

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Law Enforcement & Courts
CHAIRPERSON: Bill Bingham, Chairman
DATE/TIME: November 18, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Jo Daviess County – 3rd floor County Board Room

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Bingham	<input type="checkbox"/> Lucas Bourquin	<input type="checkbox"/> LaDon Trost
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Allendorf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Korth	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Toot
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Zillig		

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None.

Others: Kathy Phillips and Dan Reimer

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes from October 21, 2019 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting – **Steve Allendorf made a motion to approve the minutes from October 21, 2019 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion carried.**

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2019/FY2020 Strategic Goals & Plans – Timelines/Responsibilities – The committee reviewed their committee assignments and goals from the 2019 County Board Retreat.
- b) Update on the Jo Daviess County All Hazard Mitigation Planning grant/process – Dan Reimer reported the first meeting of the Jo Daviess County All Hazard Mitigation Committee was held on October 29th at 1:00 pm at the Crossroads Church in Galena, Illinois. Jo Daviess County, EMA Coordinator, Chuck Pedersen and Andrea Bostwick, Senior Project Manager from American Environmental did an excellent job organizing the meeting. Representatives from all of the cities, villages and communities in Jo Daviess County were present. The original Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan completed in 2013 identified specific mitigation actions (projects and activities) that were to be considered for implementation by the County and all participating jurisdictions. As part of the Plan update, those existing mitigation projects need to be reviewed and evaluated and the status of each project needs to be identified. Everyone in attendance was given an assignment. The next meeting will be in January. The project must be completed by June, 2020.
- c) Update on Menominee-Dunleith Fire Protection District (MDFPD) Communication Tower
Steve Allendorf reviewed the status of the Menominee-Dunleith Fire Protection District (MDFPD) Communication Tower project. There has not been a lot of recent progress and Allendorf suggested that a meeting be scheduled with Nick Tranel and the MDFPD fire chief to find out what happened and if there still is interest. Don Zillig commented on an email that he sent regarding the lack of communication on the project. Allendorf discussed that the soil sample report for the proposed tower was completed; however there still is some information needed. There were questions if the programing for the radio equipment was correct. Allendorf suggested that the Trustees meet with Paul Kurt from ComElec Services and try to make some decisions on exactly where that tower should go, so it is most beneficial to improving the entire communication system.

- d) Update on Meeker Street Sidewalk repair – Dan Reimer reported that the Meeker Street sidewalk repair project was completed. The sidewalk had been closed for safety reasons.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action on establishing meeting dates and start time for the FY2020 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meetings – Steve Allendorf asked if anyone would have a problem with a 4:00 p.m. meeting start time. The committee decided to approve the monthly meeting dates as presented but wait until the December meeting to approve the meeting start time so members not present could have input into the decision. **Don Zillig made a motion to establish meeting dates and start time of 4:30 p.m. for FY2020 for the Law Enforcement & Courts Committee as presented. Seconded by John Korth and motion carried.**

- b) Discussion and possible action on a Public Defender agreement with Thomas J. Nack beginning December 1, 2019 and ending November 30, 2020 – Dan Reimer commented that the two Public Defender contracts were included in the informational packet. These are annual contracts, they have already been approved by Judge Kelly, and there are no changes to the terms and conditions. The pay increase for both positions is per the FY2020 budget guidelines which is a 2.7% increase. Per contract the Public Defenders are eligible for IMRF but not health insurance. The committee reviewed the provisions of the contract regarding timesheet reporting. The committee discussed the benefits of having one full-time public defender versus two part-time public defenders. Per, statute if you have a full time public defender the pay is required to be ninety percent of the State's Attorney's salary. Steve Allendorf commented that he is not looking to make any change at this time, he just wonders if there is a better way to consider. Allendorf would like to start the conversation and discuss the options more during the FY2021 budget process. **Steve Allendorf made a motion to approve a Public Defender agreement with Thomas J. Nack beginning December 1, 2019 and ending November 30, 2020 in the amount of \$66,749 plus Social Security and IMRF benefits. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion carried.**

- c) Discussion and possible action on a Public Defender agreement with Nicholas P. Hyde beginning December 1, 2019 and ending November 30, 2019 – **Steve Allendorf made a motion to approve a Public Defender agreement with Nicholas P. Hyde beginning December 1, 2019 and ending November 30, 2020 in the amount of \$43,960 plus Social Security and IMRF benefits. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion carried.** Steve Allendorf suggested that the Law Enforcement and Courts committee and the Finance committee study the positions, the compensation and review the options. Allendorf would also like to see improvement in time reporting in FY2020.

5. Staff Reports

- a) **Sheriff's Report** – Sheriff Turner was not in attendance.

- b) **Circuit Clerk's Office** – Kathy Phillips, Clerk of the Circuit Court, had nothing more to report at this time.

- c) **Probation** – Jamie Watson, Chief County Probation Officer, was not in attendance.

- d) **Public Defender** – None.

6. Citizens' Comments – None.

7. Board Member Concerns – Don Zillig asked how much money the County has spent on Courthouse improvements in the past ten years. Dan Reimer stated about \$1.4 million in the past 12 years. There was discussion on our current facility and a new facility location. There was also discussion on the importance of the upcoming census.

The next Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting will be Monday, December 16, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. at the Jo Daviess County Courthouse, County Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m. following a motion by Steve Allendorf and a second by John Korth.