

**LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 22, 2010**

The Law and Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, February 22, 2010 @ 6:30p.m. in the DeKalb County Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Marlene Allen called the meeting to order. Those present were Kevin Chambliss, Riley Oncken, Michael Stuckert, Anita Turner and Derek Tyson. Mr. Ray Bockman, County Administrator and Ms. Margi Gilmour were also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Ms. Turner, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from December 2009.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

COURTHOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Ray Bockman, County Administrator, briefly reviewed for the committee what the Courthouse Oversight Committee has been doing. He said that they have been selecting a Construction Management Firm who is Gilbane Building Company. They were selected out of 29 qualified applicants.

The Architectural selection is now completed. PSA Dewberry contract discussions are underway. Once the scope of work is determined the design process will begin.

Mr. Bockman said that the landfill application was filed on November 30, 2009.

The Bond counsel did authorize the single authorization resolution, which ultimately, you will have before you a bond resolution authorizing \$45 million in bonds with \$32 million being allocated to the jail project and \$13 million to the courthouse project. We are still only going to issue \$15-\$16 million in the first round since that is really all the cash flow that we have to cover it at this point. He continued by stating that whatever is left will be sold, if revenue is available, to back it up either from host fee revenues or place it on the ballot.

Mr. Bockman said that in February 2010 we began the process, in March 2010 we will hold the public hearings and in April there will be the resolution authorizing for the bonds. We will then be in line to issue May 1, 2010 at

historically low rates. He said that the committee is excited about getting this done as quickly as possible. He continued by saying that the County Board would then have the cash on hand to not only do the courthouse projects, but also have enough cash to begin the planning of the jail project.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S REPORT

Ms. Regina Harris, the DeKalb County Public Defender, was not present, she did however send a note to the committee for Chairman Allen to read.

Ms. Harris said in her note that for January and February 2010 they are on track with the same numbers as last year – just below 400 each month on the new appointments.

They have been appointed on two shooting cases and a stabbing case just in the last three weeks.

Drug Court continues to be a popular option for clients to apply to. She said that they are having their next graduation in May, and the members of the County Board will be invited. She thinks that they will have four or five people graduating.

COURT SERVICES REPORTS – MS. MARGI GILMOUR

Ms. Gilmour, Director of the DeKalb County Court Services Department, said that with regards to the Adult Report - her department is maintaining their caseload. The CRS hours continue to see growth.

Ms. Gilmour then reported that under the Juvenile Court Services Report there were 3 detentions for the month of December with 1 being for the first time, 1 for the 2nd time and 1 for the 5th time. She explained to the committee that all three placements are at Onarga. The IGA report on Detention Expenditures shows that the numbers are down in 2009 compared to 2008.

Ms. Gilmour also said that her department has met with a couple for the the Safehouse and that couple has been selected. They are Ben and Emily James. He is a pharmacist and she is a stay at home mom. Mr. Gilmour hopes that that Open House for the new Safehouse will be in April 2010.

JAIL REPORT

Chairman Allen briefly covered the Jail Report for December 2009 and January 2010. She said that there were 129 inmates housed in the Jail for the month of January 2010 with 116 in December 2009. She said that in November 2009 there were 128 inmates housed in the Jail.

She said that their detention expenditures for fiscal year '09 were down compared to '08. They budgeted \$125,000 and spent just a little over \$54,000.

Ms. Turner asked why is that?

Mr. Gilmour said that they changed their philosophy about detaining juveniles. They found that some of the things that they were doing were not working and they found other ways of working with the kids that are more effective, she feels.

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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