



Public Safety and Court Services Committee

Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Jan 9, 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 10:30 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, and Angie Shippert were present in person. Michael Pearson attended the meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

Also present: Tom Kitson (County Board Vice Chair), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Staci Stewart (Director of Probation and Court Services), Clay Whelan (Sheriff), Teri Zinke (Animal Control Administrator), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were all present in person.

During discussion, Wendy Ryerson explained that she had been in conversation with the Chairman about creating four different working groups to collaborate on several important topics:

- Zoning Ordinance Revisions – This group would report to County Services Committee.
- Abandoned Properties – This group would report to Public Safety and Court Services Committee.
- Grants – This group would report to the Finance Committee.
- Tourism – This group would report to the Executive Committee.

Wendy also explained that over a year ago the County allocated \$100,000 from ARPA funds to begin addressing the abandoned and unsafe properties in the County. The first project in Compton has been abated, demolished, the basement filled, and the property leveled. The County currently possesses a judicial deed to the property. At the January County Board Meeting the members will be asked to consider quit claiming the deed to the Village of Compton. This would relinquish the County from all rights and interests in the property. The Village of Compton would then need to accept the property by resolution. This option was the most cost-effective option available to the County.

III. Public Attendees

There were no members of the public in attendance.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (December 12, 2022)

Minutes from the December 12, 2022, Public Safety and Court Services Committee were approved as presented without modification.

V. Animal Control

- A. Summary reports from October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022
Teri Zinke introduced herself to the new Board Members on the committee and walked them through the quarterly graphs she submitted.

VI. Circuit Clerk

Amy Johnson reported that 65 of the 102 Counties in Illinois filed a lawsuit to declare the Safety Act unconstitutional. The decision from the case declared the discontinuation of cash bail to be unconstitutional. The Attorney General's Office has filed an expedited appeal to the Supreme Court. Oral arguments are scheduled for the March 23, 2023, term of court. No weekend court will be held until after the court has handed down a decision.

VII. Judges, Coroner, and Public Defender

No one attended from the Judges, Coroner, or Public Defender's Offices.

VIII. Emergency Management Agency

Kevin Lalley was not able to attend the meeting.

IX. Probation

Staci Stewart reported that she is working with Clay Whelan to transition the County GPS Monitoring responsibilities from the Probation Office to the Lee County Sheriff's Department. The transition will have a financial impact on the Sheriff's budget for monitoring of defendants and will likely require additional staffing.

X. Sheriff

Clay Whalen explained that the Sheriff's Office stepped up patrol on Lowell Park in response to the controversy last month. He reported that three (3) cars had been stopped in a matter of two (2) hours.

XI. State's Attorney

Charley Boonstra reported the office continues to prepare for the Safety Act changes. The litigation does have the process on hold until March.

- A. Quarterly Update on the Collection of Unpaid Fines - State's Attorney
Charley also reported that January 2022 through November 2022 a total of \$67,641.85 had been recovered. Total amount received from the inception of the collection process in 2019 was \$203,617. These figures are total received and total collection, not the dollar amount that the County retains.

XII. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XIII. New Business

- A. Test of OnBoard Voting System

The committee walked through the OnBoard voting system. The process was much smoother.

XIV. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. **Moved** by Angie Shippert. **Second** by Keane Hudson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2022.