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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Law & Justice Committee Minutes  
May 23, 2016**

The Law and Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, May 23, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order. Those present were Ms. Askins, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Tobias and Chairman Frieders. Those absent were Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, and Mr. Stoddard. A quorum was established with four Members present and three absent.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Chris Klein, Michael Douglas, Margi Gilmour, Sheriff Roger Scott, Tracy Jones, and Richard Schmack.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Mrs. Tobias, seconded by Mr. Cribben and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from April 25, 2016.**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Mr. Cribben and it was carried unanimously by voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments made by the public.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER'S REPORT**

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Defender's Report for April 2016. No additional comments were made.

**COURT SERVICES REPORT**

DeKalb County Court Services Director Margi Gilmour presented and placed on file her monthly reports with the Committee. She additionally shared that they have one youth that remains in residential placement and she anticipated the status of that will not change until at least late summer. Ms. Gilmour reviewed her juvenile report with the Committee Members and shared that as far as costs go, they are currently at about the same cost for placement as they were last year and a little over in detention expenditures for year to date.

Ms. Gilmour reported that her adult report and community services hours were pretty status quo for the month of April and that her and her staff will be joining the Committee in July to present their Annual Pretrial Report. She lastly noted to the Committee that as budget time approaches, she wanted everyone to be aware that she will be requesting an additional Pretrial Officer.

*Ms. Leifheit arrived at 6:40 p.m.*

### **SOBER LIVING HOME UPDATE**

DeKalb County Drug Court Coordinator Michael Douglas joined the Committee and provided a basic outline of the overall operational expenditures and income plan for the Sober Living Home. The group reviewed the sheet and went over the proposed expenses of living in the home. Additionally Mr. Douglas relayed that they currently have three candidates that are interested in becoming Home Managers; two are interested in part-time and the third in full-time.

Chairman Frieders noted his all the Committee's concerns that a shortfall (outside of the actual remodeling of the home) doesn't become a line item within the County's Budget year after year. Mr. Douglas that the anticipated surplus funds from each month would be used for any maintenance needs that arise or spikes in utility bills. All day-to-day operations or needs for additional monies within the actual program are to be allocated from the Drug Court Fund.

Mr. Jones expressed that he and the County Board stuck their necks out with the City of Sycamore to procure the home on 491 E. State Street for the purpose of operating a Sober Living Home and they all want to see this project work but there is a large amount of frustration with the amount of setbacks that have occurred within the past year. A solid plan is needed going forward so that three years from now they can all sit back and say that the program is working the way it should without any issues.

### **FUNDING REQUEST FOR SOBER LIVING HOME**

Mr. Hanson began by stating that they define a dilemma as having to choose between two or more undesirable choice and that is where they are at right now with the Sober Living Home.

He shared that the County purchased the home at 491 E. State Street in Sycamore on June 2, 2015 for \$145,000. The home required various work to meet Life-Safety Codes, to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and to meet the applicable codes of the City of Sycamore. During the time-period when this work was being planned and performed, interior damage occurred from a broken water pipe and that added to the scope of the work needed to complete the home.

The estimates to complete all construction work on the Sober Living Home is now around \$175,000, subject to change as demolition areas could result in unforeseen problems as well as added costs with additional code review. The Drug Court Fund current has only \$125,000 available to complete this project through their budget and donations. Mr. Hanson proposed a resolution that would recommend that additional monies, up to \$75,000, could be made available from the County's Opportunity Fund, which was the original source of funds for the purchase of the house, and that some of this money could be "recovered" by additionally "investing" Opportunity Funds in the internal loan program for the Jail Expansion Project. Mr. Hanson continued that the alternative at this point would be to sell the home, which would most likely be at a large loss.

It was explained that some of the costly issues within the home that are needed to be replaced and updated beyond what they originally anticipated is replacing a lead based water main pipe going into the home, electrical lines in the basement, and to test for espestice.

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The Committee expressed their frustrations and it was commented that they feel like their backed into a corner now with nowhere to go. If they were go to sell the house right now the County would only maybe get a fraction of what they paid for the home in the first place.

Mrs. Tobias shared that she feels the most efficient thing to do at this point is to move forward with the resolution and to approve an additional appropriation from the Opportunity Fund up to \$75,000. Ms. Askins echoed Mrs. Tobias's comments and added the longer they let this go the longer they have a Sober Home with no one using it.

Mr. Cribben shared this home has become a money pit and that they are so far in, how could they not continue but he also noted he is at a loss for words on how they have put so much money to this project so far with tangible results. The group agreed that there are not many alternatives at this point.

Ms. Leifheit noted that she cannot resent the fact that when the Sober Living Home was first talked about it approved the purchase of the home with the assurances that they would not be asked to put any more money into it and she now feels a bit misled.

**It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Mr. Cribben and it was carried unanimously to forward the proposed resolution allocating up to \$75,000 from the County's Opportunity Fund for the Sober Living Home to the full County Board recommending its approval.**

#### **COMMUNICATION CENTER UPDATE & APPROVAL OF DISPATCHING CONTRACTS**

Sheriff Roger Scott updated the Committee on where they are at with the Fire District Agreements. He noted that as of this afternoon, he had received two signed agreements out of the twelve they sent out. Those Districts were Paw Paw and Waterman and Somonauk has sent their money but have not sent their signed agreement yet.

A Users Meeting was held in late April and only four Fire Districts were in attendance. After that meeting, the Sheriff's Office sent out the minutes, the voted on agreements to all of the Districts and he anticipates that there will be more signed agreement and money turned in shortly.

Mr. Hanson reviewed a proposed resolution with the Committee that would approve the five-year agreements to be used for each Fire District and for the consolidated PSAP entities. The resolution additionally authorizes the Chairman of the Board to sign off on the signed agreements once they are turned in by the various districts and entities. The Committee reviewed the resolution and the attached agreements.

**It was moved by Mr. Cribben, seconded by Ms. Askins and was approved unanimously to forward the proposed resolution to the full County Board recommending its approval.**

#### **SHERIFF'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Sheriff Scott presented his 2015 Annual Report to the Law & Justice Committee. He reviewed many of the past year's highlights and statistics as well including the April 9, 2015 F-4 tornado that devastated the community of Fairdale. The Sheriff and Deputy's mandates were reviewed and the revenue/reimbursements earned by the Sheriff's Office in 2015.

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In 2015, the DeKalb County Jail averaged 116 inmates per day. This is over a 17% decrease from 2014. The Average Daily Population decreased coincides with a decrease in the jail bookings for 2015.

The group spent some time reviewing the average response time examples and the five year comparison data within the Patrol Division as well as the traffic crash statistical summary from 2015.

Sheriff Scott noted that his favorite section of his annual report is the New Horizon section and he was proud to announce that 2015's New Horizon is the long anticipated Jail Expansion Project. He explained that:

Previous annual report covers since 2010, have shown our current Public Safety Building along with its construction date of 190, and a red question mark indicating the vital need for a new County Jail, and the lingering question of when it would happen. Thanks to the action of the 2015 County Board and its leadership, the question mark is gone, and has been replaced with the date 2018.

The decision to move forward made in 2015, is key for the betterment of DeKalb County as a whole. The expanded jail addresses the need for a modern facility now and into the future. It not only meets the need for increase bed space but it provides the ability to increase and improve jail programs, along with judicial programs to reduce recidivism. The new facility will provide a significantly improved opportunity to meet the medical and mental health needs of incarcerated individuals. Equally important is the fact that the expansion is designed for increased officer safety. This expansion achieves a jail's primary purpose to provide for security and public safety.

The need for this modern facility has loomed as a critical responsibility of DeKalb County and the Office of the Sheriff since 1990. The actual implementation of this project is a credit to DeKalb County Citizens, County Boards, Administrators past and present, the City of Sycamore, and Sheriff's Office staff. This is truly a new horizon we can all be proud of."

The Committee thanked Sheriff Scott for his very informative Annual Report.

To view the Sheriff's full 2015 Annual Report: [www.dekalbcounty.org/sheriff/annrpts/toc2015.html](http://www.dekalbcounty.org/sheriff/annrpts/toc2015.html)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Mrs. Tobias, seconded by Ms. Askins, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Chairman John Frieders

  
Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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## 2016 Pretrial YTD Information

|  | Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Bond Investigations Completed</b>   |     |     |       |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Felony   | 28  | 39  | 52    | 39    |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Misdemeanor  | 24  | 33  | 28    | 43    |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| <b>Released on Pre-Trial Supervision</b>                                       |     |     |       |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Felony   | 19  | 20  | 27    | 26    |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Misdemeanor  | 3   | 7   | 9     | 13    |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| <b>Released with no Pre-trial Supervision<br/>(Including those who posted)</b> |     |     |       |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Felony   | 13  | 29  | 31    | 27    |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Misdemeanor  | 19  | 22  | 17    | 27    |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| <b>Active Pre-Trial Supervision Cases</b>                                      |     |     |       |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Felony   | 122 | 136 | 155   | 171   |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Misdemeanor  | 30  | 37  | 42    | 51    |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| <b>Violations Reported</b>   |     |     |       |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Rules Violation  | 1   | 6   | 2     | 0     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Failure to Appear  | 0   | 0   | 0     | 0     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| New Offense  | 3   | 8   | 6     | 6     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| <b>Violations Revoked</b>  |     |     |       |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Rules Violation  | 0   | 0   | 0     | 0     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Failure to Appear  | 0   | 0   | 0     | 0     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| New Offense  | 0   | 2   | 0     | 0     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| <b>Successful Terminations</b>   | 8   | 5   | 10    | 14    |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |

### Cost Avoidance

The Pre-Trial program was operational as of June 9, 2014.

From 6/9/14 - 5/13/16, 395 individuals were released from custody and placed on pre-trial supervision for a total of 61,540 days.

We can't definitively say the pre-trial program is the only element responsible for the release of those individuals, as other factors may be involved. However, prior to the implementation of the pre-trial program the court did not have the benefit of the bond investigation reports with verified information to include a risk assessment or the ability to order individuals released to report to the Pre-Trial Officers for supervision while out on bond.

**Operational Expenditures and Income – DeKalb County Sober Living  
House (491 E. State St. Sycamore)**

Income: \$250 expense per resident, per month. Seven residents x \$250 =  
\$1,750 per month income.

**Total Income: \$1,750/month**

Expenditures (estimated):

Nicor Gas: \$250/month

Comed Electric: \$250/month

Comcast internet/ basic television: \$50/month

Homeowner's insurance policy: \$80/month

Stipend given to the house manager: \$600/month

City water and trash pickup: \$150/month

**Total Expenditures: \$1,380/month**

**Anticipated surplus funds: \$370/month**, which would be used for any  
maintenance needs that arise, spikes in utility bills for abnormal weather and  
etc.