

**LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 17, 2010**

The Law and Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, May 17, 2010 @ 6:30p.m. in the DeKalb County Legislative Center's Conference Room East. Chairman Marlene Allen called the meeting to order. Those present were Riley Oncken, Michael Stuckert, Anita Turner and Derek Tyson. Kevin Chambliss was absent. A quorum was present. Others present were Judge Kurt Klein, Maureen Josh, Julian Magdaleno, Margi Gilmour and Regina Harris.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Mr. Stuckert, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from April 2010.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Allen noted that she would amend the agenda to remove item #6 the Sheriff's Annual Report since the Sheriff could not make the meeting tonight.

Moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Mr. Tyson, and it was carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda

JUDICIAL UPDATE : JUDGE KURT KLEIN

Judge Klein updated the committee about the Ad Hoc Courthouse Oversight Committee. He said that the committee met recently and voted to expand towards the north end of the existing courthouse. There is a difference of 40% or \$5 million less between the original suggestion of expanding with two wings versus expanding from the North end.

Judge Klein said that now the committee will move on to help with the design of the interior space, which will be more substantial then it is now. The architect has been charged with coming up with the rendering that's of the same quality as the rendering that we had for the wings.

Judge Klein said that there will be a sixth judge assigned to the Court this December. This new judge will not be able to sit here in DeKalb until we get the 6th courtroom online. That won't happen until the new addition to the courthouse is complete, which would be in about two years.

Mr. Oncken asked Judge Klein when the ground breaking would begin?

Judge Klein said he thought that it would be in the Spring of 2011.

CIRCUIT CLERK'S UPDATE: MAUREEN JOSH

Ms. Josh, the DeKalb County Circuit Clerk, said that her department has spent a lot of money to get their money, that is, they send out a lot of notices, a lot more court time and a lot more money to collect their fines and costs that are due, which helps to run the court system. A couple of years ago they started a compliance program that has been moderate. They now have hired a collection agency which many other counties have done. They hired a firm called Harris and Harris. Two of her staff members dedicate a lot of time to this project. They started at the end of February 2010 and to date they have collected \$19,000 over 2 month's time. Harris and Harris charges a fee that they receive from the individual and then her office also receives their money. She said that this money helps to fund the drug court, the court security, document storage fund, court services, law library, etc.

Ms. Josh explained that her department is working with the IMO staff to help develop a safe and secure method for people to see their cases online. Her scanning program is also progressing greatly.

The committee thanked Judge Klein and Ms. Josh for their updates.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S REPORT

Ms. Regina Harris, the DeKalb County Public Defender, presented her monthly report. She said that her office is very busy even though the closing numbers show that the caseload in April went down slightly. She said that the caseload is continuing to be the same issue, that is, the nature of the caseload is changing. They are more violent crimes and more sex crimes. As DeKalb County's population increases the demographics have changed.

COURT SERVICES REPORTS – MS. MARGI GILMOUR

Ms. Gilmour, Director of the DeKalb County Court Services Department, reported that the Adult Report has been busy and that 15 new cases were added in April with 10 people successfully discharged. The CRS hours show that they have been busy there too, with 8400 CRS hours ordered and a little over 4,000 hours completed.

Her Juvenile Report shows that they had 10 detention admissions in April and some were gang related incidents. There were 6 kids for the first time, 2 for the second time, 1 for the fifth time and 1 for the sixth time.

They still have the three people in residential placement. Their placement budget is going up and that hopefully, one of the juveniles will be stepping down to the Onarga transitional living facility.

Ms. Gilmour thanked Ms. Josh and her staff for all of their hard work for the Open House for the new Safe House. She said that they have placed the

first child in the Safe House and it is a female. Another young lady may be brought in the Safe House very soon.

She also mentioned that there is an opening in her office for an adult probation officer since the current officer is retiring.

JAIL REPORT

Chairman Allen briefly covered the Jail Report and said that there were 127 inmates for the month of April 2010, which was a little higher than last month.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Ms. Turner, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Allen, Chairman

MA:mcs

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