



# Kane County

## KC Judicial/Public Safety Committee

Government Center  
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A  
Geneva, IL 60134

### Meeting Minutes

MOLINA, Lenert, Gripe, Gumz, Linder, Tepe, Williams, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair)  
and Pierog (County Chair)

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**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**County Board Room**

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**1. Call To Order**

Chairman Molina called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**2. Roll Call**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Board Member Myrna Molina Board Member Bill Lenert Board Member Jon Gripe Board Member Michael Linder Board Member Vern Tepe Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
<b>REMOTE</b>	Board Member Michelle Gumz Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog
<b>ABSENT</b>	Board Member Rick Williams

Also present: Co. Bd. Members Allan\*, Bates, Juby\*, Kious\*, Penesis\*; KaneComm Dir. Guthrie; OEM Dir. Buziecki; KCSO staff Catich, Schwab; Coroner Silva; Court Admin. O'Brien, Mathis; State's Attorney Mosser & staff Ford, Ortiz, Hunt\*; Public Defender Conant; Court Srvs. Exec. Dir. Aust; CIC Chief Deputy Clk. Herwick; ITD CIO Lasky\* & staff Kash Peters; KCAC Admin. Youngsteadt\*; and members of the press and public.

**3. Remote Attendance Requests**

(Madam Chairman Pierog arrived remotely at 9:01 a.m.)

Chairman Molina announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. She asked the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Member Gumz attending today's meeting remotely. There were no objections.

**4. Approval of Minutes: April 10, 2025**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Lenert

**5. Public Comment**

None.

**6. Monthly Financial Reports****A. Monthly Finance Reports**

Chairman Molina stated the monthly financial reports were on file. No additional report was made.

**7. Merit Commission**

None.

**8. KaneComm (M. Guthrie)****A. Monthly Report**

KaneComm Dir. Guthrie stated the monthly report was on file. She thanked the Kane County Board and KaneComm agencies for celebrating Telecommunication Week, which recognized the hard work of KaneComm staff. She recognized Telecommunicator Emily Reece on her 11 years of service with KaneComm. Guthrie stated that KaneComm has hired a new shift manager in April 2025. Jennifer Barnett joins KaneComm with 11 years of 9-1-1 experience. Guthrie provided a presentation on Funding 9-1-1 Services in Illinois. She explained that in 2017, the monthly surcharge was increased from \$0.87 to \$1.50. The surcharge is one of KaneComm's main sources of revenue, in addition to subscriber fees. Since the surcharge has not increased since 2017, 9-1-1 representatives traveled to Springfield, Illinois to meet with legislators to advocate for a surcharge increase of one dollar, totaling \$2.50 with an annual inflationary adjustment. This increase would help with the growing demands of technology, compensation for telecommunicators, and mandated trainings. Guthrie stated that the surcharge would be an additional dollar charge to cell phone bills. She explained if this increased revenue is not received, then the burden will fall on subscribing police and fire agencies. Currently, there is not a written bill, but updates will be provided. Lastly, Guthrie stated that KaneComm participated in Pingree Grove Fire Protection District's Awards Dinner. At the dinner, Telecommunicator Kezia Moore was recognized for her life saving CPR call that she took in August 2024. Moore was able to meet with the patient and the patient's husband who preformed CPR. Guthrie addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

**9. Emergency Management(S. Buziecki)****A. Monthly Report**

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated the monthly report was on file. He mentioned that Kane County and surrounding areas are anticipating severe weather this afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and tomorrow, May 16, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. He explained that he sent an email out last night regarding a fire in Elgin. The fire occurred in the morning hours of May 14, 2025, where 18 apartment units were affected. The Kane County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinated with the Elgin Fire Department, Elgin Police Department, and the Illinois Red Cross to offer shelter for those misplaced.

Buziecki explained that OEM is planning to create a Disaster Recovery Committee, in response to a National Initiative. He noted that it would be a public/private partnership. He explained that this Committee would speak on the aftermath of disasters/storms. He stated that a chairman is needed. He explained that the chairman of the committee does not need to be a subject matter expert, just an organizer. He stated that he has met with numerous groups, such as United Way, churches, and Chambers of Commerce. They have all shown interest in this initiative and plan to have a meeting in the summer. Buziecki mentioned that OEM has been redoing the County's Emergency Operations Plan. He explained that the plan is due to the State of Illinois in March 2026. He brought the original version of the Emergency Operations Plan, which represented approximately 20 years of edits. He explained that OEM has enlisted 11 volunteers to work on the revision. Lastly, Buziecki explained that OEM has been following the Federal Government's budget, specifically the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. He stated that the Federal Government has changed the Public Assistance Program. He explained that when there is cost associated with a disaster, some funding can be reimbursed, if it meets a certain threshold. The previous threshold was \$24M for the State of Illinois and \$2.3M for Kane County. If this threshold was met, the County could submit their costs for a 75% reimbursement. Now, the threshold has increased to \$96M for the State and \$9.2M. This means that federal help will not be available for the majority of disasters. Buziecki addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

**10. Sheriff/Adult Corrections (R. Hain)**

**A. Monthly Report**

KCSO Chief of Admin. Catich stated the monthly report was on file. He mentioned that the Correction population are averaging the same as last month. He explained that the Kane County Adult Justice Center (KCAJC) and the Kane County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) are facing challenges with the HVAC Upgrade Project. Currently, installation is being added to the outside walls with spray foam installation. Catich spoke on KCSO's concern with the potential of off-gasing from the spray foam. However, it does not seem to be affecting operations, staff, or inmates. He mentioned that when replacing the air conditioning units, the KCAJC and/or KCSO may face some additional challenges. Catich addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

**B. Authorizing an Electronic Monitoring Service Agreement Between the Kane County Sheriff's Office and Sentinel Offender Services, LLC**

KCSO Sergeant Schwab introduced this resolution. He explained that when he took over the Court Operations Unit in February 2024, the current Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) provider was in place. However, after conversations with staff, they are not a fan of this system. Schwab spoke on the shortcomings of the system, such as software, ease of use, and late or non-existent alerts. He stated that he has researched other EHM providers and was able to test the

winning bid's system, Sentinel Offender Services, LLC, for a two week time frame, in which great improvements were had. He described these improvements. He described the additional features the new system would provide, such as the ability to send voice alerts to the EHM ankle monitor and GPS tracking. This new system will reduce the manpower hours spent on issues and problems faced with the current system. Schwab addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

KC Executive Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Executive Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jon Gripe
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Lenert
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, and Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Rick Williams

- C. Authorizing the Purchase of a SPOT Robot System from FlyMotion, LLC by the Kane County Sheriff's Office

KCSO Chief of Admin. Catich introduced this resolution. He provided additional information on the necessity of the SPOT Robot System for public safety. He mentioned that the current bomb detecting robot that is used by the Kane County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) is 27 years old. He described the capabilities of the new technology. Catich addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

KC Executive Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Executive Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jon Gripe
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Linder
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, and Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Rick Williams

**11. Coroner (M. Silva)****A. Monthly Report**

Coroner Silva stated the monthly report was on file. She provided a caseload comparison between April 2024 versus April 2025. There has been a 14% rise in the overall caseload, mainly in Return to Medical cases. Silva noted that these cases are where the Coroner's Office saves the most money, due to thorough investigations without toxicology and/or autopsies. Silva spoke on April 2025 Reported Deaths. There is 309 total cases that have been reported to the Coroner's Office. There was 272 cases that were Return to Medical - No autopsy and 18 Sign Out - Unnatural - Autopsy Necessary cases. Silva spoke on Sign Out Cases, where no physician was available to sign off on the case and the death was related to a medical condition. There were 19 total cases: 11 cases required autopsies and eight did not. Silva spoke on the cost savings of Sign Out Cases. A total of \$13,600 was saved from medical chart reviews on eight cases. A total of \$1,856 was saved by not processing toxicology. Silva spoke on Sign Out - Unnatural Deaths. There was a total of 18 cases: one homicide, four suicides, including two veterans, six suspected overdoses, and seven categorized as other accident, such as falling or choking. Silva reviewed the cost savings of the Sign-Out Unnatural Cases. She provided a graph depicting the Deputy Caseload for April 2025. She noted that Deputy Hayden, who works the midnight shift, has had the highest caseload for approximately three months. She mentioned that the Coroner's Office continues to look for ways to reduce the budget and save money. She explained that she is considering the statutory responsibilities to see where money can be saved. Silva thanked Committee Ex-Officio Roth and Member Gumz for coming to some of the Office's scenes and enduring difficult cases. She stressed the fact that the Coroner's Office is a skeleton crew and how overworked the office is. Silva spoke on the reaccreditation process. She mentioned that the Coroner's Office still wants to be able to provide the necessary information that families need and being the best Coroner's Office in Illinois. She explained that the County Board approved an Overdose Fatality Review position. Due to this, Silva and her office have been working with the Kane County Health Department (KCHD) to enact policies and provide data to help with prevention. Finally, Silva explained that the Coroner's Office had issues with their air conditioning unit in the autopsy room. She brought attention to the Building Management Department (BLD). She explained that BLD staff was monitoring temperature conditions for all County buildings. Before Silva could call on the air conditioning issue, BLD staff called her to report the issue. She foresees this being a future issue that the County will need to address. Silva welcomed everyone to tour the Coroner's Office. She mentioned that she would like to tour other departments/offices in order for everyone to better utilize County resources, which in turn could help the budget.

**12. Judiciary & Courts (Villa/O'Brien)**

Court Admin. O'Brien thanked the Building Management Department (BLD) for completing the Chiller Project on time. She stated that May 1, 2025 was the nationally recognized, Law Day. Kane County celebrated Law Day with several events, such as a luncheon and an essay contest. The essay contest was for Kane County high school junior and senior students. The Kane County BAR Association provided cash awards for the individual winners. The essay contest had winners from the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA), Kaneland High School, and St. Edwards Central Catholic High School. O'Brien mentioned that Chief Judge Villa, Judge David, Judge Di Giovanni, Judge Tegeler, Kane County BAR Foundation representatives went to each school and presented the awards to the winners. She hopes that the Kane County Judiciary continues to celebrate Law Day and expand it every year.

Deputy Court Admin. Mathis mentioned that an email had been sent out pertaining to the Kane Courts Quarterly. This is an online newsletter about the Judiciary. He acknowledged Kane County's Law Librarian, Ellen Schmid, and Judiciary and Courts Administrative Assistant, Alana Policastro for their work on the quarterly newsletter. He explained that Chief Judge Villa wanted to develop a platform, in which the Judiciary could share information. Mathis spoke on the Disability Accessibility Improvement Grant. He explained that the County has received the money and the signed vendor is ready to move forward with bringing all County buildings up to code with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signage.

**A. Authorizing the 2025 AOIC Modernization Funding Allocation**

Deputy Court Admin. Mathis introduced this resolution. He provided additional information.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Vern Tepe
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michelle Gumz
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, and Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Rick Williams

**13. State's Attorney (J. Mosser)****A. Monthly Report**

State's Attorney Mosser stated the monthly report was on file. No additional report was made.

**B. Authorizing Transfer of Appropriations and Budget Adjustment for Payroll Coordinator Position in the Kane County State's Attorney's Office**

SAO CFO Hunt introduced this resolution. Hunt addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Vern Tepe
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Lenert
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, and Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Rick Williams

**C. Authorizing Acceptance of Justice Assistance Grant and Budget Adjustments Relating to Grants for the Kane County State's Attorney's Office**

SAO CFO Hunt introduced this resolution. He provided additional information on the newly awarded Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for violence prevention.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Lenert
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jon Gripe
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, and Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Rick Williams

**D. Authorizing Amended Contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for Electronic Discovery Programs for the Kane County State's Attorney's Office**

SAO Dir. of Operations Ortiz stated that an amendment would need to be made to this resolution regarding a new contract that was received, which had the incorrect end date listed. He explained that this resolution is requesting an increase in the current AXON Enterprises, Inc. contract. He noted that this 10-year contract was approved by the County Board in 2021. Since the approval of the contract AXON has developed new features that would help attorneys work through cases at a faster rate. Ortiz described the new features that AXON has developed, such as cell phone extraction, language transcription, and artificial intelligence. He stated that the current contract is \$2.4M and the new

one is \$2.7M. The new contract has an end date listed as December 2031, with an annual increase of \$36,074.

Committee Member Molina motioned to amend this resolution. The eighth WHEREAS clause should be amended to state, "WHEREAS, the amended cost proposal is \$2,687,675.40 (Two Million Six Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars and Forty Cents)". Committee Member Tepe seconded the amendment. Discussion ensued. ASA Ford provided clarity on the amended amount. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Further discussion ensued on the amended resolution, such as the inclusion of the Public Defender's Office within the contract and the County's cost savings with the use of the AXON software.

#### KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Vern Tepe
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michelle Gumz
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, and Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Rick Williams

#### 14. Public Defender (R. Conant)

##### A. Monthly Report

Public Defender Conant stated the monthly report was on file. She voiced her appreciation of the Committee for their support on the use of AXON software. She will bring forth a resolution regarding her office's contract with AXON Enterprises, Inc. Conant addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

#### 15. Court Services Administration (L. Aust)

##### A. Monthly Report

Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust stated the following monthly reports were on file. She explained that the statistics from probation caseloads, arrests, and intakes remain consistent. She spoke on the work of the Building Management Department (BLD). She recognized BLD Director Walker for his work. She spoke on the issues with the air conditioning and the gas leak found when fixing this. She explained that as the air conditioning unit was replaced at the Court Services' Satellite Office in Aurora, a gas line leak was discovered. While Nicor was addressing the gas leak, they blew the building's regulator. Due to this, the entire building needed to be evacuated. Aust provided additional information



regarding the gas leak and evacuation. Additionally, the Aurora office has had issues with water. Aust stated that BLD work hard with all departments/offices to keep all County buildings together and safe. She thanked the KCHD for helping her staff during the evacuation. She thanked her staff for their adaptability and hard work. Aust thanked the Specialty Court Foundation that supports the work the Kane County Specialty Courts have been doing. She expressed her gratitude for the Kane County Sheriff for hosting the Specialty Court Foundation's fundraiser. Aust addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

**B. JJC Housing Report**

**16. Circuit Clerk (T. Barreiro)**

**A. Monthly Reports**

CIC Chief Deputy Clk. Herwick stated the monthly reports were on file. She explained that last month the Clerk's Office launched a program in conjunction with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) regarding HOPE Cards. HOPE Cards are for domestic violence victims. When they receive an Order of Protection, they can make a request to receive a HOPE card, which is a scaled down version of the Order of Protection that can be held on their person. Herwick stated the Clerk's Office was pleased to work with AOIC and for the victims.

**17. Old Business**

Referencing the Committee Expense Budget Report - by Account Detail, Committee Member Gripe stated that 33% of the year has passed and 42.3% of the payroll has been expended. He questioned if anyone was concerned with this. Secondly, Gripe stated that the State's Attorney's Office (SAO) was the lead sponsor for a Human Trafficking event that was on Saturday, May 10, 2025. He shared that human trafficking brings in approximately four to ten times more money than the illegal drug business. He encouraged the Committee to become more informed on this. He commended State's Attorney Mosser and staff on trying to stop this.

**18. New Business**

Chairman Molina spoke on the FY2026 Budget. She hopes to have more guidance from the Kane County Finance Committee on how departments/offices should move forward with their budgets in the next couple weeks.

**19. Place Written Reports on File**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Lenert

**20. Executive Session (if needed)**

None.

**21. Adjournment**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Linder
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Vern Tepe

This meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Savannah Zgobica

Sr. Recording Secretary