

Approved 4/27/21
MINUTES
Public Safety and Justice Committee
March 23, 2021
@ 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Rosenbohm – Chairperson; Brandy Bryant – Vice-Chairperson; Eden Blair, Brian Elsasser, Rob Reneau, Steven Rieker, Phillip Salzer, Sharon Williams
MEMBERS ABSENT:
OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Sorrel – County Administrator; Jennie Cordis Boswell - State's Attorney's Office; Andrew Rand – County Board Chairman; Robert Spears, Kevin O'Connor – Circuit Clerk; Randy Brunner – Chief Financial Officer; Jodi Noe – ETSB; Kristen Collins – Public Defender; Brian Asbell, Doug Gaa – Sheriff's Office; Jacob Duro - Director of Peoria Multi-County Narcotics Enforcement Group

Call to Order

Chairperson Rosenbohm called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2021 was made by Dr. Blair and seconded by Mr. Reneau. The motion carried unanimously (7-0; Ms. Bryant absent for vote).

Informational Items / Reports / Other Minutes / Updates

- **ETSB**

Ms. Noe advised that that the Peoria office is nearing completion and it is anticipated that the Peoria dispatchers can be relocated back to the Peoria office by the end of April. She commented that upgrades to the Bartonville location are complete. She stated that an open house will be scheduled at a later date.

- **Public Defender Report**

Mr. Rand asked the status of adding additional Full-Time Employees (FTEs) to the Public Defender's Office. Ms. Collins advised that a full-time Assistant Public Defender for Traffic Court has been hired, and anticipate hiring at least one additional full-time Assistant Public Defender in 2021.

- **Peoria Public Schools Restore, Reinvest and Renew (R3) Grant Award**

Sheriff Asbell advised that the Sheriff's Office is partnering with District 150 and several other stakeholders through the R3 Grant to continue to provide services related to the Re-entry Program and reducing recidivism. He stated that the Sheriff's Office will receive \$48,750.00 in grant funding, which will assist in offsetting costs for one Re-entry Officer. He remarked that the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the initiation of program and the Sheriff's Office anticipates commencing the program in 2021.

(Ms. Bryant enters meeting.)

Mr. Rieker asked the age range of youths assisted by the grant, and Sheriff Asbell remarked that the scope of the grant is inclusive of youths up to the age of 21, adding that the 18-24 age range is the highest demographic at the jail.

Resolution

- **Intergovernmental Agreement between Illinois Office of the Comptroller and Peoria County Circuit Clerk**

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Elsasser and seconded by Mr. Salzer. Mr. O'Connor advised that the Comptroller's Office offers a program providing Peoria County access to the Local Debt Recovery Program to collect unpaid debt. He stated that the program provides the opportunity to utilize the Office of the Comptroller to collect outstanding debts for court fines and fees by offsetting a debtors Illinois state tax income prior to the debtor receiving any payment.

Mr. O'Connor advised that the Circuit Clerk's Office currently has \$50 million in eligible debt. He stated that 50% of Illinois counties currently utilize the program, adding that after a review of comparable counties, staff has estimated that \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 in revenue could be realized annually from participation in the program.

Mr. O'Connor advised that the recent passage of a House Bill releases the holds placed on driver's licenses as of July 1, 2021, adding that the action will equate to a loss of revenue of approximately \$15-\$20 million in traffic fines. He stated that entering into the Agreement would assist in offsetting some of the loss of revenue.

Mr. Spears commented that the Agreement is at no cost to Peoria County.

The motion to approve carried unanimously (8-0).

Miscellaneous

Jacob Duro, Director of the Peoria Multi-County Narcotics Enforcement Group (PMEG) addressed a potential upcoming resolution to be considered by the Public Safety and Justice Committee. He explained that in the past, the MEG unit received and maintained any Federal assets, forfeitures, or seizures on a Federal case in a bank account set aside for those assets. He stated that a new law effective January 1, 2021 mandates that all MEG units across the nation must utilize a law enforcement agency to act as a federal fiduciary for all federal seizures. He advised that he approached Sheriff Asbell with a request that the Sheriff's Office act as Federal Fiduciary for the local MEG Unit for all Federal seizures, and the Sheriff agreed pending committee and County Board approval.

Ms. Cordis Boswell suggested either holding a special meeting of the committee or conducting a poll vote so that a resolution may be considered for approval at the meeting of the County Board on April 8th.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Rosenbohm at 2:00 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman