



This meeting was held via conference call per the Governor of Illinois, J.B. Pritzker's signed "Executive Order 2020-07" on March 16, 2020, Section 6, during the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation of March 9, 2020, the provisions of the open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, requiring or relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body are suspended and "Executive Order 2020-08" on March 21, 2020, all public gatherings in the State of Illinois of 10 People or more are prohibited during the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation of March 9, 2020.

The public was notified on January 11, 2021, via the Lee County website to email public requests to: countyboardrequests@countyoflee.org and the meeting was live streamed on January 13, 2021, at <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO3ZPalJgtBWmfph0rstLXA>

Public Safety, Health and Judicial Committee Meeting – Wednesday, January 14, 2021

Third Floor Boardroom, Old Lee County Courthouse – 9:00 a.m.
112 E Second St, Dixon, Illinois 61021

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chair Mike Koppien

Member Roll Call: Chair Mike Koppien, Vice Chair Marilyn Shippert, Katie White, Kean Hudson, Mike Zeman and Jack Skrogstad were present in person, no committee members attended via Zoom video conferencing.

Members Absent: None

Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees Present: John Nicholson (County Board Vice Chair), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Staci Stewart (Probation), Zack Owen (IT), Jonathan Henrickson (IT Intern) and Becky Brenner were present in person, Casey Considine (Board Member), John Simonton (Sheriff), Kevin Lalley (EMA), Shelley Dallas (ETSB-911), Jesse Partington (Coroner) and Cathy Myers (County Clerk) all attended via Zoom video conferencing.

Guests: Paul Wilson, Richard Harden, Robert Diaz, Julie Harden, Greg Bennett, James Bonnell, Terry Diaz, Gregg sneak, Gerald Bois, Bill Schauff, Terry Mattes, Dave Gerdes, Harold Lempke and Robert Powell attended the meeting in support of the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Resolution on the agenda.

Bill Schauff spoke on behalf of the guests and requested that the constitutional wording "Inalienable Right" be inserted in the second paragraph of the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Resolution. Paul Wilson also spoke on behalf of the group in regards to adding the wording "Sanctuary County" to the resolution to insure that citizen's right to bear arms was not restricted. State's Attorney Charley Boonstra explained that the individuals in the State's Attorney's Office and in law enforcement are bound by their oath to not enforce any law that is unconstitutional. He also explained that the County Board did not have the authority to direct the State's Attorney's Office or law enforcement as to what laws they could or could not legally enforce. The above information is a snapshot of the conversation that was had during the meeting. The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at [youtube.com/watch?v=Fc-831DhR21](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc-831DhR21).

Motion from Marilyn Shippert: To pass, with revisions, the Resolution: 2nd Amendment Sanctuary City to Executive Committee.

Second by Keane Hudson: Roll call vote: Chair Mike Koppien, Vice Chair Marilyn Shippert, Keane Hudson, Katie White, Mike Zeman, Jack Skrogstad.

Minutes of the December 2020 Public Safety, Health, and Judicial Committee meeting were approved without modification

Review of Claims & Reports

Motion from Jack Skrogstad: To accept and approve all claims from the Circuit Clerk, Sheriff, Coroner, State's Attorney, Probation, EMA, Public Defender, Judge Ackert, Judge Friel-Draper, Judge Klahn, and Judge Lee.

Second by Katie White: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Department Head Reports

Charley Boonstra reported that the House bill being presented to the Illinois House and Senate, if passed, would dramatically change the operation of the State's Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Public Defender's Office, Circuit Clerk's Office, the prosecutors, the Judges, and ultimately the victims in cases where they may be required to testify with 24 hours of the incident that involved them. His office did try to reach out and get amendments made, but to no avail.

Staci Stewart reported that Jane LaFever, 15 year County employee retired recently. The office is in the process of filling the vacancy. Last month Staci reported that she had an employee that was leaving to take a job in Winnebago County. That employee left and the office has identified the person that will be filling the vacancy. This person will be starting on January 19, 2021, and comes with experience in running anger management, domestic violence, and substance abuse groups.

Shelley Dallas reported that she was currently serving as the President of the Illinois National Emergency Number Association, an Association for 911 professionals across the state. She wanted the committee to know that INENA is in agreement with what was discussed earlier in the meeting. The organization is locally and publically committed to opposing what is now Senate Bill 3653.

Kevin Lalley reported that the office had been busy helping the Health Department and the hospital get vaccines out to First Responders. The office is also working on future planning for mass vaccination sites throughout the County. He explained that \$548,371 in CURES funding for Lee County had all been processed through the Comptroller's Office. The County should be in receipt of one of the reimbursement checks and another should be on its way. Keven also reported that on Christmas Eve his office was involved in the 39 car train derailment just west of Dixon.

Cathy Myers reported that she is retiring on January 31, 2021, so there will be a resolution on the County Board agenda appointing Nancy Petersen to fill the remainder of her term.

Old Business:

No items for old business.

New Business

John Simonton expressed in depth his concerns with what is now Senate Bill 3653 and warned of the consequences that will follow if the bill is passed.

Last month John Simonton briefly talked about the Taser item that is on the agenda, but no action was taken because it was not on the agenda. He reported that the office currently has 4 working Tasers. The basic package from Axon, which includes Tasers for 21 Deputies, would be roughly \$62,000. This includes training, necessary accessories, gear, cartridges for one year, and a five (5) year warranty. Costs after the initial purchase would be roughly \$4,500 a year for training and replacement equipment. John reminded the committee that he had roughly \$13,000 coming back from the CURES program on three (3) metal detectors that were purchased because he was only keeping two (2). He would also like to use a portion of the CURES reimbursement funds that he submitted for law enforcement salaries which was \$400,000.

Motion from Jack Skrogstad: To concur with the Sheriff in regards to the purchase of the Tasers and recommend to Finance.

Second by Marilyn Shippert: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

John Simonton explained that Whiteside County had requested the use of the lobby area and two offices on the first floor of the Old LEC building to operate the Safe Passage Program for two (2) days a week. The Safe Passage Program assists the prison system in following up with substance abuse patients. After formal therapy, the Whiteside County Health Department follows up with them through counseling services and medication assistance treatment programs. Any maintenance cost associated with the program would be defrayed by funding through the Anti-Crime Task Force and Project Open. Charley Boonstra suggested providing Whiteside County with a written notice that they may have to vacate if the grant comes through to demolish the Old LEC and a waiver of liability.

Motion from Marilyn Shippert: To approve the Sheriff and State's Attorney moving forward to pursue the option of Whiteside County using space in the Old LEC.

Second by Keane Hudson: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

John Simonton walked the committee through the staffing challenges in the Sheriff's Office especially pertaining to overworked personnel and overtime. He is asking the committee to consider a formal staffing study to address these issues.

Motion from Marilyn Shippert: To recommend to Finance that a formal staffing study be done in the Sheriff's Office as a show support from the Public Safety Committee.

Second by Jack Skrogstad: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion to adjourn by Keane Hudson:

Second by Jack Skrogstad: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Becky Brenner – Lee County Board Secretary

The next scheduled meeting for the Public Safety Committee will be 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, February 10, 2021