

Approved 8/24/21
MINUTES
Public Safety and Justice Committee
May 25, 2021
@ 1:00 p.m.

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

Call to Order

Chairperson Rosenbohm called the meeting to order at 1:17 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of April 27, 2021 was made by Mr. Reneau and seconded by Dr. Blair. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Informational Items / Reports / Other Minutes / Updates

- ETSB

Mr. Tuttle advised that both the Peoria and Bartonville 9-1-1 Centers are complete and an Open House notice inviting elected and administrative officials to tour the new Centers will be sent out soon.

- Public Defender Report

Mr. Bach provided an update on staffing within the Public Defenders Office. He noted that the office began 2021 with two full-time attorneys and one full-time administrative staff. He stated that a full-time Assistant Public Defender (ASA) was hired in March 2021m, an additional Assistant Public Defender position has been posted, and he anticipates hiring a fifth Assistant Public Defender by the end of 2021. He remarked that his goal is bring staff levels up to 10-12 full-time ASA positions over the next several years, in addition to a small complement of independent contractors.

Mr. Rieker asked that Mr. Bach continue to monitor budget trends as the office transitions from independent contractors to full-time Assistant Public Defender positions.

- Contract for X-Ray Services between OSF St. Francis Medical Center and Peoria County Coroner's Office

Mr. Harwood advised that OSF St. Francis Medical Center has historically provided X-Ray services for the Coroner's Office free of charge. He stated that in December 2020 he was notified by the Chief Nursing Officer that OSF can no longer provide the service free of charge. He advised that as the Coroner's Office does not own or have the capacity for X-Ray services at the morgue, a contract has been drafted between OSF St. Francis Medical Center and the Coroner's Office for X-Ray Services. He remarked that the cost for those services for the remainder of 2021 is estimated to be less than \$5,000.00.

He added that after a review of alternative resources such as Unity Point and a mobile radiology services, it was determined that OSF St. Francis provided the best cost and process for the needed services.

Resolutions

- **Intergovernmental Agreement between DCFS and Peoria County**

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Reneau and seconded by Ms. Bryant. Ms. Parker advised that Peoria County is one of five Illinois counties invited to pilot a reimbursement program via an Intergovernmental Agreement with DCFS to provide reimbursement funding through Title IV-E Social Security Act Funding. She stated that the funding would provide partial reimbursement of the salaries of five assistant public defenders and two part-time Guardian ad Litem who exclusively represent children and parents in Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Court. She estimates reimbursement is estimated at \$70,000.00.

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

- **FY2021 Appropriation in Courts budget for Revised AOIC Rapid Relief Funding**

Ms. Parker advised that the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) received COVID=19 Rapid Relief funding to provide technology to address remote processes within the courtrooms due to the pandemic. She stated that an initial request submitted by the Court for courtroom technology upgrades was approved by the County Board in March 2021. She advised that those projects are nearing completion and the Courts have since been advised that additional funding is available. She stated that AOIC has approved a request from the Courts to revise the initial request to remove a project that the Courts have determined cannot be utilized sufficiently to an alternative project to add upgrades to the jail's video conferencing rooms. She stated that Courts is seeking approval to appropriate the additional funding in order to continue the project. She noted that the project is time sensitive and must be completed within the state's fiscal year.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Salzer and seconded by Ms. Bryant. The motion to approve carried unanimously (8-0).

Miscellaneous

Sheriff Asbell updated the committee on the critical staffing shortage within the Sheriff's Office and the potential effect on the future of police service contracts.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Rosenbohm at 1:47 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman