

**Approved 3/23/21**  
**MINUTES**  
**Public Safety and Justice Committee**  
**February 23, 2021**  
**@ 12:00 p.m.**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b> <b>Paul Rosenbohm</b> – Chairperson ( <i>via teleconference</i> ); <b>Brandy Bryant</b> – Vice-Chairperson; <b>Eden Blair</b> ( <i>via teleconference</i> ), <b>Brian Elsasser</b> , <b>Rob Reneau</b> ( <i>via teleconference</i> ), <b>Steven Rieker</b> , <b>Phillip Salzer</b> , <b>Sharon Williams</b>
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b> <b>Scott Sorrel</b> – County Administrator; <b>Shauna Musselman</b> – Assistant County Administrator; <b>Jennie Cordis Boswell</b> - State's Attorney's Office; <b>Randy Brunner</b> – Chief Financial Officer; <b>David Tuttle</b> – ETSB; <b>Rena' Parker</b> , <b>Jennifer Shadid</b> – Court Administration; <b>Nathan Bach</b> – Public Defender; <b>Brian Asbell</b> , <b>Doug Gaa</b> , <b>Jim Middlemas</b> , <b>Chris Watkins</b> – Sheriff's Office

**Call to Order**

Vice-Chairperson Bryant called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021 was made by Mr. Salzer and seconded by Mr. Elsasser. The motion carried unanimously (8-0; Mr. Rosenbohm, Dr. Blair, and Mr. Reneau voted aye via teleconference).

**Informational Items / Reports / Other Minutes / Updates**

- **ETSB**

Mr. Tuttle advised that the upgrades of 911 Centers in Peoria and Bartonville are anticipated to be completed by the end of March and remarked that the ETSB will host an open house upon completion.

- **Public Defender Report**

Mr. Bach referred committee to the submitted report. He reported that the Public Defender's Office has been approved to hire two full-time attorneys in 2021; the positions have been posted and interviews with applicants has begun.

- **Presentation: HB3653 Summary**

Sheriff Asbell gave a presentation on HB 3653, a Bill containing criminal justice and police reforms. He commented that the Bill was signed into law yesterday by the Governor. He remarked that he is an advocate of reform and is of the opinion that over 70% of the reform Bill is necessary and positive. He summarized areas of concern with the legislation and the impact to operations, as well as potential solutions and the operational impact of those solutions. He commented that many of his issues with the legislation are due to conflicting or ambiguous language.

Sheriff Asbell highlighted several areas within the legislation creating the most concern. Those include: no cash bail system, Use of Force language; mandates which will create significant budget increases with no funding mechanism attached; language prohibiting an officer from reviewing body camera footage prior to writing/documenting a report -

additionally the bill stipulates that an officer could be subject to a Class 3 felony for omitting or failing to relay all facts of an incident; an officer may be subject to a Class 3 felony for failing to activate body worn camera for any encounter; issuing a citation in lieu of arrest for Class B and C misdemeanors or traffic. He stated that he is optimistic that a trailer bill will be introduced which will address and provide improved clarification regarding many of the discussed concerns.

Sheriff Asbell stated that the Sheriff's Office has lost ten employees in the past year, and although this Bill is not the primary reason, it will exacerbate recruitment and retention efforts, and decisions must be made moving forward on mitigating financial risks, legal exposure and civil liabilities.

### **Resolution**

- **FY2021 budget appropriation for AOIC Rapid Relief Funding for Remote Capabilities Program**

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Mr. Salzer. Ms. Parker advised that that Administrative Office of Illinois Courts announced that the Supreme Court has approved COVID-19 Rapid Relief Funding for Remote Capabilities Program, a funding mechanism to assist jurisdictions across the state of Illinois purchase the technology to enhance remote proceeding policies implemented due to the pandemic. She noted that the Supreme Court was considering remote processes prior to the pandemic and the pandemic accelerated that process; however, many jurisdictions are not technologically prepared to conduct remote proceedings. She advised that Peoria County submitted a request to the Supreme Court for funding in the amount of \$152,664.00 and the Supreme Court approved the full request. She advised that staff requests an FY 2021 budget appropriation in the amount of \$152,664.00 in order to make the necessary purchases.

The motion to approve carried unanimously (8-0); Mr. Rosenbohm, Dr. Blair, and Mr. Reneau voted aye via teleconference.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chairperson Bryant at 1:05 p.m.

*Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman*