

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

11:00 AM

Conference Room C, 10th Floor

Law and Judicial Committee

1. Call to Order

Chair Nixon called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Others present:

Bob Sabonjian, County Board Member

Mike Waller, State's Attorney

Gary Reis, Purchasing

Amy McEwan, County Administrator

Linda Wisch, County Board Office

Present 5 - Chair Nixon, Member Cunningham, Member Newton, Member Carey and Member Feldman

Absent 2 - Member Calabresa and Vice Chair Gravenhorst

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nixon led the pledge.

3. Approval of Minutes**3.1 [09-1313](#)**

Minutes of February 3, 2009.

A motion was made by Member Cunningham, seconded by Member Newton, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Nixon, Member Cunningham, Member Newton, Member Carey and Member Feldman

4. Public Comment

County Board Member Bob Sabonjian spoke to the Committee about assaults and victim issues and penalties for offenders. Member Sabonjian asked the committee to look at these issues with the intent of sending them to our legislators to be included for the next cycle of legislative items. Discussion followed. Member Newton felt that this is not our issue - sentencing and orders need to come from the judicial branch. This is a justice team issue. We cannot dictate to the bench on sentencing. Member Sabonjian asked for this to be sent to our legislators. Member Newton recommended that we send this to our judiciary. Member Carey asked if this would be a common path. Her initial response is that it might be good to do some research on this issue. This has been raised in a couple of public meetings. State's Attorney Mike Waller advised that there are no sentencing guidelines in the State of Illinois. This is within the judge's discretion. Mr. Waller noted that Lake County has the highest average sentence in the state on those types of cases. What is lost in the shuffle is that these are very complicated cases. Mr. Waller suggested that he have staff who have been involved in these types of cases come and speak to the committee. Member Sabonjian mentioned a lack of sentencing guidelines and suggested that we should look into whether or not we want that. Pat Carey stated that airing this issue to the public might not be a bad thing. Mr. Waller will have his staff present information to the committee. Mr. Waller spoke about the work that goes into these cases. Member Newton suggested that the presentation be made to the County Board. Mr. Waller advised that they are in the process of forming a countywide

coalition - Lake County Sexual Assault Coordinating Committee. He will come to the committee in late March to present information on this coalition and an accompanying resolution. Ms. McEwan noted that when we do legislative actions, it is a enormous amount of work. There is year's worth of work before we are ready to submit legislative items. Ms. McEwan asked for direction from the committee on whether the committee wanted State's Attorney's staff to present to County Board. Chair Nixon asked for consensus for a presentation by the State's Attorney's Sexual Assault Committee to the Law and Judicial Committee and then to County Board. There was consensus.

5. Added to Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

6. Old Business

None.

7. New Business

None.

CIRCUIT CLERK

7.1 [09-1263](#)

Report of Sally Coffelt, Circuit Clerk for the month of January 2009.

A motion was made that this communication or report be received and placed on the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

CORONER

7.2 [09-1249](#)

Report of Richard L. Keller, Coroner, for the month of December, 2008.

A motion was made that this communication or report be received and placed on the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

7.3 [09-1245](#)

Report of Joy Gossman, Public Defender, for the month of January 2009.

A motion was made that this communication or report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

7.4 [09-1277](#)

Joint resolution authorizing the purchasing agent to enter into a contract with Automated Logic-Chicago, Lisle, IL for the installation of a Building Automation Control System, in the amount of \$77,203.

Presented by Sr. Assistant County Administrator Amy McEwan.

A motion was made by Member Cunningham, seconded by Member Carey, that this resolution be approved and referred on to Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Nixon, Member Cunningham, Member Newton, Member Carey and Member Feldman

SHERIFF

7.5 [09-1239](#)

Report of Mark C. Curran, Jr., Sheriff, for the month of January 2009.

Member Feldman asked Sr. Assistant County Administrator Amy McEwan to check of the amount reported as "Transferred to County of Lake" - she wondered why the total receipts were not transferred. Ms. McEwan will check with the Sheriff's Department.

A motion was made that this communication or report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

7.6 [09-1246](#)

Report of Mark C. Curran, Jr., Sheriff, for the month of December 2009.

A motion was made that this communication or report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

STATE'S ATTORNEY

7.7 [09-1270](#)

Joint resolution authorizing the continuation of the State's Attorney's Violent Crime Victims Assistance grant program (VCVA) awarded by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General for SFY2010, for the time period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Presented by State's Attorney Mike Waller.

A motion was made by Member Newton, seconded by Member Cunningham, that this resolution be approved and referred on to Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Nixon, Member Cunningham, Member Newton, Member Carey and Member Feldman

7.8 [09-1271](#)

Joint resolution authorizing the renewal of the State's Attorney's Juvenile Court Services program grant, agreement #507002, with \$24,334 in federal funds, from February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010.

Presented by State's Attorney Mike Waller.

A motion was made by Member Cunningham, seconded by Member Carey, that this resolution be approved and referred on to Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Nixon, Member Cunningham, Member Newton, Member Carey and Member Feldman

7.9 [09-1272](#)

Joint resolution supporting and authorizing a grant application to, and potential award from, the US Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), for a Gang Prevention Coordination Services grant in an amount up to \$200,000, with no matching funds required.

Presented by State's Attorney Mike Waller. Chair Nixon reported on a gang awareness workshop that was recently presented by Chief of Police of North Chicago. Chair Nixon stated that it was a great presentation and made you aware that most parents don't realize how young kids are when they hook up with gangs. This presentation will go to schools and churches to try to prevent this type of activity. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Member Newton, seconded by Member Cunningham, that this resolution be approved and referred on to Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Nixon, Member Cunningham, Member Newton, Member Carey and Member Feldman

8. Executive Session

9. County Administrator's Report

Mr. Waller reported there there are outstanding efforts going on throughout the county and suggested that the State's Attorney's office make monthly presentations from various groups to the committee. He suggested 10 minute presentations to the committee and then the committee could decided what should be presented to the County Board. We will be here with the team to present information on on the countywide coalition. Member Newton stated the the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee had set up special meetings with the various departments to report on their programs. This seemed to be more time prudent. Chair Nixon asked that a tour of the Advocacy Center be arranged.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Newton, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Nixon, Member Cunningham, Member Newton, Member Carey and Member Feldman

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Law and Judicial Committee