

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Friday, August 7, 2020

PRESENT: M. Walters, G. Glasper, M. Parkinson, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman
ABSENT: None
OTHERS: J. Wiesehan, T. Gibbons, J. Volkmar, J. Rekowski, C. Cohan, Major Connor, D. Burch, B. Bechel, M. Davis, Chief Judge Mudge, L. McReynolds, C. Uhe, B. Cooper, R. Wesley, L. Ogden

The minutes from the July meeting were approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

DETENTION HOME:

J. Volkmar reported the monthly Detention Home numbers.

In County Average	25
Out of County Average	4
Average Female	6
Average Daily Population	29
Highest Daily Population	32

Mr. Volkmar gave an update on the new boiler, he said it is at the half way mark on the installation. He also said they have partnered with the Regional Office of Education and received a Technology Grant which will be used for 15 additional security cameras throughout the building and an updated computer classroom with 13 new computers as well as a new copy machine. The computer lab was also repainted and the carpets were cleaned.

PROBATION:

J. Wiesehan reported there are 3,518 individuals on probation with 172 of those being juveniles. She also reported they are currently working from home again due to a positive Covid case and several possible exposures in the Probation Department. Ms. Wiesehan said they will be working from home for several weeks and would like to see the daily positivity rate decrease before bringing her staff back into the offices.

PUBLIC DEFENDER:

J. Rekowski reported they continue to work regular business hours and noted the staff has gone back to A and B rotating shifts. He also reported they have submitted their FY 2021 budget. Mr. Rekowski said he was tested for Covid and received a negative result.

CIRCUIT CLERK:

D. Burch reported they continue to move cases but had to close the Alton office due to positive Covid cases in the building; the employees at the Alton location will be working from Edwardsville until further notice. She said there have been several Circuit Clerk employees that have gotten Covid tests with all negative results. Ms. Burch said they have submitted their FY 2021 budget and noted it is lower than the budget from 2018.

SHERIFF/JAIL POPULATION:

Major Connor reported the jail numbers are still high partly due to an executive order prohibiting inmates being transfer to the Department of Correction but noted the order has changed per a lawsuit that ruled in favor of Sheriffs across Illinois. Major Connor said they were able to transport 18 of 55 inmates yesterday to the DoC.

Major Connor briefly presented the purchase requests being considered for the Sheriff/Court Security as well as for the Sheriff/Jail.

Major Connor spoke about a situation where a former employee called the Sheriff's recorded line claiming to be the director of I.T as well as the need to separate from the county network.

Discussion took place regarding the Sheriff's Department and the KTS organization; KTS (Keep Them Safe) is a civilian organization that engages in conversation and arranges meet-ups with individuals that prey on minors for sexual purposes. The committee members along with Major Connor discussed various matters regarding KTS and the County's approach to situations involving adults and underage individuals. They also voiced their concerns that although the KTS operatives have good intentions, their work may disrupt an investigation and/or prevent a report from properly being made. Major Connor made the committee aware of a graphic video and offered the members an opportunity to view it at the Sheriff's Office. It was encouraged to report any claims or conjecture of sexual predators to a local law enforcement agency.

CIRCUIT COURT:

Chief Judge Mudge reported the court cases in Alton have been continued for 2 weeks due to positive Covid cases in the building. He also spoke of 2 jury trials coming up in September that will be assessed weekly on whether Covid restrictions will allow for them to proceed. Chief Judge briefly spoke about the purchase request for the Circuit Court/Law Library. He also echoed Major Connor on the DoC situation involving inmate transfers. Lastly, Chief Judge was contacted by the Health Department with a potential Covid exposure; he plans to get tested today and again on Wednesday.

STATE'S ATTORNEY:

T. Gibbons spoke about the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy; July 30th was the deadline to file a claim. Mr. Gibbons said the bankruptcy is related to the opioid epidemic litigation that was heavily discussed in the Judiciary Committee. He spoke in detail of the claim totaling \$2,826,483,154.00 as well as abatement costs of \$1.829B, past damages of \$996M, \$15,981,559.07 of directly attributable cost by the Sheriff's Office and \$1,224,226.00 by the Coroner's Office. Mr. Gibbons stated they will go through the bankruptcy court and the process will not be fast. He goes on to speak how the funds will be received into the Treasury of Madison County which will have oversight from the Madison County Board as well as the potential opportunity for block grants.

Mr. Gibbons also spoke about representing the Sheriff's Office in the lawsuit filed against the DoC regarding the transfer of prisoners.

Lastly, Mr. Gibbons spoke about meeting with a KTS member, along with Kathleen Nolan, 1.5 years ago to communicate issues with the methods that are being used by KTS to successfully charge and prosecute cases brought forth. Mr. Gibbons said he gave advice on how to alter their methods and reiterated the importance of involving local authorities. Mr. Gibbons is not aware of any successful prosecutions where KTS was involved.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan reported the number of interviews were lower throughout the month of July. Ms. Cohan also reiterated the importance of properly reporting a child sex case to law enforcement along with the consequences of not going through the proper channels.

The following resolution was presented:

1. Resolution Concerning Compensation for the Madison County Public Defender.

Mr. Parkinson moved, seconded by Ms. Glasper to approve the resolution as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, M. Parkinson, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PURCHASE REQUESTS:

The following purchase requests were presented and discussed:

1. Sheriff/Court Security: Six (6) AXIS Cameras, Equipment, and Nine (9) ONSSI Licenses. The cost is \$8,888.47.
2. Sheriff/Jail: AFIX Tracker Support Plus One-Year Renewal; AFIX Verifier Support One-Year Renewal; AFIX Search Engine One-Year Renewal. The cost is \$8,126.00.
3. Circuit Court/Law Library: Nineteen (19) iPad Pros for COVID-19 Remote Hearings. The cost is \$27,691.65.

Mr. Parkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Goggin to approve the purchase requests as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, M. Parkinson, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion took place regarding several health care bills for the Jail.

Mr. Chapman moved, seconded by Ms. Dutton to approve the bills for the months. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, M. Parkinson, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Walters spoke about accusations made against himself and other members of the Republican Party on being anti-police and wanting to defund police agencies. Mr. Walters noted multiple occasions where the Republican Administration and Judiciary Committee acted in support of the Sheriff's Department, their budget and other fiscal decisions.

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Ms. Glasper to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**
***Please refer to the audio for discussion details in full.**

/mds