

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

11:00 AM

Conference Room C, 10th Floor

Law and Judicial Committee

1. Call to Order

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

Present 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

Others present:

Amy McEwan, Sr. Asst. County Administrator

Mike Waller, State's Attorney

Debbie Gonzalez, The House That Grace Built

Gail Yarborough, Lake County Jail

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Linda Wisch, County Board Office

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair led the pledge.

3. Approval of Minutes**3.1 [10-0173](#)**

Minutes of January 26, 2010.

A motion was made by Member Feldman, seconded by Member Lawlor, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Added to Agenda

None.

6. Old Business

None.

7. New Business**7.1 Presentation by Debbie Gonzalez - The House That Grace Built**

Presentation by Debbie Gonzalez on The House That Grace Built which provides transitional living for women coming out of incarceration. Ms. Gonzalez presented a short DVD on the program. Ms. Gonzalez noted that over 1,000 ladies are released back into our communities each year and 90% are single moms; 59% have no high school diploma; 47% are homeless and 20% had minimum wage jobs prior to incarceration. Ms. Gonzalez reported that this is a faith based program which offers these women a second chance. The House That Grace Built is totally funded by private donations. Ms. Gonzalez then took questions from the committee.

Member Calabresa asked that Ms. Yarborough come back to present the Angola Prison information. Chair Nixon spoke about her experience at Angola Prison in Louisiana. The

Committee asked Ms. McEwan to try to get a copy of the video to view at a future meeting.

CIRCUIT CLERK

7.2 [10-0180](#)

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

A motion was made by Member Gravenhorst, seconded by Member Feldman, that this item be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

7.3 [10-0181](#)

Report of Sally Coffelt, Circuit Clerk, for the month of January 2010.

A motion was made by Member Feldman, seconded by Member Gravenhorst, that this item be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

CORONER

7.4 [10-0200](#)

Report of Richard L. Keller, Coroner, for the month of January 2010.

Member Lawlor requested information on the number of suicides that were included in the Coroner's report.

A motion was made by Member Lawlor, seconded by Member Cunningham, that this item be recommended for adoption to the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

PUBLIC DEFENDER

7.5 [10-0172](#)

Report of Joy Gossman, Public Defender, for the month of January, 2010.

A motion was made by Member Cunningham, seconded by Member Carey, that this item be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

SHERIFF

7.6 [10-0160](#)

Report of Mark C. Curran Jr., Sheriff, for the month of January 2010.

A motion was made by Member Gravenhorst, seconded by Member Lawlor, that this item be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the

following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

STATE'S ATTORNEY**7.7 10-0182**

Joint resolution seeking approval for an award from the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act JAG Grant, a federal ARRA grant administered through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, for a total of \$268,283 awarded for performance period of 36 months.

Presented by State's Attorney Mike Waller. Mr. Waller noted that this grant provides funding for another victim witness counselor. Member Carey asked what happens if the grant funding is not renewed in future years. Amy McEwan explained that it is Lake County policy to eliminate grant funded positions if grant funding is eliminated. Mike Waller affirmed that the position would be eliminated if the grant money went away. Mr. Waller then took questions from the committee.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

7.8 10-0217

Joint resolution authorizing the continuation of the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor Program for the 2010 calendar year.

Presented by State's Attorney Mike Waller.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

8. Executive Session**8.1 Review of Executive Session Minutes**

Sr. Assistant County Administrator Amy McEwan reviewed the Executive Session minutes which the State's Attorney proposed to remain closed. Member Feldman requested further information on why they needed to remain closed. Ms. McEwan will check with the State's Attorney and bring back next month.

8.1a 10-0218

Committee action regarding semi-annual review of closed session minutes.

A motion was made by Member Feldman, seconded by Member Carey, that this item be postponed. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

9. County Administrator's Report

Ms. McEwan advised that the NACO legislative conference is scheduled March 6 through 10, so there will be no meetings that week. Chair Schmidt will be going to Washington, DC to present the legislative agenda on March 10 and one of the items being presented is the Integrated Justice Project. A video containing an update on the public safety goal will be presented at the COW meeting this Friday. We will be presenting the State Legislature with our request for probation funding. Member Lawlor expressed concern about the lack of education of our legislators on this subject and suggested that another letter might be in order. Member Feldman agreed and felt that they don't understand the process and how this program started out. Ms. McEwan went over what has been provided to the legislators on this program and noted that there has been a disparity in what the State has paid to the County for many years. Member Lawlor requested that Ms. McEwan send an email to committee members highlighting what has been done on this program.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Lawlor, seconded by Member Cunningham, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Member Calabresa, Member Cunningham, Vice Chair Gravenhorst, Member Carey, Member Feldman and Member Lawlor

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Law and Judicial Committee