen joined committee members to request permission to apply to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) for a community-specific IEMC training in FY2013. The deadline for this application is January 15, 2012. This training will not take place until 2013, though they have to apply a year in advance to plan for this training. The training for this event takes place in Maryland.

Mr. Christensen stated he would take a leadership role with representatives from the County to participate in this program. The program will be tailored to McHenry County. We, as a group, tell them the emergencies that they want to be trained on. The budget for this event will be worked on during next year's budget process.

Committee members questioned how many individuals would attend this training. They were informed that there would probably be a contingency of about 15 to 20 individuals. Travel costs do have a financial impact to department budgets so this event will need to be budgeted for. The travel expenses could be budgeted from each departmental budget. Mr. Christensen stated they would have to wait to see if they get awarded this training before trying to budget for the event.

This is a national disaster training site. This is the center where disaster management training takes place. They offer in house classes as well. Outside municipalities will be invited, though they will pay for their own travel expenses.

Mr. Jung arrived at 8:28a.m.

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

December 5, 2011

Page 2

Representatives from the Police and Fire Chief's Associations will be invited as well. This is a great place to practice group exercises. Mr. Christensen stated that he assumes this program will involve representatives from the county, municipalities and/or public service related personnel to attend this program. The main expense will be for travel costs.

The consensus of the committee was to allow Mr. Christensen to apply to the Emergency Management Institute for this community-specific emergency training.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing Payment of Special Prosecutor Fees and Consultant Fees from the General Fund Fiscal Year 2011 Contingency: Ms. Draffkorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Heisler to recommend the above Resolution be tabled to the February 6, 2011 Law and Justice Meeting for consideration. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Committee members were informed that legal counsel on this issue will be at tomorrow's County Board meeting to discuss this issue during executive session.

OLD BUSINESS

None

REPORTS/UPDATES

Mr. Austin reported that it was a big last week for Criminal Justice. Two new Judges were sworn in on Friday. They had a kick off for the new Drug Court. Dan Wallis and Scott Block have a couple of good candidates for the Drug Court Program. They will be working with some individuals that have hit rock bottom and they keep getting into trouble because of drugs.

Mr. Austin reported that last week they took a tour of the model courtrooms 101, 102 and 104. Courtroom 104 is done though they have a handful of items that need to be completed from a construction punch list. There is additional work that is being done in the back areas, including carpeting of the Judge's Chambers. Courtroom 101 has been changed into a Juvenile Courtroom along with a waiting area for the juveniles that must attend court. This space is coming along well.

They have held some discussions concerning court security. They are reviewing the main entrance areas on the east and west side of the Government Center so they can get the persons that has to attend to business at the government center out of the elements sooner. They are reviewing additional needs to the east entrances as well. A magnetometer may be needed for one of the entrances. They are reviewing the costs and budgets for these projects. This is something both Chairman Koehler and Sheriff Nygren are interested in doing. Staff has been working with the in-house architect for review of the entrances and old plans to determine the best way to handle security to these entrances.

Mr. Heisler stated that he read that Crystal Lake is looking into a new shooting range set up. He asked if they will be using the County Sheriff's shooting range. He was informed that that Crystal Lake is looking into the use of a private facility. This does not affect the County. No outside organizations use the Sheriff's shooting range. This facility is for use by Sheriff Personnel only. Mr. Heisler stated that the facility suggested limits the type of weapons that can be used indoors. Undersheriff Zinke stated that they would like to offer the use of their facility in the future, but at this time it is closed for outside use. Chairman Koehler informed committee members that the facility that Mr. Heisler is referring to is a private facility that is open to all police personnel as well as the public.

Committee members were informed that they attended a meeting last week, sponsored by the Coordinating Council. The Council serves in a coordinating role for State, township, municipal, and county functions to pool their collective knowledge to support preparation and mitigation efforts. This coordination will lead to more efficient and cooperative resource management during emergencies and disasters throughout the County. The event created was a "thermal nuclear war". Mr. Christensen stated that when he first joined the County there was a significant storm that took place on July 11th. He stated that his agency did not receive one phone call requesting help or services with this storm. He stated that this department is supposed to be the "go to" place during these types of events.

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

December 5, 2011

Page 3

Mr. Christensen stated that he invited all the department heads from the Municipalities, Fire and Police to discuss issues related to emergency management. He stated they spoke about mutual aid. He stated that one public works department hired an outside contractor to help with the debris removal. He stated that he had a mutual aid group in place that could have helped remove this debris for free. The only cost would have been for the fuel to run the equipment. He stated that the Coordinating Council gets the needed services together when/if an emergency should happen.

Mr. Christensen reported that he attended a meeting last week for catastrophic training. The team is known as the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team. The team works to solve the multitude of issues which would arise due to a catastrophic disaster in the region. The area is known as the Chicago Statistical Area (CSA). In the beginning it appeared that all resources were destined to Chicago from the 10 counties in Illinois, 1 in Wisconsin, and 5 in Indiana. They have worked through this to create a two way supply chain so that no matter where the incident occurs, the others will assist, unfettered by county or state borders.

When reviewing the plume models for nuclear devices, this County seems to be out of the plume area. If a nuclear device should be set off, all power would be shut down. Since most of the wells use power, water would become a big deal.

McHenry County could become a provider of water to the surrounding areas and it would also get the evacuees from the affected areas, including Cook County. Communications would become affected as well. Part of the community alerts would be gone.

Mr. Christensen stated that these meetings are very interesting and everyone is invited to attend. The meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. He informed committee members that they bring in current topics for discussion.

He reported that there is a great relationship among the fire departments, police departments and Municipalities in the County.

At the event held for the Huntley disaster, they took the train off the tracks and staged a hazardous materials spill. They had to create a traffic plan for evacuation, bring in responders to this disaster and send out a press release to communicate the need for the public to stay away from the area. He stated he is excited to see the collaboration from the group during this event. This event highlighted the need for a public information officer role during these disasters. He stated that it is important to hold these learning events to address needs in case of a disaster.

Chairman Koehler stated that they were able to see the deficiencies in their plans that could be corrected. This event also involved dual County issues that would need to be addressed so this event was very worthwhile.

Mr. Austin informed committee members that Unit 2 FOP has accepted their contract, which is significant. They will receive increases of 7.75% over the next three years. This is broken down with 2% the first year, 2.75% the second year and 3% for the third year. The contract also included concessions to their comp plan and health insurance plans.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draffkorn, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

* * * * *

RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

:ksf

Approved: 12-20-11