

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
August 9, 2006
KCAB 2ND FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

Members Present: William Michel II, Joseph Clark, Ruth Booth

Others Present: Chief Deputy Charles Smith, Capt. Gary Preston, Mike Williams, Bethany Lofgren, Robert Zapf, Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, Robert Riedl, Ben Schliesman, Mary Beier

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. by Chairman William Michel II

Citizen Comments: None

Supervisor Comments: None

Chairman Comments: Supr. Michel reported that Supr. Haas was excused from the meeting and he would check on Supr. Arrington.

Minutes Read for Approval: June 14, 2006 and July 12, 2006

Motion by: Clark

Seconded by: Booth

Approved: unanimously

Resolutions from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department:

1) Kenosha County Pre-Trial Intensive Supervision Program IX – 2nd Half Funding

Motion by: Clark

Seconded by: Booth

Approved: unanimously

Chief Deputy Smith explained that this a State funded grant totaling \$65,584 that was split into two parts. The first payment was for \$41,803 and this is the remainder for \$23,781. The program funded is the “Kenosha County Sheriff’s Department Intensive Supervision Program” now in its 9th year. Repeat DWI offenders are screened to receive intensive counseling treatment and supervision in lieu of incarceration in an effort to effectively deter repeat offenses. There are currently 196 people in the program. WCS also collects client fees. Michel asked if it looks like funding would continue for next year. Chief Deputy replied most likely, however, there are no guarantees of the same amount. The State likes the program but many funds are decreasing. Supr. Clark asked if money is used for outside contracts. Chief Deputy said yes, Wisconsin Correctional Service.

2) WI DOC Community Corrections Program – Living Free

Motion by: Clark

Seconded by: Booth

Approved: unanimously

Chief Deputy Smith reported that Living Free is a locally run program and that Mike Williams is the coordinator. It involves a series of programs to ready inmates to return to society. The program has attracted the attention of the State of Wisconsin for Probation & Parole inmates. Services will be provided while in custody then three months after custody. The State will choose inmates to participate. They wanted a contract for providing this service. Funding will cover classroom, post release service, and housing costs while in our facility. Supr. Clark asked if the inmates would come from State facilities. Capt. Preston responded that the program would be an alternative to revocation. Clark expressed concern about inmates being locally housed instead of in State facilities. Preston said that they could be placed here regardless, at least this way we can

receive some revenue for it. Clark asked if there is a limit to the number of State participants. Preston replied 10 or 11. Clark asked about the \$13,000 purchased services amount. Chief Deputy said the \$13,000 is for contracted services for the post release program. Supr. Michel commented that there is a waiting list for the program and that Judges look at this program highly. Sometimes inmates are released after this program. He asked if the program would be expanded and if placements for local inmates would be lost. Mike Williams stated that there are no current plans to expand the program. There are currently about 20 volunteers. Michel asked if Probation & Parole reimburses us for housing inmates not participating in the Living Free Program. Chief Deputy said we are paid on a clean hold without other charges. We get \$36 to \$37/day. Clark said that he wanted to be on record that he is supporting the resolution based on the assurance that we will not be encouraging the State to place more inmates here and that we would have them regardless.

Discussion Regarding Courthouse Security:

Michel explained that Robert Reidl was asked to attend this discussion. He asked Reidl how security was going. Reidl reported that the entrance security began in January. They have ironed out early problems. JBM has responded quickly and efficiently. They currently have the best screeners. There have been two formal complaints. There is a 4'x4'x4' box of confiscated items, mostly forks, knives, nail files, nail clippers and pocketknives. He believes everyone is happy with the screeners. Visitors are treated friendly and politely. Screeners are giving a good first impression. There is an easy access option for attorneys that come often. Attorneys carry their own pass. Clients or others accompanying the attorneys with passes must go through the regular screening. Clark asked if the contract allows for an increase in January. Reidl said it is a renewable contract that would allow about 3%. He said the overtime is reasonable and only happens if a courtroom is open late. \$85,000 is budgeted for next year if security remains under the management of the County Executive. Michel asked if the service would have to be re-bid if the screeners carried guns. Reidl said that bids were taken for with and without weapons. He said the Sheriff advised that it would probably be safer not to carry weapons. Clark asked if there was a recommendation to continue with private security. Reidl said he would not speak for the County Executive, however, the current amount proposed is for private security.

Juvenile Intake Report on Status of 2006 Budget:

Mary Beier distributed reports outlining 2006 adopted budget vs. year-end projection. The minimal expenses projected to be over are expected to be offset by expenses projected to be under. Juvenile Intake has kept within budget for several years since they have a contract for juvenile detentions. Currently they are in a 3-year contract for juvenile detentions that ends this year. They are currently negotiating with Racine for new contracts. July had one of the highest census months in years and showed using all beds. They divert cases from detention whenever possible. Supr. Booth asked if the closing of group homes has impacted the number of juvenile detentions. Beier replied no, the home that closed was under-utilized and mainly Racine was using it.

Clerk of Courts Report on Status of 2006 Budget:

Bethany Lofgren attended the meeting and distributed a report. Personnel costs are running over due primarily to accident and sickness leaves. They are working with Finance and absorbing this in other areas. Contractual expenses are uncontrollable. Clerk of Courts has the option to transfer money to cover costs and plan to do so for doctor fees. Currently attorney fees are lower and they plan to use these. Michel asked if doctor fees are contracted out. Lofgren responded that they are on a case by case basis and there is no contract. Michel asked if a contract has been looked into. Lofgren said they were contracted at one time, however, contracts were allowed to expire.

They can bring this to Corporation Counsel if requested. Michel asked if there is anything significantly off budget. Lofgren replied nothing yet. Currently revenues are up and are expected to be available to offset areas over budget. Clark asked as of what date the contractual expenses reported were through. Lofgen said the end of July.

District Attorney Report on Status of 2006 Budget:

Robert Zapf and Rebecca Matoska-Mentink attended the meeting and distributed a report. Zapf said budgeted expenses are in line with actual expenses. They do not expect to have to come back for additional revenue. Office machines and equipment is already over budget but they believe they will be able to make adjustments to cover this. Clark asked if revenues come in later in the year. Mentink reported that state reimbursements come in quarterly; IV-E revenue receipts were posted the date of this meeting; District Attorney restitution and witness fees are month to month. Benefit costs are reimbursed by the State. Clark asked if they are currently on track. Mentink replied yes, however, it continues to get harder every year. At this point no surprises are expected. Booth asked what IV-E was. Zapf explained that IV-E is federally funded grant money for TPR's (termination of parental rights).

Emergency Services Report on Status of 2006 Budget:

Ben Schliesman attended the meeting and said he had no handout but could email something tomorrow if requested. He reported that since he took over the office in 2000, he has never had a deficit. They have always put money back in. They have the smallest office. The only unknown is if a large number of sirens would be damaged. Service for the sirens has gone from annual maintenance to every 18 months. They get many grants that are usually 100% covered. Clark asked how much a siren costs. Schliesman replied that historically the largest sirens are chosen at a cost of about \$35,000 each. Several were replaced recently so they should be good for quite a while. It is recommended that people also have all hazards weather radios.

95% of their time is spent on training and preparation. Training is organized so at least one person in each building is trained. There are teams in many buildings. Clark asked if budget wise the department is doing well. Schliesman said yes. Clark expressed concerns about some companies, including cable companies, that are offering phone service that is not configured for 911. He believes this issue needs to be addressed. Dispatch center changes are being made to add cell phones for 911 service. He asked if Schliesman was aware of this. Schliesman responded that he knew of a problem with Time Warner but Time Warner said this was just a glitch and was fixed. Michel said he was unaware of this but would check into it. Clark added that possibly legislation could be enacted that it be a requirement for any company offering service to Kenosha County residents to have 911 configuration.

Clark said there was no need for an email from Schliesman regarding budget status, his report was satisfactory.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: None

Meeting Adjourned: 8:02 p.m. on motion by Clark, seconded by Booth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DeBree