



**Unapproved**

**Public Safety, Health and Judicial Committee Meeting – Wednesday, December 15, 2021**

Third Floor Boardroom, Old Lee County Courthouse – 9:00 a.m.

112 E Second St, Dixon, Illinois 61021

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

**Member Roll Call:** Chair Mike Koppien, Vice Chair Marilyn Shippert, Keane Hudson, Mike Zeman, and Jack Skrogstad were all present in person.

**Members Absent:** Katie White

**Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees Present:** John Nicholson (Lee County Board Vice Chairperson), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney)(9:00-10:24), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Staci Stewart (Probation), John Simonton (Sheriff)(9:00-9:32), Kevin Lalley (EMA), Shannon Langloss (Chief Deputy in the Circuit Clerk's Office), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were present in person. No one attended via Zoom video conferencing.

**Visitors:** Courtney Kennedy and Chris Henkel representing South Dixon Solar. William Zeman (Mike Zeman's son).

Courtney Kennedy explained that she and Chris Henkel were present to answer any question the committee might have regarding the South Dixon Solar project.

Minutes of the November 2021 Public Safety, Health, and Judicial Committee meeting were approved without modification.

**Review of Claims & Reports**

**Motion from Mike Zeman:** To accept and approve all claims from the Circuit Clerk, Sheriff, Coroner, State's Attorney, Probation, EMA, and Public Defender.

**Second by Marilyn Shippert:** Jack Skrogstad abstained from the vote. All other members voted in favor.

**Collection of Unpaid Fines – States Attorney:** No report for December

**Update on Dangerous and Abandoned Properties:** No report for December

**Administrator and Department Head Reports:**

Dee Duffy reported that she left the finding of facts and recommendations from the Zoning Board for petition 21-P-1566 on the committee members desks and was available to answer any questions the committee might have regarding the petition.

Staci Stewart wanted to thank Nancy Naylor and Keane Hudson for attending the Veterans Treatment Court graduation on December 14<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the Veterans Treatment Court and the Drug Treatment Court are exemplary programs that the courts have for the members of the community. Staci handed out some brochures on the Veterans Treatment Court for the committee members.

Shannon Langloss attended on behalf of Amy Johnson and reported that the Circuit Clerk's Office continues to move forward with the manual and record keeping changes mandated by the Supreme Court that goes into effect on January 1, 2022 and they are moving ahead with Criminal E-Filing.

John Simonton explained that despite what the newspaper reported, he is still with the County as Sheriff until November 30, 2022, and that the office had a Sheriff on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Wendy Ryerson explained that the County is going forward with the new claims process. The Treasurer's Office is currently implementing the system behind the scenes. Training on the system is scheduled for January 5, 2022 for Department Heads and personnel. There will be several documents on the Executive Committee agenda creating the Claims Committee along with modifications to the Board Rules and Procedures to account for the Claims Committee. The new claims software will provide Individual reports to the committees, from the departments that report to them, along with a compiled report of all the claims that would be presented at the monthly County Board meeting for inspection. The goal is to have 100% of the departments using the new claims software before February 1<sup>st</sup>. Wendy also reported that the County is moving forward with the OnBoard organizational software and that the iPads for the Board Members have been ordered and the plan is to introduce them to the committee setting in January.

#### **Old Business:**

Kevin Lalley reported that he had requested \$12,177 from the Capital Fund for the Salamadar software program. He was encouraged by the Finance Committee to submit the request through the American Rescue Plan Act Committee. This project did not fit into the top 5 categories that ARPA had identified. A one-year subscription would be \$4,510, a three-year subscription, with a 10% discount, would be \$12,177. This software tracks first responders on scene, makes ID badges for EMA and the Sheriff's Office, and provides many other benefits to the County. This topic will be included on the Executive Committee agenda. Kevin also explained that he delivered the grant for the generator at the New Courts Building. The County did hire a contractor for this process, but the County provided all the information. He also provided the committee with a list of EMA assets. Kevin explained that he is testing FirstNet (AT&T wireless network built for first responders) up against Verizon in the County to determine the better product.

Jack Skrogstad provided the committee with an update on the UTV Ordinance. The last meeting was November 1<sup>st</sup>. During the meeting the committee walked through the entire draft ordinance from August of 2021 and made recommended changes. State law requires that the County get permission from the municipalities under the jurisdiction of the County to have the UTVs on their roadways. The County drafted a letter and sent it along with a copy of the draft ordinance to the 22 townships in Lee County asking them to give the County permission to include their roadways in the ordinance or inform Lee County that they had excluded their roadways from use by the UTVs. Jack fielded many questions from the townships regarding the ordinance. Lee County will reach out to the different cities and villages once it is clear what roadways the townships will be approving for UTV use to work out additional details. At the time of the meeting, only one township was unsupportive of the draft ordinance.

#### **New Business**

Charley Boonstra explained that the Appellate Prosecutor annual fee was paid out of the State's Attorney's Office. Last year the fee was \$15,000, this year they had reduced the cost to \$14,000. The fee is for the Appellate Prosecutor's Office to help with conflicts that come up, continuing education, and advise to the office.

**Motion from Marilyn Shippert:** To move the Appellate Prosecutor annual fee to the Executive Committee.

**Second by Keane Hudson:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mike Koppien and Wendy Ryerson walked the committee through the abandoned building discussion/action item on the agenda. He explained that the State's Attorney found an attorney that works specifically with resolving matter regarding dangerous or abandoned buildings. The County is in the process of getting a fee schedule from this attorney and the cost would likely be \$5,000 - \$25,000 per property. Wendy Ryerson explained that the Zoning Department, Health Department and County Assessor would be instrumental in putting together a scale to determine which properties would be addressed first. Life safety and health would be the first considerations in the process.

Mike Koppien and John Simonton explained that there has been growing discussions about the potential of having a Northwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Training Academy program at Sauk Valley Community College. The concept is gaining support in the Northwest part of the state because of the difficulties getting new recruits into training academies. The academies are full due to an increased number of retirees and the restricted number of recruits that can train at one time because of COVID. A

program this close would save the County a considerable amount of money in travel and lodging expenses. John went on to explain that Jon Mandrell (Vice President of Academics and Student Services at Sauk Valley Community College) has taken the lead, with the support of many of the Chiefs and Sheriff, by going to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board on December 9<sup>th</sup> to promote the idea. John reported that the college would need to be certified and that they would need to use the exact same curriculum used in other academies. Mike Koppien reported that he had talked to Dr. Lori Cortez (Dean of Institutional Advancement at Sauk Valley Community College) and she was very interested in the program.

**Motion from Jack Skrogstad:** To move Resolution: Supporting the Proposed Law Enforcement Academy at Sauk Valley Community College to the Executive Committee.

**Second by Keane Hudson:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Motion from Jack Skrogstad:** To vacate prior motions because the resolution was only on the agenda for discussion.

**Second by Marilyn Shippert:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Motion to adjourn by Jack Skrogstad:**

**Second by Marilyn Shippert:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Becky Brenner – Lee County Board Secretary