

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Law Enforcement & Courts
CHAIRPERSON: Bill Bingham, Chairman
DATE/TIME: December 16, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LaDon Trost
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Allendorf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Korth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Toot
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Zillig		

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None.

Others: Kevin Turner, Kathy Phillips, Chuck Pedersen and Dan Reimer

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes from November 12, 2019 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting – **LaDon Trost made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2019 Special Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion carried.**
- b) Minutes from November 18, 2019 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting – **LaDon Trost made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 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 – Bill Bingham and Sheriff Turner reviewed each of the nine committee assignments from the 2019 County Board Retreat: Continue to work on EMS solutions- report is in packet and will be reviewed with the Committee; Replace EMS Vehicle- completed; Continue Courthouse security improvements- ongoing, hired a third fulltime Security Officer; Explore options for separate drug testing facilities for probation- purchased radios for probation to communicate with Court Security; Replace radio system to 800 MGHZ- ongoing; Complete Courthouse maintenance (soffits, fascia, flooring)- funds appropriated in FY2020 budget for fascia/soffit repairs; Develop a comprehensive, 10 year Courthouse maintenance plan- ongoing; Finish EOC Training Center- EOC completed, training center in progress; Create Courthouse parking- in progress, St. Mary's church parking lot agreement, Courthouse Employee parking policy. Dan Reimer reviewed a Courthouse capital improvements spreadsheet for the period 1998 to 2019. Sheriff Turner reported that lightening caused damage to several cameras in the Courthouse which had to be replaced.
- b) Update on the Jo Daviess County All Hazard Mitigation Planning grant/process – Chuck Pedersen, Jo Daviess County, EMA Coordinator reported on the first meeting of the Jo Daviess County All Hazard Mitigation Committee which was held on October 29th at the Crossroads Church in Galena. Pedersen continues to work with the consultants from American Environmental. Part of the Plan update is to review and evaluate the status of existing mitigation projects. The next meeting of the JDC All Hazard Mitigation

Committee is scheduled for February 4, 2020. The project must be completed by June 30, 2020.

- c) Update on Menominee-Dunleith Fire Protection District (MDFPD) Communication Tower
Don Zillig discussed that he will look into possible grants for the Menominee-Dunleith Fire Protection District communication tower and more discussion is needed as to what is needed to improve the entire system.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action on establishing start time for the FY2020 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meetings – The Committee discussed possible start times for Law & Courts Committee meetings in FY2020. The schedule of meeting dates for FY2020 was previously approved at the November 18, 2019 meeting. **Scott Toot made a motion to approve a start time of 4:30 p.m. for FY2020 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meetings, per the schedule of meeting dates previously approved. Seconded by John Korth and motion carried.**
- b) Discussion and possible action on a request to sublease storage space at the Waterworks Building– Sheriff Turner and Dan Reimer discussed a request that was received to sublease storage space at the Waterworks Building in Galena. The County currently leases the building from the City of Galena for storage. This request was withdrawn when the requestor found an alternate location to rent.
- c) Presentation by the Jo Daviess County (IL) County Board Ad Hoc Committee, regarding the Emergency Medical Services Sustainability EMS Strategic Directive EMS2020 – Bill Bingham, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee reported that the EMS Sustainability Ad-Hoc Committee has met 19 times in the past year and is very close to completing their report to the County Board. The Report will be reviewed one more time by the Ad-Hoc Committee before being presented to the County Board. The Mission of the Committee was to identify and evaluate all aspects of the EMS system currently in place in Jo Daviess County and to constructively use this information as a catalyst for endorsement and improvement of long-term professional and sustained high quality of EMS throughout all of Jo Daviess County. Their Vision was to develop and maintain professional and sustainable EMS services in Jo Daviess County that serves to improve response time and provides consistent, quality care to our citizens and visitors. Bingham reviewed some of the conclusions derived from the EMS Sustainability Committee. In the opinion of the committee, if changes are not made, EMS within Jo Daviess County is not sustainable. In short, the current system is failing and will continue to fail. In the State of Illinois, EMS is considered a non-essential service. The committee believes that EMS in Jo Daviess County is an essential service. When someone calls for EMS, they should have an appropriate and immediate response provided by qualified personnel. Emergency Medical Services in Jo Daviess County can be saved, but it will need to change and adapt. We have a responsibility to include several concerns and recommendations. The one thing these recommendations have in common is there will be an associated cost. Additionally, significant funding sources will be needed to rekindle EMS as a sustainable public safety entity. Changes in complex systems and additional funding cannot occur overnight. We feel that this must be a countywide priority. Should another service fail, a domino effect could take place affecting all EMS agencies in the county. We cannot maintain status quo fundamentals and expect to be successful. We cannot accept or anticipate more of the same. We must insist that we make the tough decisions today or face more difficult decisions tomorrow. A business (and EMS is a business) needs to have solid fundamentals in order to be successful. It was the Committee's intention to determine a reasonable and clear path for change while

identifying various options and configurations with the knowledge that we cannot guarantee success. The first step in this process focuses on getting our message out to the people we serve, as well as to the County Board, City Mayors, organizations, businesses, and individuals whose livelihood depends on a thriving tourism. Bingham reviewed additional sections of the report and thanked all of the individuals who served on the Ad-Hoc EMS Sustainability Committee.

5. Staff Reports

- a) **Sheriff's Report**-Sheriff Turner reported that due to State funding cuts the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board is no longer able to pay for mandatory law enforcement training and it will now be up local law enforcement agencies to pay the cost. Training will not be reimbursed for the rest of the year.
- b) **Circuit Clerk's Office** – Kathy Phillips, Clerk of the Circuit Court discussed a State program that would allow collection of delinquent fines from State income tax refunds. Phillips reported that the auditors from Wipfli have started the FY2019 Circuits Clerks audit.
- c) **Probation** – Jamie Watson, Chief County Probation Officer, was not in attendance.
- d) **Public Defender** – None.

6. Citizens' Comments – None.

7. Board Member Concerns

The next Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. at the Jo Daviess County Courthouse, County Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m. following a motion by Scott Toot and a second by John Korth.