Judiciary & Circuit Clerk & Juvenile & Probation
Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2009

1. Call to Order: By Chairman Nye at 3:05. Members present: Nye, Kenney, DeArvil, Colbert, Messer. Members absent: Gouker, Stahl. Also present: Ed Rice, Meggon McKinley, Greg Martin, Mike Dale, Marty Typer, Don Conn.

2. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve August 11, 2009 minutes by DeArvil. 2nd by Messer. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment - none

4. Consideration of Monthly Invoices:
   - Focus House – Motion by Kenney to approve bills in the amount of $225.20. 2nd by Colbert. Motion carried.
   - Probation- none for the General Fund. Current bills to be paid from Dependent Children's fund.
   - Circuit Clerk – Motion by Nye to approve bills in the amount of $2,317.40. Messer 2nd. Motion carried.
   - Judiciary – Motion by DeArvil to approve bills in the amount of $2,970.88. Kenney 2nd. Motion carried.

5. Department Reports:
   - Probation- Greg Martin updated the committee regarding the adult drug court started in August, which runs on Fridays. He noted they are doing this with no revenues from the County since they use Probation Services fees and existing staff to manage the process. Judge Kaufmann is the sitting judge. The idea behind this court is to take those with a long history of drug abuse that are committing property crimes and put higher levels of supervision on them so they can get off the drugs and stop committing crimes. They are tested more often, in court every week, and meet with Probation more often. If they don't cooperate with drug court, they will go right to prison so there is motivation to cooperate. Martin also reported that the McArthur Foundation grant covers juvenile justice and law, and that we just had a press release sent out by the Foundation regarding an agreement with our public defenders to provide services to kids to keep them out of the system. They will be using our agreement as a national model to duplicate in other counties and he thanked Ben Roe for his participation and support in this effort as well.
   - Focus House – Mike Dale provided the census report highlighting that revenues are up a little because we have 8 out of county kids now. A few of these kids won't be with us much longer, which is good for them. He reminded the committee of the Sept 20 car show & fundraiser, which is put on by the MacArthur Foundation and includes breakfast and bake sale for the kids. The breakfast starts at 7:30 am Sunday and the car show ends at 4:00 pm. Greg Martin noted he'd like to announce this at the County Board meeting. Dale reported we have laid off 7 part time employees this year in

Focus House to deal with declining revenues. Nye asks why the Board has received so many letters from employees worried about Focus House closing. Dale noted that because 7 people have been laid off, and other counties are laying off, employees are worried. Martin also noted he has talked with the staff about being careful and helping to provide cost cutting solutions to keep operating efficiently. McKinley also noted that when the Finance Committee asked for an understanding of what would happen if we cut 15% in all departments, she worked with Greg Martin to understand worst case scenarios, and asked him to identify all the expenses and negative impact of closing Focus House, should that option ever come up for discussion. Martin noted that he wanted to alert the committee and Board of the options if the financial pressures continue to worsen, and so information was pulled together for point of reference. He noted that it's difficult for people to understand that it's just discussion, not decisions, and some of this has likely fueled the employee concern. When asked about writing letters, he has encouraged them to focus not on their worry about losing their job, rather, on expressing how cuts would impact their ability to do their job. He notes that because he has been up front with the employees that this is the worst financial situation we've ever seen, and has asked them to help identify solutions to get creative and tighten our belt, it has understandably caused employee concern. Messer said he appreciates Martin's approach, but reminded the committee that we're not in the business to make money, rather, crime prevention and rehabilitation and that we cannot base our decisions on a profit making business model. We must provide these services. Dale noted they closed the girl's farm house and on weekends they are trying to get the kids home to minimize staff. Kenny notes that he continues to hear positive reports about Focus House and that the letters he has received have been respectful. The committee discussed and agreed that we can prevent many crimes by rehabilitating people. Martin notes we should be proud of creating a whole new court without any dollars from the county (drug court) for this purpose.

- Ogle County Reporting Center – none
- Circuit Clerk – Marty Typer reported he received the $10,905.64 self help grant funds, which was over the $9,500 request. This has been given to the Treasurer's office for deposit into the General Fund. The self help program has been made available through the libraries in the county, with lots of hits on the internet, so it seems to be a good product. Typer also reported that while the Circuit Clerk quit issuing passports last year, the Oregon Library has begun issuing them. The paper takes the picture, and the library makes appointments to do the passports. Typer also reported that last week had 2 cases close – the Mary Jane Reed court case is closed, although the murder case is still open for investigation. The other case was 96 years old, and when the person passed away, it went through probate and is now closed. Typer noted that some cases we take on are short lived, while others can be serviced for decades.

6. <u>New Business</u> –
   - 2010 Proposed Budget
     - Probation- McKinley noted Probation has no changes to the last budget submitted in last month's committee meeting. They have kept union wages at 0% increase (the union has agreed to this) and reduced the salary line item by

4.5% through keeping open positions unfilled and leveraging positions between Probation and Focus House where possible. They have increased detention fees up to $30,000 to help plan for this unpredictable line item. Their overall net reduction is roughly $15,000 or 2.2%. She noted this is as far as the general fund budget cuts can go unless they move into cutting positions since their budget is mostly salaries.

  - Focus House- McKinley noted Focus House has no changes to the last budget submitted in last month's committee meeting. They have reduced salaries by 3% in salaries by keeping open positions unfilled. She notes this is as far as the general fund budget cuts can go unless they move into cutting positions since their budget is mostly salaries.
  - Circuit Clerk- McKinley reported the Circuit Clerk has no changes to the last budget submitted in last month's committee meeting. The salary line item reflects the dollar amount required to honor the 2010 union contract, while Typer has reduced various non-salary line items between 3% -6%.

- Discussion – Nye and DeArvil asked how the union negotiations are going. McKinley noted that discussions have indicated they are receptive to talks and are working to identify solutions that will help close the budget gap. Rice noted we had a courtesy meeting with the FOP to tell them what we were thinking and explain what we're trying to do- these were not negotiations, rather, discussion and information sharing so they aware of what is being discussed in the committees and at the board. Rice noted we won't send a letter until the board approves or disapproves use of the solid waste funds. He also noted we've been asked to help with the Health Dept union discussions, and that we don't get involved in the Circuit Clerk negotiations. Rice noted this is a step by step process that requires trust on both sides. DeArvil commented that once this is done, he hopes we don't run away with wages again. Rice reminds the committee that all union contracts are open again next year and we need to work through what is reasonable. DeArvil says he thinks expenses are running out of control because no one thinks about it when things are good, and this approach needs to change. Kenney commented that true managers manage in the hard financial times, not just the good times.

7. Old Business – none

8. Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 3:56

Respectfully submitted,
Meggon McKinley, Ogle County Administrator