



# Public Safety, Health and Judicial Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Sep 14, 2022 at 9:00 AM CDT

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

### I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Mike Koppien.

### II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Mike Koppien, Vice Chair John Nicholson, Marilyn Shippert, Keane Hudson, Jack Skrogstad, and Mike Zeman

All Committee Members were present in person.

Also present: Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Staci Stewart (Director of Probation and Court Services), John Simonton (Sheriff), Kevin Lalley (EMA), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were all present in person.

### III. Public Attendees

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (August 17, 2022)

The minutes from the August 17, 2022, Public Safety, Health, and Judicial Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

### V. Circuit Clerk Office

#### A. Report

Amy Johnson reported that her office just went through the active shooter training and evacuation procedures with Chief Bailiff Ed Stewart.

#### B. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items for the Circuit Clerk's Office.

### VI. EMA (Emergency Management Agency)

#### A. Report

Kevin Lalley reported that EMA assisted with Depot Days in Amboy. Storms during the event, blew over a popup tent and a camera was damaged.

B. ACTION ITEMS

There were no actions items from EMA.

VII. Coroner Office, Judges, and Public Defender Offices

A. Reports

There were no reports from the Judges, Coroner's Office, or the Public Defender's Office.

B. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items from these offices.

VIII. Sheriff's Office

A. Report

John Simonton reported the following information from the Sheriff's Office:

- The office will be eight (8) employees short for the next two weeks. One short in the patrol division, one is at the academy, two are in the field training program, one is still deployed in the National Guard, and three are out for medical leave.

B. Quarterly Update on Dangerous and Abandoned Properties

There was no report given. All of the discussion regarding dangerous and abandoned properties was under "Other Business" on the agenda, item A.

C. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items from the Sheriff's Office.

IX. State's Attorney's Office

A. Report

Charley Boonstra reported the following information from the State's Attorney's Office:

- In the last two months the office closed out 44 felony cases.
- 56 new felonies were filed.
- The office is focusing on obtaining orders of protection for sexual assault and domestic violence victims so they do not have to face their abuser.
- The office has a busy trial calendar scheduled out through January.
- The office has several open pleas (blind pleas) set for sentencing in the next month and a half.
- They are preparing for the Pretrial Fairness Act that goes into affect January 1, 2023.

B. Quarterly Update on the Collection of Unpaid Fines - State's Attorney

Charley Boonstra reported that \$4,519.06 was collected during the month of August 2022. \$47,101.54 has been collected so far in 2022.

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. New Hire - Additional Assistant State's Attorney

Charley Boonstra reported that the office has an applicant that he thinks will be a good fit for the County as an additional Assistant State's Attorney. The applicant has a background in Municipal and County law and roughly ten years of experience. The request for this applicant to start prior to the budget year is on the agenda for the Finance Committee for approval.

**Motion** to support the States Attorney's request to hire an additional Assistant State's Attorney prior to December 1, 2022. **Moved** by Marilyn Shippert. **Second** by Jack Skrogstad. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

X. Other Business

A. Old Lee County School

The topic of the Old Lee Center School was on the agenda because of concerns expressed by the public about a rave that was rumored to occur. It was suggested that the Health Department be made aware of the situation and the property be posted as uninhabitable.

Following the conversation regarding the Old Lee Center School, a lengthy discussion ensued regarding protocol and coordinating the different information associated with dangerous and abandoned building matters.

Unrelated to to the Old Lee Center School, Wendy Ryerson reported that a recommendation had been forwarded by the ARPA Committee to the Finance Committee for a Broadband Grant. Below is information about the grant:

- Lee County's grant match, over five (5) years, would be between \$1.6 and \$1.7 million.
- The Broadband grant currently available is not getting Broadband to homes, it is developing and securing the necessary "middle-mile" infrastructure that would eventually bring Broadband to communities. Future phases will bring Broadband into homes.
- The deadline for application of this grant is September 30, 2022.

- The County Board would have to approve participation at the September County Board Meeting. Notice of the award will be announced on or about March 1, 2023 and the grant requires the complete buildout to be completed within five (5) years.

Wendy also reported that the Board Rules and Procedures would be coming to the County Board Meeting in September. She explained that the new rules would not go into affect until after December 1, 2022. The rules account for the County Board member reduction from twenty-four (24) to twenty (20) members. They also include the new procedures regulating electronic voting. The OnBoard software that the Board uses does have a voting module.

The Probation report was listed under “Other Business’ on the agenda because the Probation Department was mistakenly removed from the agenda because of restructuring.

Staci Stewart reported that her office received a letter from the state with the amount of reimbursement the County will receive for the Probation and Court Services Department. The reimbursement was roughly \$475,000 for the salaries in the Probation Department, which for the fourth year in a row, is 100%. Staci went on to explain that reimbursement at 100% is not the norm. In years past the reimbursement percentage ranged from 74% to 86%.

XI. New Business

There were no items under New Business.

XII. Executive Session

There was no request for executive session.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at Moved by Second by Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next meeting of the Public Safety, Health, and Judicial Committee Meeting will be  
9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 12, 2022