

WILL COUNTY BOARD
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

8:30 a.m.
302 North Chicago Street
County Board Committee Room
Joliet, Illinois 60432

July 7, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Dralle called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent were Members: Riley.

Also Present:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Update Re: Sheriff's Use of the Northeastern IL Regional Crime Lab

Sergeant Kowalski gave the committee an update regarding the use of the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Lab.

Mr. Kusta, Jr., questioned is the price along the lines of what it was in the beginning.

Sergeant Kowalski stated the price will remain flat for 2010. We are their largest agency. The rate is dependant upon membership. They are having an open house on July 30th from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Mrs. Dralle stated I will have staff send out a memo inviting the members.

Update Re: Men's & Women's Recovery Home from Drug Court Fees

This item was moved to later spot on the agenda.

Request to Award Bid for GPS Electronic Monitoring Services

Mr. Skallac stated it came down to how large of an exclusion zone there was.

Mr. Costigan stated we are looking at a one year contract. The offender pays the cost but we estimate that half will not be able to pay. On the high end we estimate the annual cost to be \$374,000 which about half of the County will be responsible for.

Mrs. Dralle stated I would like you to come back in a month or two to keep us apprised. What is the liability of the County should one of these unites fail?

Mrs. Tatroe stated it would be relatively low. We are mandated by the state to do this. We can put a provision in the contract to shift some of that liability to the company providing the monitoring system.

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, Jr., seconded by Ms. Smith, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda awarding bid to GPS electronic monitoring services to G4S Justice Services, Inc. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Update Re: Aramark Food Service Vendor at River Valley

Mr. Prinzi came before committee to give an update regarding Aramark the food service vendor at River Valley.

Ms. Smith questioned what is the cost per meal.

Ms. Miklic stated it depends on the population. As the population increases the price decreases. Currently we are at 48 at the cost of \$3.64 per meal.

Update on Legal Self-Help Centers in Illinois

Mr. Sangmeister stated we do want to add a site at River Valley, but I do need to point out that there is no law library there.

Mrs. Dralle stated you need to look at how people can get there.

Mr. Sangmeister stated we have to compose a committee appointed by Chief Judge Kinney.

Mrs. Dralle questioned what will this cost.

Mr. Sangmeister stated it is my understanding there is no cost.

Mrs. Dralle stated please check. I thought there was some grant funds involved and they run out after two years.

Mr. Sangmeister stated also, anyone with a computer can access this site.

Update on Will County Hearing Officer

Mr. Paddock stated this will require outside expertise to develop a proposal. There are funds in the Land Use budget this year. We do not anticipate that the cost would be more than \$10,000. The study will have recommendations and encompass an operating philosophy; methodology, the structure and function of the group; the background and qualifications of a hearing officer; the financial aspects of the process; and a specific draft ordinance. We project that we will have results by the October meeting at the latest.

Mrs. Dralle stated I am looking for a policy with a fee and fine structure and how you will work with the public. Please forward any material from Peoria County to either Mr. Friefeld or Mrs. Johannsen and to me.

Update Re: Men's & Women's Recovery Home from Drug Court Fees

Ms. McCabe stated we are looking at property. As soon as we find something we will be back.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Update Re: Circuit Clerk Initiative with Chief Judge's Order of Protection, Domestic Violence Advocate Agencies and the State's Attorney's Office

Ms. McGuire gave the committee an update regarding the electronic orders of protection.

Mrs. Dralle questioned when will they be on line.

Ms. McGuire stated I am not sure. We are taking baby steps right now. There is an IJIS workshop September 10th at the Windahm O'Hare.

Mrs. Dralle questioned how long will the testing period last.

Mr. Enright stated two months.

Mrs. Dralle stated anything we can do to encourage participation we will do that.

2009 JAG Award, Memorandum of Understanding and Allocation

Mr. Palmer stated we have an opportunity to receive additional JAG money in the amount of \$55,931. The city of Joliet is having a public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, Jr., seconded by Mr. Stewart, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda approving a memorandum of understanding with the city of Joliet for additional JAG monies. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Palmer stated we recommend that we continue to spend this on the in-car cameras for the Sheriff's Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Kusta, Jr., to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda allocating the JAG monies for in-car cameras for the Sheriff's Department, in the amount of \$55,931. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Update on Criminal Justice Funding Status

Mr. Palmer gave the committee an update regarding the Criminal Justice funding status.

Mrs. Dralle stated I would like the Sheriff's Department to give us a status report regarding the laptops including the old, new and replacement ones. I would like to see the total amount of laptops that you currently have and what will be installed in the future.

Request for Resolution Increasing the Number of Assistant State's Attorneys

Mrs. Tatroe stated this request comes forward because we have two new attorneys that just past the bar volunteering to work and wanting to improve their resumes. We are at our maximum number of attorneys set by the County Board and therefore we cannot use them unless the Board increases our number. We can then swear them in as attorneys and handle court calls. We are requesting the number increase by five with the provision that there will be no increase in our budget for salaries or benefits.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Stewart, to increase the number of Assistant State's Attorneys by five with no increase in pay.

Mrs. Dralle stated since these are volunteers, I ask that you look at a retention policy for an internship. This would almost be an internship basis. Part of the issue is liability. How will that be covered?

Mrs. Tatroe stated they would fall under tort immunity. I can check into that. Our concern is that we have one person there now that we would really like to utilize. I am not sure that we want to use them for interns; we want to use them as attorneys so

we can use them in court. That would be the difference and they are self terminating positions.

Mrs. Dralle stated it is excellent opportunity for your office to have additional people looking to build their resumes. However, I have great reservations about increasing the number of state's attorneys. Once that is done I do not know how we can pull that back. In the next month look at a policy and internships.

Mrs. Tatroe stated we have done that. In the summer with vacations, we are short. If we wait another month summer will be over.

Mr. Anderson stated I do not see what the down side is.

Mrs. Dralle stated the purpose of the statute is not to willy nilly increase the number of state's attorneys. The people that come are permanent state's attorneys. It is not meant to be used for someone who is volunteering.

Mrs. Tatroe stated I disagree. The number is set so that you will have the financial oversight. In other words, you do not want me to come back next month.

Mrs. Dralle stated I am saying give me something in writing. Look at some other way rather than increase the number of state's attorneys.

Mrs. Tatroe stated the issue is we need bodies in the court rooms.

Mr. Anderson stated you are discouraging the State's Attorney to accept free attorneys.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Stewart, to increase the number of Assistant State's Attorneys by five with no increase in pay. On a roll call vote: Kusta, Jr., no; Anderson, yes; Deutsche, no; L. Smith, no; Stewart, yes; and Dralle, no.

MOTION FAILS.

Other New Business

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, Jr., seconded by Mr. Stewart, to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.