

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Law Enforcement & Courts
CHAIRPERSON: Don Zillig, Chairman
DATE/TIME: July 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Jo Daviess County – 3rd floor County Board Room

PRESENT – Law Enforcement & Courts:

☒ Don Zillig	☒ Dianne Allendorf	☒ Lynn Gallagher
☒ John Grizzoffi	☒ Tina Brandel	☐ Darcy Wild
☒ LaDon Trost		

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None.

Others: Kevin Turner, Kathy Phillips, Jamie Watson and Scott Toot.

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes from May 15, 2023 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting – **John Grizzoffi made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2023 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting. Seconded by Lynn Gallagher and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.**

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

At this time Chairman Zillig moved to Staff Reports.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) Update on Courthouse Renovation Project Status – Scott Toot commented that the deadline for the architects to get something to the Zoning Board of Appeals was this afternoon. It is a dual process because the City says we have to have it rezoned. We have to go back in front of the Historical Preservation Commission with some revised drawings. We just have to work through the process and see how it pans out.

4. New Business

- a) Review of 2021 County Board Strategic Goals – Don Zillig bypassed the 2021 strategic goals because they are done.
- b) Discussion and possible action on 2023 County Board Strategic Goals – Don Zillig commented that he thought we had a very good Board Retreat. Security at all County facilities should be high priority. We are still in the running for appropriations through Congressman LaHood's office that would pay for all law enforcement Starcom radios in the County. Hopefully we hear something by the end of the month. The EMS goal to increase volunteers is going to be very difficult to achieve. We need to get legislation passed that makes EMS an essential service. Tina Brandel added that this is not just solely an EMS problem. Fire and police are also having a difficult time finding volunteers. Scott Toot reiterated all that the County Board has done to help EMS. LaDon Trost feels we need to get this 1% tax increase passed in the legislature. Trost will have additional conversation with Mr. Chesney and Ms. McCombie to see if we can't get something going for this next session.
- c) Discussion and possible action on the Jo Daviess County Sheriff Towing List Application Memorandum of Understanding - Sheriff Turner commented that we have not had a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with any tow agencies in the past. We have had a couple of tow agencies that would want to charge the County storage for vehicles. This policy spells out state statute that a tow agency cannot charge a police department for

storage for vehicles. This is the exact same policy that the State Police has and have given to Sheriff Turner to use as a template. Sheriff would like to get approval to send this out to all of the tow agencies that we use in the County so that there is no misunderstanding about what could be charged to the County. **John Grizzoffi made a motion to approve the Jo Daviess County Sheriff Towing List Application Memorandum of Understanding. Seconded by Tina Brandel and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.**

5. Staff Reports

- a) **Sheriff's Report** – Kevin Turner, Sheriff, reported that it has been business as usual. We had the fire in Elizabeth that we assisted and we have had a couple bad crashes. Earlier in the month he put out a press release about the UTV traffic on the roadway to remind the public that unless it is vehicle husbandry or ag use or you are in a municipality that allows UTV traffic on the road it is still unlawful at this time. He got a lot of backlash putting that press release out, but it is just a reminder to the public that it is still illegal.
- b) **Circuit Clerk's Office** – Kathy Phillips, Clerk of the Circuit Court, reported that tomorrow we should get the answer from the Supreme Court about Pre-Trial Fairness which will determine if we will have weekend court. The office is very short staffed; one is out for maternity leave and one that retired. Phillips hopes to hire within the next month but we will see how that goes. She will post the position when the young lady who is out on maternity leave returns. There is no way she can train a new employee right now with only four people in the office.
- c) **Probation Report** – Jamie Watson, Chief County Probation Officer, reported that he is working on the annual plan report for the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts which is due at the end of August. He is also working on updating their Administrative Sanctions Program which is where they can sanction an individual who violates their parole within the constraints of the Probation office; they can require them to report more often or get counseling for example. The program is outdated and they are trying to get it updated as much as possible. Watson recently met with the Chief Judge of the 15th Circuit who has recently input a new code of conduct policy for our officers. Watson will be giving them that this week to make sure they are aware of the changes. Angela Ziegler is spearheading getting the alcohol diversion program in house.
- d) **Report** – Mike Simmons, Emergency Management Coordinator, reported that he is working on LCAT and IPP paperwork. He has turned in his fourth quarter EMPG grant for refundables. Simmons did a couple of fire extinguisher classes for the County and one for the Highway Department as a part of our safety training. We are still looking into some cameras for the fourth storage shed so that we don't have anything stolen again. There have been Starcom drills and attending meetings for LEPC, MABAS, Ambulance Committee and the Chief's Committee. Sheriff Turner added that there was a fire in Elizabeth at an apartment complex and Mike did a great job. He needs to be recognized for that. He was called out early in the morning and stayed late in the day. Simmons added that the last time he spoke to the manager of the facility they had six of the residents back in the building again. They demoed the rest of the building and hopefully they are going to rebuild and get the rest of the residents back in. Everyone worked well together and the Red Cross were fabulous to work with.
- e) **Public Defender Reports** – There were no Public Defender Reports turned in this month.

6. Citizen's Comments – None.

7. Board Member Concerns – None.

The next Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting will be Monday, August 21st, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Jo Daviess County Courthouse, County Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m. following a motion by Tina Brandel and a second by Dianne Allendorf. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.