

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Law and Justice Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Law & Justice Committee Minutes
October 26, 2020**

The Law and Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met virtually via Zoom on Monday, October 26, 2020. Committee Chair Dianne Leifheit called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those members present via Zoom were Mrs. Karen Cribben, Mr. Jim Luebke, Mr. Paul Stoddard, Mr. Jeff Whelan, and Chair Dianne Leifheit. Mr. Tracy Jones and Ms. Linda Slabon were absent. A quorum was established with five Members virtually present and two absent.

Others that were present included Gary Hanson, Michael Venditti, Pete Stefan, Sheriff Roger Scott, Chief Deputy Andy Sullivan, Lt. Jim Burgh, Roy Plote, Kathy Lampkins, Tim Bagby, and Anna Wilhelmi.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Stoddard and seconded by Mr. Luebke to approve the agenda as presented. Those Members voting yea were Mrs. Cribben, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, and Chair Leifheit. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Whelan moved to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2020 Committee Meeting and Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mrs. Cribben, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, and Chair Leifheit. All Members voted yea. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Linda Slabon arrived. There were now six Members present and one absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S REPORT

The September 2020 Public Defender's Report was placed on file.

COURT SERVICES REPORT

DeKalb County Court Services Director Michael Venditti placed his monthly Adult, Juvenile, and Pretrial Reports on file with the Committee.

Mr. Venditti additionally shared that his office was informed on behalf of Attorney General Barr, by the Office of Justice Programs, that the application submitted by DeKalb County Government for an award under the funding opportunity entitled BJA FY 20 Improving Community Supervision Outcomes Through Swift, Certain, and Fair Responses was approved in an amount of \$750,000. This a four-year grant and means continued funding for the Program in DeKalb County which will benefit higher risk people in the community.

The grant covers salary for the Program Coordinator, as well as costs from use of jail space for sanctions, a part-time drug testing technician and all associated costs such as drug tests and office supplies.

SHERIFF'S UPDATES

Body Cam Program

Sheriff Scott shared with the Committee that the entire patrol division has been issued Kustom Body Worn Cameras and they are operational.

Segment one of the Body Worn Cameras occurred August 17th – 21st with the training of the deputies and distribution of 14 of the cameras. The second segment of training and distribution was between September 21st – 25th when 12 additional cameras were put into operation.

As with all new electronic equipment, the Sheriff's Office is working their way through some technical issues with operations and storage, etc., however they are moving forward.

Phase two of the Body Worn Camera program will be the distribution and training of deputies assigned to the jail and will occur once the technical issues are worked through with patrol.

The Sheriff expressed his sincere appreciation to his entire administrative staff, especially Lieutenant Jim Burgh and Administrative Secretary Hannah Tomash who have led the way in this project, as well as the deputies who have accepted the cameras as a valuable asset. The State's Attorney's Office has also been very helpful and supportive. Sheriff Scott also expressed he appreciates the support, funding and patience of the Law & Justice Committee, Chairman Pietrowski and the entire County Board, as well as the strong support and effort of the Information Management Office.

The Committee talked with the Sheriff and Lt. Burgh on the program and the amount of FOIA requests they are receiving and how long it takes to redact the videos. The clarity of the videos is excellent. They are holding off of distribution of the cameras within Corrections right now until they get a better handle of everything and know how much space server space is needed with adding additional data.

Digital Radio Project

Chief Deputy Sullivan shared that Engineers for the Sheriff's Digital Radio System came back in September, after being under travel restrictions due to COVID. They met with the various fire department to resolve some issues. They performed an optimization study in order to hopefully find solutions to certain repairs that are needed.

The police-side is working very well but there are still some intermitted problems with the VHF on the fire-side of the Digital Radio Project. Chief Sullivan was optimistic that a fix would be found soon and thanked the Committee and the Board for their patience.

Corrections Overtime Report

Mr. Hanson reviewed a report with the Committee that outlined overtime for deputies in the Corrections Division. The overtime has been monitored over the past year and the report illustrated the utilization of the overtime verses the pro-rated budget.

Within discussions it was also stated that the DeKalb County Jail has remain COVID-free.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Luebke moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Whelan seconded the motion. Those voting yea were Mrs. Cribben, Mr. Luebke, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, and Chair Leifheit. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dianne Leifheit

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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