

WILL COUNTY BOARD
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

8:30 a.m.

302 North Chicago Street
County Board Committee Room
Joliet, Illinois 60432

March 3, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Dralle called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Kusta, Jr., Anderson, Deutsche, Smith, Stewart, and Dralle.

Absent were Members: Riley.

Also Present:

Present from State's Attorney's Office: Mary Tatroe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Stewart led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, Jr., seconded by Mr. Stewart, to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, Jr., seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2009 combined Judicial & Capital Improvements meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Re: Discontinued Pace Bus Service at River Valley Justice Center

Mrs. Dralle stated we will move this to the end of the agenda until someone from Pace arrives.

Additional Information Provided by Circuit Clerk Pam McGuire Re: 2008 Annual Report to the IL Supreme Court and Circuit Clerk's Act Re: Criminal and Quasi-Criminal Costs and Fees

Mrs. Dralle stated we have been looking at a series of reports from Ms. McGuire's office. This is additional information for your review. I do have a question with regard to the Law Enforcement Camera Fund. That fund has \$176,000 in it. Is that fund for the municipality or is it for the County?

Ms. McGuire stated everybody has a camera fund. It used to be the DUI fund.

Mrs. Dralle stated then this is for DUI's.

Ms. McGuire stated let me check. I think that is just to the County, but I need to verify. I think this is what goes to the state.

Mrs. Dralle stated we do not have the cameras that we need but we are giving money back to the state. Please let me know what this is for.

Ms. McGuire stated I will.

Other Old Business

Mrs. Dralle stated I have two things. First, Deputy Chief Romeo gave me information regarding the squads for next month's packet. Second, Mr. Rafac what is the status of the RFP for the ADF audit?

Mr. Rafac stated it is on the Executive Committee agenda for assignment this Thursday. We want to move forward with this.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Re: Hearing Officer for Will County

Mrs. Dralle stated I went down to Lansing to see the hearing officer process. If we were to go forward with this, we need to have an ordinance in place.

Sergeant Robert Cantro from the Will County Sherriff's Office gave a presentation to the committee explaining the need for a hearing officer for Will County.

Mrs. Tatroe stated what a municipality can do is different then what we can do. We are not allowed to issue citations for ordinance violations of this nature. There is a statute that prohibits us from doing so. We will still have to send out the summons. This will alleviate the crowding at the jail. It allows more flexibility with hearings. We will still have to send out a summons.

Mrs. Dralle stated that is something that I would like you to reference and give us an opinion on that. Is there a possibility to have a permit fee for the alarms?

Sergeant Cantro stated you would have to decide that. It would be helpful to us because it would include contact information.

Ms. Smith questioned then this would not eliminate any process in the State's Attorney's office, is that right. The hearing officer would collect the fines?

Mrs. Tatroe stated the initial step is that it would go before a hearing officer rather than the judge.

Ms. Smith state if they collect the fines, then your office is not involved any more. It would eliminate having to go to your office. They can be a stop gap.

Mrs. Tatroe stated we would still be involved in that first process. The municipalities use their inspectors with a land use violation. I am not sure that would happen in Will County. We would still have an assistant at the hearing process.

Mrs. Dralle questioned is that necessary. In Lansing I noticed the speed at which this moves through. There was a ticket, no evidence, no public defender, no state's attorney. It was as simple as here is the violation would you like to pay it, if you do not then you can request a court date. Most people there were looking to end the process by paying the fine.

Mr. Kusta, Jr., questioned are we looking to have these to take the place of arraignments.

Mrs. Tatroe stated that is my concern. These proceedings are very informal, if the process is not right at the hearing stage, you will lose at the circuit court stage. My impression from Judge Kinney is that he is more comfortable having an assistant present at the hearings.

Mr. Kusta, Jr., stated Bolingbrook has an administrative court which they take from a ticket through a hearing. The prosecutor is there. We would have to see the cost of each of those people. In Bolingbrook, it works great. They have a trial and if they are unsatisfied with the trial they can appeal to the circuit court.

Mrs. Dralle questioned how many appeal.

Mr. Kusta, Jr., stated I do not have an exact statistic but maybe 1 out of 100.

Roger Wood, consultant; Matthew Regan, chief operating officer; and Dan McDonald, sales manager from Municipal Systems, Inc (MSI) came before the committee to present software that can be used to facilitate the hearing officer process.

Mrs. Dralle stated I will ask Mr. Paddock to come back next month along with Ms. McGuire. Many of these issues are Land Use issues.

Mr. Anderson stated I am glad that we are having a more formal discussion regarding this issue.

Mrs. Dralle stated there are both positives and negatives to this. There are issues with the State's Attorney's office that we need written opinions on to move this forward. It is a tool to help the deputies on the street.

Other New Business

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Re: Discontinued Pace Bus Service at River Valley Justice Center

Leondria Blackman, community relations representative government affairs for Pace bus came before committee to discuss Pace options with regard to service at River Valley Justice Center.

Mrs. Dralle stated I received a phone call from River Valley letting me know that Pace had stopped servicing that facility as of November. There may not be a lot of ridership to River Valley. I am asking them to bring the route back.

Ms. Blackman stated I have come to propose that you allow the new route to succeed. They are not proposing to return the route to River Valley. We can give you a van and in exchange Pace will cover the maintenance and repairs for \$100 a month, the program is called municipal vanpool.

Mrs. Dralle stated I find that very unfortunate. It is less than a half a mile walk from the DOC to River Valley and there are no sidewalks. I would hope that Pace would look at this in a good faith effort. I do not think that the County is in the position to take on a bus and staff a bus.

Mr. Anderson stated it cannot take more than a minute to get to River Valley from DOC.

Ms. Blackman stated it is the ridership but it is also our services in this area have been restructured.

Mrs. Dralle stated River Valley is right down the street from DOC. It stops at DOC.

Ms. Blackman stated it does stop there but it does not go into there.

Mrs. Dralle stated if it does not go into there, then it has to pass River Valley one way or the other. They are on the same street. We are asking that you go back and tell them that is not acceptable.

Ms. Smith questioned wouldn't it cost Pace more money to give us a van and maintain it.

Ms. Blackman stated no, we get them in bulk with federal money.

Ms. Smith stated we should call Director Mitchell.

Ms. Blackman stated Rocky Donahue is the deputy executive director, TJ Ross is the executive director and Mr. Donahue is one of the four deputy executive directors.

Mrs. Dralle stated please leave phone numbers for Mr. Donahue and Mr. Ross. Mrs. Johannsen can you get a letter out to Pace regarding this? I would encourage everyone to call.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Deutsche, to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.