



# Public Safety and Court Services Committee

## Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Feb 14, 2023 at 10:30 AM CST

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

### I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m., by Chair Mike Koppien.

### II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Mike Koppien, Vice Chair Keane Hudson, Katie White, Angie Shippert, Michael Pearson

Mike Koppien, Keane Hudson, Katie White, Angie Shippert, and Michael Pearson all attended in person.

Also present: Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Kevin Lalley (EMA), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Staci Stewart (Director of Probation and Court Services), Clay Whelan (Sheriff), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

### III. Public Attendees

There were no public attendees.

### IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (January 9, 2023)

Minutes from the January 9, 2023, Public Safety and Court Services Committee were approved as presented without modification.

### V. Animal Control

There was no report from Animal Control.

### VI. Circuit Clerk

Amy Johnson reported that the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts Office (AOIC) continued the Court Technology Grant again in 2023. An application was submitted, and the County was awarded \$229,752.44. Offices that will benefit from the grant included the Judges, State's Attorney, Public Defender, and Court Security.

### VII. Judges, Coroner, and Public Defender

No report from the Judge's Offices, Coroner, or Public Defender's Office.

### VIII. Emergency Management Agency

Kevin Lalley reported that EMA was recently deployed to the Carus Chemical Plant in LaSalle to assist with a fire. The office was there for three days.

### IX. Probation

Staci Stewart reported that Probation is working with Sara Leisner from the State's Attorney's Office on a federal drug court grant. The information will be submitted around April 1, 2023.

X. Sheriff

Clay Whelan explained that he was bringing the purchase of accident reconstruction equipment and the purchase of marksman rifles to the committee for transparency since the cost was over \$10,000.

A. Sheriff's Dept Purchase of Accident Reconstruction Equip. - Discussion Only

Clay Whelan explained that on all fatal or serious personal injury accidents, an accident reconstructionist is called to the scene to investigate. The equipment being requested would help reconstruct the accident by taking various measurements to map out the events as they unfolded. The equipment could also be used to assist in larger scale crime scene mapping. The cost of the equipment is \$10,042 and is available through the office DUI Equipment Fund, making the purchase budget neutral. No action was necessary on behalf of the committee.

B. Sheriff's Dept. Purchase of Marksman Rifle - Discussion Only

Clay Whelan explained that during the budget process, the purchase of four (4) precision marksman rifles and supporting equipment was approved. The cost of \$37,400 and will be taken from the CIF Equipment line item. No action was necessary on behalf of the committee.

C. Control Room Correctional Deputy (Workplace Accommodation)

Clay Whelan explained that the office is looking to make accommodations for a Correctional Officer that was injured in the line of duty. This officer now has permanent work restrictions that only allow him to work eight (8) hours per day and the shift calls for twelve (12) hours per day. Clay is asking for an additional Correctional Officer to allow the restricted Officer to work in the control room Monday through Friday for 42 hours per week. Hiring an additional Correctional Officer would reduce the number of overtime hours and supplement the current staff by satisfying minimum staffing requirements.

**Motion** to move the Control Room Correctional Deputy Workplace Accommodation item to the Finance Committee. **Moved** by Katie White. **Second** by Michael Pearson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

Clay Whelan also mentioned that on January 13 2023, the Illinois Sheriff's Association honored Chief Deputy Derek Ranken, Deputy Nathan Hollinger, Deputy Joe Presley, and former Deputy Kolton Morgan with the 2022 Deputies of the Year Award. These gentleman earned this distinction for their efforts in locating and saving the life of a 3-year-old boy on the evening of December 22, 2021, in Harmon.

Clay also reported that the Sheriff's Office is exploring the possibility of obtaining license plate readers at various high-profile intersections throughout the County. The readers would identify stolen vehicles, wanted individuals, suspended plates,

and suspended drivers. They also have the capability of tracking a known vehicle either to or from a crime. Twelve locations have been identified throughout the County. The cameras have a one-time installation fee and a \$2,500 annual fee per camera, increasing to \$3,000 on April 1, 2023.

Lastly Clay reported that on January 31, 2023, the Sheriff's Office was notified that a train from Union Pacific Railroad was blocking the roadways in and out of the entire Woodland Shores subdivision. The train did not move for over twelve (12) hours. During this time a contingency plan was developed to provide emergency access to the area should the need have arisen. This is an offense under the Illinois Vehicle Code for Obstruction of a Highway at a Grade Crossing, therefore Clay is investigating potential actions against the Railroad.

XI. State's Attorney

Charley Boonstra reported that late last year the State's Attorney's Office was given the opportunity by the County Board to purchase the Karpel Case Management Software. The Board chose to fund the purchase through capital or ARPA funds with hopes that the cost could be recouped through the technology grant that Amy Johnson mentioned earlier. Charley was happy to announce that the cost, minus the per diem costs for training travel, would be covered by the technology grant. Also covered by the grant was approximately \$20,645 for Apple computers, MacBooks, equipment, drives, and monitors.

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

Charley reported that as of January the total amount paid was \$7,401.07. Total amount for 2022 was \$71, 544.88. Total amount received since the process began is \$207,540.

XII. Report of Abandoned Property Focus Group

Keane Hudson and Wendy Ryerson reported the following information from the Abandoned Property Focus Group discussion. The full report will be included in the February 2023 County Board agenda packet.

- The goal of the first Abandoned Property Focus Group meeting was mainly to bring everyone up to speed on the activities of the last several years and to put together a plan for the future.
- The group identified other stakeholders in the process which included the State's Attorney's Office, Zoning Office, Health Department, Sheriff's Office, and Fire Departments.
- Out of the \$100,000 allocated towards the Abandoned Property Projects from ARPA funds, \$63,312.99 remain.
- \$19,919.31 was spent on the Compton property.
- \$16,767.70 has been spent thus far on the West 4th Street property.

XIII. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XIV. New Business

There were no items under New Business.

XV. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XVI. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn at 10:57 a.m. **Moved** by Keane Hudson. **Second** by Michael Pearson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next meeting of the Public Safety and Court Services Committee is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., on Monday, March 13, 2023.