

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
January 10, 2007
KCAB 2ND FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

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

Others Present: Sheriff David Beth, Chief Deputy Charles Smith, Rebecca Matoska-Mentink

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

Citizen Comments: None

Supervisor Comments: Supr. Clark asked for two things to be addressed by this Committee in the near future. First he stated that back in May he asked Administration and the County Board for an evaluation justifying why Hwy 45 & 50 was the right spot for construction of a center to house Sheriff's Patrol Division, Medical Examiner, etc. He commented that the method of operation of Administration is to get plans far enough along and to a point that the County Board can't do anything about it. There was a lot of debate & discussion regarding the jail being downtown or on Hwy H. He has concerns that this project continues to move along and doesn't believe that this Committee has addressed it. Building & Grounds is moving along. He is concerned that there has not been a fiscal impact done of the various alternatives or a presentation on the record as to why the Detention Center site or any other site cannot be used. He asked for a presentation with operating numbers for comparison between Hwy 45 & 50 and other sites, his logical option being at the Detention Center, whether they could build there or not. Clark said this decision has to be made based on long-term goals.

Secondly, Clark would like the Committee to look into video court hearings, where we do not have to transport prisoners here for some court appearances. He'd like to know if this is allowed by law, and if yes, should we be doing it. He would like to know potential cost benefits.

Supr. Haas said that he believes that when the County Center was built, John Collins, the County Executive back then, did have it in the plans for a Sheriff's Dept. sub-station. The jail was not put out there at the time because hospitals were too far away. Hospitals are now closer.

Supr. Michel said he would like to have Fred Patrie attend a meeting to see where Administration is going and what has been done. He said these are valid concerns and this Committee should be aware of developments. He said he would speak with Patrie about who should attend a meeting. As far as Clarks second comment, Michel said he would contact the judges and talk to the Sheriff.

Sheriff Beth said that there has been a Committee in place for video recording for years. There is one set of mobile equipment in the Courthouse. He believes there would be cost savings. The cost of the equipment has dropped and technology has improved. He couldn't recall specific costs. Judges, the District Attorney, and the Public Defender's Office would all have to be on board. Previously, all were not interested. His current fear would be that if the money were spent, would all the courts embrace it. There was also a Supreme Court decision they were waiting for that he believes did not have any significant impact. Racine and Walworth counties utilize this as well as State Institutions. Michel asked if KCDC has the capability of video conferencing to avoid having to transport from KCDC to Downtown for court. Sheriff said the wiring is there but he is not sure if they have the equipment. Chief Deputy Smith added that the wiring is there but no cameras. Most

inmates going through the prosecution/court process are downtown so there are not a large number of transports for this reason. Public Defenders have said that they want the contact with their clients. Michel said there could be a private phone line whereby the client and attorney could speak without being on camera or recorded. Sheriff believes their biggest savings would come from juveniles held in Racine and inmates coming back from the State to testify. Michel asked if the equipment in Racine would be compatible with our equipment and if St. Luke's has the capability. He commented that initial appearances are usually very short, maybe 5 or 10 minutes before a Court Commissioner and that sometimes it is in the best interest of patients at St. Luke's not to be handcuffed and transported. Sheriff replied that it should work wherever we go because it is a dial-up type system.

Chairman Comments: No one heard from Supr. Arrington, he was unexcused from the meeting.

Minutes Read for Approval: November 8, 2006

Motion by: Clark

Seconded by: Booth

Approved: unanimously

Resolution from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department:

1) Cabaret License – Lumpy's Sports Bar & Grill

Motion by: Haas

Seconded by: Clark

Approved: unanimously

Sheriff presented the resolution for this conversion from a probationary to a regular license. The establishment is located at 9251 Antioch Rd. in Salem and was formerly Papa Gus'. There have been very few instances with the new owners. Sheriff himself went into the business and much work was put into remodeling. The owner was on the scene. There was an older crowd. He recommended approval.

Resolution from the Clerk of Circuit Court:

1) Increased State Support to Counties for Circuit Court Operations (as amended)

Motion by: Clark

Seconded by: Booth

Approved: unanimously

Rebecca Matoska-Mentink presented the resolution. The Wisconsin Circuit Court Association made this proposal. It is a request to support the proposal to the State Biennium Budget. The greatest asset to Kenosha County would be that they want to increase the amount of reimbursement to the counties. It would also give counties who collect more money greater access to the entire pool. Supr. Booth brought Mentink's attention to the amount on page 2 of "\$18,739.600" that should be "\$18,739,600." Haas asked if there would be an increase in court costs. Mentink replied no, just an increase in the percentage coming back. Michel said that if they accept this it would still be up to the Governor to add this to the budget. Mentink agreed and said they are asking all counties to support this. She does not know of any counties not in support. Clark brought attention to the second bullet on page 2 that "fro" should be "for." Booth asked if this would have to be reviewed again after the two years. Mentink replied no because the change would then be made. Michel asked how much of the \$12.5 million projected increased funding would come to Kenosha. Mentink said she did not know yet how all reimbursements are made. She believes that Guardian ad Litem reimbursement is based on the number of judges and other collections would be based on counties that are collecting more money. They are trying to award counties with more aggressive methods.

Clark suggested that on page 3, second paragraph, be changed to "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Kenosha County fully offers its support for the budget submission, as it relates to the Circuit Court Services Support Program, of the Supreme Court for the 2007-09 biennium; and."

We do not know what the rest of the budget has in it. He would support with this amendment. Mentink went to her office while Committee members waited to correct the typographical errors and make the amendment so the resolution could be signed the night of this meeting.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 p.m. on motion by Clark, seconded by Haas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DeBree