

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anderson (Chair), Greenwalt, Hogue, Hunt, James, Putman, Tapley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carter, Sapp

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Breen (IT Department), Andrew Buffenbarger (Nursing Home Administrator), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Linda Frank (Circuit Clerk), Denny Inman (County Administrator of Facilities), Stephanie Joos (Animal Control Director), Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney), Duane Northrup (Coroner), Peter Tracy (Director of Mental Health), Captain Jim Young (Sheriff's Office), Marilyn Garmon (C-U Area Project)

CALL TO ORDER

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Anderson, Greenwalt, Hogue, Hunt, James, Putman, and Tapley were present at the time of the roll call. Anderson declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Tapley to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by James.

Anderson requested to move the Coroner's item to directly after the monthly reports because Northrup was needed elsewhere. The committee agreed.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hunt to approve the minutes of August 7, 2006; seconded by Greenwalt. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the Animal Control July 2006 report, Children's Advocacy Center February 23, 2006 & June 22, 2006 minutes, Circuit Clerk July 2006 report, Court Services/Probation July 2006 report, Emergency Management Agency August 2006 report, and the Public Defender July 2006 report; seconded by Hogue. **Motion carried.**

SHERIFF

Approval of Securus Contract

MOTION by James to approve the Securus Contract; seconded by Hogue

Captain Young was present to answer any questions. James asked who was identified as the provider. McGrath explained Securus is identified as the provider and would pay the related fees. Captain Young answered the committee's questions about service. He confirmed the Sheriff's Office was pleased with Securus's maintenance record.

Motion carried.

HEAD START

Monthly Report

MOTION by Putman to receive and place on file the Head Start August report; seconded by Hogue. **Motion carried.**

NURSING HOME

Monthly Report

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the Nursing Home August monthly report; seconded by Hunt.

Tapley asked about the Medicaid audit. Buffenbarger explained if the audit discovered the State of Illinois owes Champaign County money, the auditor cannot tell the County. Buffenbarger has been informed that it is the auditor's opinion that the Nursing Home owes the state \$50,000. The Nursing Home is in the appeal process over this amount.

Motion carried.

Discussion of Possible Management Consulting Firm Presentation

Buffenbarger introduced the idea of Champaign County hiring a private management firm to determine if there are ways for the Nursing Home to maximize revenue and diminish expenses to achieve a balanced budget. Buffenbarger can obtain information on services and the costs from different firms. He has contacted other county nursing homes who have used the services of management firms and have been satisfied with the service. The management firm would identify problems so Champaign County could take care of them. James asked if the Nursing Home's budget could afford to hire a management firm. Buffenbarger said no, he would have to lean on the County to pay for the service. James would prefer this idea be deferred until the Nursing Home has the money for it and has resolved some of the current labor and facility problems. Buffenbarger said he had no passion either way on the issue; he wanted to offer it as an option to the County Board. Putman said the Democrat Caucus has been positive about having someone outside of Champaign County government take a look at the Nursing Home. Tapley said he has full confidence in Buffenbarger's ability to manage the Nursing

Home and noted he has had many good ideas. Tapley will accept Buffenbarger's opinion if he thinks hiring a firm would be beneficial. Buffenbarger said he is willing to gather more information, but he wanted to know if the committee was interested in this approach before proceeding. He said a company could make a presentation to the Justice & Social Service Committee free of charge. The committee agreed Buffenbarger should gather more information and bring it to the next committee meeting.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impoundment Services with the Village of Sidney and Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the Village of Sidney

MOTION by Putman to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impoundment Services with the Village of Sidney and the Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the Village of Sidney; seconded by Greenwalt. **Motion carried.**

Request Acceptance of PetSmart Charities Grant and Approval of Grant Contract Agreement

MOTION by Putman to accept the PetSmart Charities Grant and approve the Grant Contract Agreement; seconded by James.

Putman congratulated Joos on being awarded the grant and thanked her for submitting the application.

Motion carried.

Overview of Animal Control Department Budget

Joos presented the Animal Control budget for the first full fiscal year in the new Animal Services Facility. Joos thanked Busey for her help with the budget and was willing to answer any questions.

Greenwalt asked why Joos projected the IMRF Employer costs to jump so much. Busey said the Animal Control Department has some obligation with regard to ERI and this debt is now built into the IMRF line item. Anderson asked if the fees the cities are paying are enough to cover the actual costs of providing animal control services to those areas. Joos said they are currently assessing the true cost of impounding an animal per day. She has come to realize the costs are more than what the County is charging the cities and villages. Those contracts were based on a two-year commitment, so the agreements with the City of Urbana and City of Champaign will not expire until July 2007. The other sixteen villages that have agreements with Animal Control will not expire until 2008. The cost to the Cities of Urbana and Champaign will be re-evaluated next year.

James asked about the utilities costs. Joos stated cost of gas and power to maintain the new Animal Services Facility was grossly underestimated because the building had not been operated for that type of facility. James asked if Joos had all the necessary equipment and if County maintenance workers were taking care of the building. She answered yes to both questions. Greenwalt asked if there is a monthly subscription fee with the mobile data computers. Joos said the fee was \$96 per month, plus a \$1,000 annual fee. She said this will bring efficiency to the Animal Control Officers' ability to communicate. They are currently using cell phones that do not work in all locations. The committee thanked Joos for her report.

Discussion Regarding Animal Adoption at the Animal Services Facility

Joos said the County Board previously determined that the Animal Control Department would not be an animal adoption facility. Instead, Animal Control transfers animals for adoption primarily to the Humane Society. There have been some problems with transferring animals, especially cats. There is an influx of cats in the spring and summer. The Humane Society is not accepting any cats transferred from Animal Control. Joos

does transfer animals to a rescue group in Indiana. The rescue group has taken almost 230 cats from Animal Control since January. Animal Control is faced with euthanizing healthy, adoptable animals. Joos proposed having a backup plan for the County to develop an adoption program. She would like to be able to give a pet to someone who comes to Animal Control requesting one. She would not stop transferring animals to the Humane Society or to other rescue groups. This plan would be a backup for when the Humane Society or rescue groups cannot take any animals. Joos wanted a thirty-day period to make the attempt to find someone to adopt the animals. After the thirty-day period, Joos would contact the Humane Society or rescue groups to see if they could take the animals. If they could not, the animals would be euthanized.

Hogue exited the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Joos said she would use a behavior test to see if an animal was adoptable. An adoption program would require the County to pay for the costs to alter, microchip, vaccinate, and register each animal. Citizens interested in adopting an animal would fill out an application that would be reviewed by an Animal Control staff member. Joos said they could post adoptable pet information on their website and through PetSmart and PetCo.

James said the County would have a difficult time finding people to adopt the animals because the Humane Society has the same problem. He felt this program would mean more staff time and more expense. He thinks it is an honorable idea, but does not see how it would benefit the County in its current financial condition. This would put the County in competition with the Humane Society. Joos said an adoption program would open a few doors to participate in a free food program and apply for more grants. Currently, Animal Control is considered a high kill facility because it does not have an adoption program.

Hogue re-entered the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Joos said she understood financial concerns, but she is also concerned with the number of animals the department has to euthanize. James said he sympathizes, but thinks an adoption program will result in animals being euthanized or returning to the facility at a later date.

McGrath said the Humane Society is concerned with their ability to place animals in an adopted home. She hoped any adoption program would be done in coordination, not in competition, with the Humane Society. Busey said this item was before the committee to determine if it was something they were willing to discuss. The Humane Society wanted to see what a County adoption plan would look like so their board could review it.

Greenwalt said she would not say no, but she is not ready to say yes. She wondered what the County could do better than what the rescue groups already do. It would be a tremendous expense to keep animals for an extra thirty days when it is doubtful they would find a home. She supported Joos talking to the Humane Society about options.

The committee agreed to have Joos explore options regarding adoption plan and present more information at a later meeting.

CORONER **2005 Annual Report**

Northrup said the 2005 annual report was delayed due to inquest cases. He reported there were 1,510 deaths in Champaign County in 2005. This is 35 fewer deaths than in 2004. The suicide rate appears to have dropped significantly. Northrup thinks this statistic is due to the high number of suicides in the prior year. The trauma related deaths decreased by 5%. His report contains statistics on the number of autopsies and inquests. Northrup was willing to answer any questions.

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file the Coroner's 2005 annual report; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS

Status Report from Peter Tracy

Tracy distributed his report to the committee. Tracy spoke about meeting with the Champaign County Chiefs to get their opinions. His department has also met with consultants about implementing a system of care.

MOTION by Hogue to receive and place on file Tracy's status report; seconded by Tapley. **Motion carried.**

Delinquency Prevention Specialist Final Report 2005-2006

Garmon gave the statistics on the agencies who submitted their monthly reports in a timely manner; her report included a monthly report tally. She was willing to answer any questions.

Putman asked about the Restoration Urban Ministries program. Garmon said this agency routinely submitted late reports all year. She explained it is difficult to contact Restoration Urban Ministries because there is not a real phone number for the Back on Track program. Restoration Urban Ministries did not apply for grant funding in FY2007. Garmon answered the committee's other questions about her report.

CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

McGrath stated she reviewed the closed session minutes and recommended that all remain closed because they are related to personnel and litigation issues.

MOTION by Putman for all closed session minutes to remain closed; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

ADDENDUM

Recommendation for the award of Bid 06-15 for the production of color-coded file folders

MOTION by Greenwalt to approve the award of Bid 06-15 for the production of color-coded file folders in the Circuit Clerk's Office to Byers Printing; seconded by Hogue.

Frank reported she only received one bid for the production of file folders. The bid was from Byers Printing at the same price as two years ago, which pleased Frank. Putman asked if it was customary to receive only one bid. Frank said sometimes she has received two bids and that Byers Printing has done an excellent job in the past. Putman asked what was unique about the file folders that made them cost \$1.16 apiece. Frank said she orders color-coded numbers for the case numbers and years, the folders also have echo fasteners.

Motion carried.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair designated agenda items VII A, X A-C, and XIV B from the addendum for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Recording Secretary

Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.