

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

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## JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, April 6, 2009

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

7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anderson, Carter, Gladney (Chair), James,  
Nudo, Rosales, Smucker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Hunt, Sapp

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deb Busey, Pius Weibel, Stephanie Joos, Peter Tracy, Joe  
Gordon

### Agenda Item

#### Call to Order

Chair Gladney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### Roll Call

Anderson, Carter, Gladney, James, Nudo, Rosales and Smucker were present at the time of roll call, establishing a quorum present.

#### Approval of Agenda/Addendum

**MOTION** by James to approve the agenda; seconded by Carter. There was no addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**

#### Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2009

**MOTION** by Carter to approve the minutes of March 2, 2009; seconded by Smucker.

Smucker pointed out a typo at the beginning of line 255 on page 6.

**Motion carried** to approve as amended.

#### Public Participation

There was no public participation.

## **Monthly Reports**

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the Animal Control February 2009 report; the Court Services January 2009, and February 2009 reports; and the EMA February 2009 and March 2009 reports; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried.**

## **Court Services**

### **Intergovernmental Agreement for Sale of Bed Space in the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center**

**MOTION** by Anderson to recommend County Board approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement for Sale of Bed Space in the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center; seconded by Rosales.

Mr. Smucker asked for an explanation of the agreement.

Mr. Gordon explained it is pretty typical throughout the state to have agreements with other counties to house juveniles. Macon County formally had a detention facility and elected to close it. They were housing juveniles in Sangamon and Vermillion Counties and his understanding is they would prefer to house here as opposed to Vermillion County.

Ms. Busey stated the judge in Macon County, who deals with juvenile cases, asked our Presiding Judge if this was possible so it first came up among the judges. They met, and then notified her and they have worked on an agreement.

When asked if we were chosen because of our proximity to Macon County, Mr. Gordon stated Macon County felt foolish using Vermillion County, plus they are in our circuit. We have the space available because our population fluctuates and he believes, because of the way the cases are processed, this is a reasonable request they can handle with the present personnel.

Mr. Nudo asked what will happen if we are at capacity or over but they say there is an agreement guaranteeing 1-5 beds, and he asked where in the agreement it addresses that. Mr. Gordon explained the agreement states they will have available up to five beds on any given day. They would have the ability to say we wouldn't take the prisoner because they cannot go over 40 beds even with our own kids.

Mr. Nudo stated the agreement does not state that but it needs to. Mr. Gordon explained he understood that had been addressed, that they wouldn't go to 40, it would be cut off at 33 and anything over that would mean one of their juveniles would have to be moved. They have been running about 20-24 juveniles on average, if they got to 33 they wouldn't take anymore from Macon County but that doesn't mean they wouldn't take more from Champaign County.

Mr. Nudo asked that the agreement reflect that there is a number we cannot go over and that it state we have the ability to turn down a bed. He requested that legal review the agreement before it goes to the full County Board

When asked what the normal stay for a juvenile coming in from another county like that would be, Mr. Gordon explained the maximum period of time incarcerated is about 30 days and that is from the time they are arrested to the case being processed.

When asked what the cost to Macon County would be in comparison to our expense, he explained the cost to Macon County is \$75.00 which is probably the normal rate throughout the state. He doesn't know the per day cost to us because some of those expenses are associated with the building which they have no control over.

Mr. Nudo pointed out that number 8 states the home county agrees to hold us harmless and asked if people staying there have to sign a similar statement. Mr. Gordon stated there is a release a parent or guardian must sign but he is not sure if that language is included.

A friendly amendment was offered to the motion to add approval pending legal review between now and the County Board meeting as well as the incorporation of any changes. The seconder agreed with the amendment.

**Motion carried.**

### **Animal Control** **2008 Annual Report**

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file; seconded by Smucker.

Mr. James stated that on page 17 of the report it shows expenditures for the year 2006-2007 and he asked if there is any way to show that line item with a total for each column. He did some rough math and from 2006-2008 if you take the expenses and divide by the number of total pets served, we are paying \$162.00 per animal. He stated administrative costs increased almost 9.4% from 2006-2008 and asked if that is just the director.

Ms. Joos stated it is and in 2006 those numbers came from Deb, the 2007-2008 personnel is her insurance and salary. Mr. James then asked if depreciation should be listed under capital improvement.

Ms. Joos explained she pays \$20,000 a year to pay back the money it took to turn the building into animal control; that did not get paid last year so she will pay out of this year's budget last year also. In 2009, based on the budget, it is projecting a \$102,308 shortfall.

Every year the budget shows expenditures will exceed revenue; in 2006 and 2007 they came in right on budget and for 2007-2008 they were \$20,000 over because they didn't pay that \$20,000 for the building. They break even every year; they don't make any money or lose any money so basically it is a wash. The revenue shows an increase in 2007-2008 and that is because off registrations being on a 3 year cycle where those 2005 3 year tags came due in 2008 they saw an increase in 2009 and will again in 2011.

Mr. James stated he wants to make sure if we are going to maintain this department the tax payers are getting a good deal for their money and he wants to compare it to the Humane Society. Ms. Busey explained there is no tax money going into Animal Control; all revenue comes from fees and fines and contracts for services. In terms of crunching the numbers she and Ms. Joos go through expenditures and determine the average number of days of impounds and that's how they come up with the cost of impoundment services. It may not compare to the Humane Society and they try to make sure it is a revenue neutral operation.

Mr. James stated the 2009 budget is showing a shortfall. Ms. Busey stated the budget will always show a shortfall because you can't budget to the exact expenditure so there is always some contingent built into any line item in a budget like this one of what the true actual expenses are. Going in, the revenue projections are maybe a little conservative and the budget projections are to ensure there is enough to operate throughout the year. Their budget has been that way every year but it ends up being balanced. Ms. Joos pays very close attention to her expenditures to make sure she is operating within the revenues she is receiving.

Mr. Smucker asked about the revenue from the City of Urbana and why it has gone down over the last couple of years. Ms. Joos explained when we entered into the contract with them they based the amount they pay on what they paid at the Humane Society because they had no basis on what it was going to truly cost to provide the service and they didn't want to make up a number. After a year, they had a good sense of actual cost so it was adjusted and was based on the number of animals they brought in.

When asked about dangerous dog investigations, Ms. Joos explained a dangerous dog is any dog that approaches a person or attacks or bites. To be classified as vicious, a dog has to cause serious injury or death to a human being.

**Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant**

**MOTION** by Anderson to recommend County Board approval of the Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant; seconded by Rosales.

Mr. Gladney pointed out that there is a \$400.00 gap between what this is going to cost and what we are asking for and asked for an explanation.

Ms. Joos explained the \$400.00 is the shipping cost. She felt it was not the grants responsibility to pay for the shipping so she absorbed that cost in hopes it may better the chances of getting the grant.

**Motion carried**

### **Head Start Monthly Report**

No action taken.

### **Juvenile Delinquency Grant Status Report**

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file; seconded by Rosales.

When asked for an update on the Parenting with Love and Limits Program, Mr. Tracy explained three therapists and two probation officers were trained last week. He sat in on the sessions and feels they are going to be the best therapists in town. The training was set up so families could be brought in and six showed up for the first session so they were able to participate in the actual training. They also worked out the process for referrals with the States Attorney and Mr. Gordon. The next training will be in July.

**Motion carried.**

### **Chair's Report**

Mr. Gladney reported the Jury Selection Committee is getting off the ground later this month and the first meeting will be April 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

He also pointed out that next months Justice Committee meeting could be held at the Nursing Home. He spoke with Mr. Scavatto and Mr. Buffenbarger and it will not be a problem. Committee consensus to hold the Monday May 4, 2009 Justice meeting at the Nursing Home in the in-service classroom, with tours being given between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Gladney also pointed out there was a Strategic Planning Subcommittee meeting last week where the topic was committee restructure. It is under discussion and will remain so until a decision is made. They are meeting again on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April at 5:00 p.m.

### **Other Business**

#### **Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes**

Mr. Gladney explained he had received word from David DeThorne and his recommendation was to keep all minutes closed.

**MOTION** by Anderson to maintain all closed session minutes as closed; seconded by Rosales.

Mr. James stated at some point some of these minutes should be opened up.

Mr. Smucker stated it would make sense for someone to be assigned to review these minutes, he doesn't understand the criteria and why they are being held closed.

Ms. Busey stated the majority of the Justice closed session minutes are performance appraisals of individual employees and opening them would be similar to opening up a personnel file. Those will always be maintained as closed; it will never be recommended that you make an evaluation of an employee public. Every employee's expectation is that those records will always be held confidential. The same would be true of a search for a position, that process is deemed confidential.

**Motion carried.**

#### **Liaison System between the Committee & various departments**

Mr. Smucker explained, when looking at this committee, he realized there are a lot of departments that report to them, the entire court system and all its various departments and services. The idea occurred that it might make sense for the committee to try and organize itself and split up the different departments so each member can become somewhat of an expert on a few different departments so we always have someone who knows what's going on.

His thought is this would be very informal if members are interested in volunteering, the chair could put together a list of the departments and the committee could come back and pick off the list then act as a liaison in the sense of just going to the department and sitting down with the department head and asking questions.

These would not be official positions because some of these departments already have board representatives; this would just be to bring information back to the committee.

Ms. Anderson stated there are certain departments they get annual reports from and a lot of the stuff is routine.

Mr. James stated most members work full time and it's hard to get involved in another department, when there are questions it is good to have department heads here, but a lot of that stuff gets mundane.

Mr. Smucker stated the thought wasn't to have people go out and learn stuff and come back and report. The idea is more having someone looking for trouble before it gets here so we have people who are familiar with the different departments; informally expand our connections with who we oversee. He thought it was an idea that would expand the oversight mechanisms of this committee, we monitor the work that goes on and the policies so he was looking for a way for the committee to be more deeply engaged with those departments so when issues begin to arise we have someone who can be approached quickly. The point is to go and have private conversations to find out tensions, issues and worries in departments.

Mr. Gladney applauded Mr. Smucker for bringing this idea forward however some of these offices are areas the committee has no domain over. Increasing our knowledge base on our own spending some time in different offices is good but he is not clear how this oversight would take shape.

Mr. Smucker gave the example of the CAC, someone would go there and meet with the director, develop a relationship, ask what's going on and talk about concerns and it doesn't have to go any further than that. He can't go out and learn about 15 departments and the court system himself so he thought it made sense to split up the work.

Mr. Carter stated we cannot go into departments and interrupt their service. Mr. Smucker stated every department head he has met with on his own time has been happy to meet with him and show him their books. There is some logic to this committee taking on more of an engaged stance toward departments.

Mr. James stated it might be good if Mr. Gladney checked with departments to see if they are interested in having a committee member act as a liaison.

Mr. Smucker stated the intention was for the committee to engage with the different departments and offices in a bit more deeper way, not to micro-manage. There is a difference between setting ourselves up as elected officials that want to be knowledgeable about departments that report to us versus going in and telling them what to do. He is looking for a quality of relationship that is different from receiving a report once a year; it is simply adding another layer of content which yields a different level of information.

Mr. Gladney stated he doesn't want to discourage Mr. Smucker from coming up with ideas, but before he votes on something he really wants to understand exactly how it is going to work and he is not getting that with this issue.

Ms. Busey the goal of the budget document is that the departments do update every year and talk about their objectives, goals and functions and she would encourage the use of that to get a good sense of what is going on.

Mr. Gladney stated we can table this now and it can always come back. Mr. Smucker stated he will think about comments and details and see if there is another way he can bring it back.

### **Appointment of Ken Turner to the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection**

**MOTION** by James to recommend County Board approval of Ken Turner to the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection; seconded by Smucker.

Mr. Weibel explained Mr. Turner is from Rantoul so that gives them some geographic distribution. Currently he is with IETC, which was the Urban League, where he is doing mostly adult education including helping people to get their GED. Mr. James stated he is very well respected and is a very good candidate.

**Motion carried.**

### **Designation of Items to be placed on the County Board Consent Agenda**

Item VIII B will be on the consent agenda.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Gladney declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott  
Administrative Secretary