



# Kane County

## KC Judicial/Public Safety Committee

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

### Meeting Minutes

MOLINA, Lenert, Gumz, Linder, Roth, Tepe, Williams & ex-officio Pierog (County Chair)

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**Thursday, August 10, 2023**

**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 Michelle Gumz Board Member Bill Roth Board Member Vern Tepe Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog
<b>ABSENT</b>	Board Member Michael Linder Board Member Rick Williams

Also present: Co. Bd. members Bates, Juby\*, Kenyon, Kious\*, Strathmann\*; KaneComm Dir. Guthrie & staff McMeen, Powell; Sheriff Hain & staff Kaus; OEM Acting Dir. Mensching; State's Attorney Mosser & staff Hunt\*; Public Defender Conant; Court Admin. O'Brien & staff Mathis; Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust; Circuit Clerk Barreiro; Coroner Russell\*; ITD/BLD Exec. Dir. Fahnestock\* & staff Lasky\*, Peters, Smith; Spec. ASA Shepro; KCAC Admin. Youngsteadt\*; and members of the press and public.

**3. Remote Attendance Requests**

Chairman Molina announced the remote attendance request for today's meeting. She asked the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Member Linder attending today's meeting remotely. There were no objections. Committee Member Linder did not attend the meeting remotely.

**4. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2023**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Roth
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Lenert
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Bill Roth, and Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Michael Linder, Rick Williams, and Corinne M. Pierog

**5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)**

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**

No report was provided.

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

KaneComm Dir. Guthrie stated the monthly report was on file. July 2023 has been a very busy month for KaneComm. They have had a strong emphasis on hiring. Guthrie highlighted two employees, Operations Manager, Chris McMeen, and Training Manager, Melissa Powell, that will help with the hiring and training processes. She provided a brief background for both employees. This week, KaneComm has had one trainee, Kaitlyn Kurzrock, pass the training program. Currently, KaneComm has one trainee still in the six to nine month training program. Additionally, KaneComm has hired a part-time Telecommunicator to help provide relief to the team, Destiny Nielsen. Guthrie provided a presentation on KaneComm's Space Needs. She explained that there are multiple trainings being conducted, however, there is little to no space for these trainings to be conducted within Building G. Presently, Guthrie has relocated her office to the Water Resources Department to allow room for these trainings and the equipment needed. KaneComm will continue their search on additional space options.

**9. Sheriff/Adult Corrections (R. Hain)****A. Monthly Report**

Sheriff Hain stated the monthly report was on file. He announced that all four officers that were involved in the May 24, 2023 shooting incident have been administratively cleared and have returned to work. Recently, the Sheriff's Office received a proposal by the Village of Campton Hills to supply police services to the area. The Kane County Sheriff's Office has provided services in the past to Campton Hills. This proposal includes the need for three additional deputies to be hired in order to cover the proposed area. Hain spoke on the HVAC issues at the Sheriff's Office. Mid-July 2023, the front office completely lost all air conditioning, which caused them to shut down. He mentioned the shut down was not in accordance with State law, as they must be open when the courthouse is open. His main concern would be the jail losing air conditioning, because of it being a 24/7 operation. Hain addressed the complaints from Board Members over the past five years on not being informed about information that comes from the Judicial and Public Safety Committee. He asked for advice on how the County could better communicate the information.

**B. DISCUSSION ONLY: Authorizing the Kane County Sheriff's Office to Implement A Standard Security Protocol to Enhance and Maintain Safety Measures for the Kane County Government Center**

Committee Member Gumz introduced a potential resolution: "Authorizing the Kane County Sheriff's Office to Implement a Standard Security Protocol to Enhance and Maintain Safety Measures for the Kane County Government Center". At the Kane County AD HOC Security Assessment Research Committee meetings, it was agreed upon to allow the Sheriff's Office to implement safety standards and maintain them for the Government Center. Sheriff Hain stated that they are looking into getting a metal detector for the front entrance of Building A. Everyone, including employees, would be subjected to passing through the detector. Hain stated a resolution would be presented at a future meeting. A budget adjustment will be needed to pay a full-time staff member and cover the costs of the metal detector. He explained that the Kane County Crime Lab has been successful. Staff has been able to process a few cases for surrounding agencies. Currently, the Crime Lab Tech's main focus is getting the lab accredited.

**10. Emergency Management (J. Mensching)****A. Monthly Report**

OEM Acting Dir. Mensching stated the monthly report was on file. In July 2023, the Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) volunteers broke over 1,100 volunteer hours. This is a first in OEM's history. Mensching stated that July was a heavily active month. He provided a presentation on the Weather Response for July 11-14, 2023. He spoke on the multiple weather reports that were broadcasted across the area on those days. He explained the surprise factor of the severe weather and provided a timeline of occurrences. During this time frame, two tornadoes touched down in Kane County. Using the Sheriff's Drone Team, OEM was able to locate where the two tornadoes initially touched down. He provided numerous photographs of the damage. Tornado damage spread over nearly three square miles. Mensching provided videos depicting damage that had occurred to Kane County residents' properties. Overall, the severity of the damage was minimal. OEM worked alongside the City of Elgin to help with the clean-up. Mensching thanked those that volunteered their time to help with the initial response and the clean-up efforts. He listed the number of activities that OEM participated in during the severe weather. He spoke on the numerous aid received from surrounding areas. Mensching addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued. (Madam Chairman Pierog arrived in-person at 9:29 a.m.)

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

State's Attorney Mosser stated the monthly report was on file. She provided a presentation on the State's Attorney's Office (SAO) 2022 Annual Report. She commended her staff on their work over the last year. In 2022, the SAO had 151 employees: 77 lawyers and 74 support staff. These numbers varied throughout the year based on staffing difficulties. Mosser explained that the felony court filings have increased from 2021 by over 200 cases. There were 2,414 new felony cases filed in 2022. Mosser listed the number of units that are located within her office. She reviewed the accomplishments, components, statistics, and challenges of each unit. She spoke on the Branch Courts throughout the County that handle traffic and misdemeanor cases. She provided information on the Deferred Prosecution Program (DPP). This program is for first-time offenders only. Mosser spoke on the Specialty Courts. There are three specialty courts: Drug Rehabilitation, Treatment Alternative, and Veteran's Court. Mosser continued explaining the number of programs and divisions that the SAO covers. The majority of these programs have shown to have a successful rate throughout the community. Mosser addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

**12. Public Defender (R. Conant)****A. Monthly Report**

Public Defender Conant stated the monthly report was on file. On September 18, 2023, the Safe-T Act will be implemented. In preparation, Conant explained that Mosser and herself attended a Criminal Defense Bar meeting to present Kane County's new Safe-T Act processes. At the meeting, judicial representatives from surrounding counties were able to voice their challenges with the implementation of the Safe-T Act. Conant commended Kane County's judiciary departments on their diligent work done to prepare. Within in the Public Defender's Office, the main focus continues to be hiring staff. Currently, the office is down four attorneys, which is over 10% of the attorneys needed to serve the community adequately. Conant shared that job positions have been filled by attorneys that were set to take the BAR exam, but failed, in which, they have to be terminated. She explained that like many cases, domestic violence cases are on the rise, and with limited staff, these cases cannot be handled appropriately.

State's Attorney Mosser stated that DuPage County has provided all of their attorneys a \$15K pay raise. Dupage County's starting salary for an attorney is now \$82,500. In comparison to Kane County's starting salary for attorneys being \$62K. With this pay raise, DuPage is still struggling to hire adequate staff. This leaves a minimal chance of Kane County being able to hire. Conant spoke on hiring struggles.

**13. Judiciary & Courts (Hull/O'Brien)**

Court Admin. O'Brien reviewed the courts preparation and procedures for the implementation of the Safe-T Act. She has full confidence that the courts will be ready on September 18, 2023.

**14. Court Services Administration (L. Aust)****A. JJC Housing Report**

Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust stated the monthly reports were on file. She provided the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Housing Report. This report highlights who the contract partners are. These contracts are with numerous counties who house their juvenile offenders at the Kane County JJC. Currently, DuPage County is the largest contract partner, followed by Kendall County. She highlighted the JJC's audit process. The JJC has continued to increase their contract partners for housing juveniles. The result of these contracts is more revenue coming into the County. This year, \$1.4M is projected to be brought to the County through the housing program.

**B. Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Whiteside County for Juvenile Detention Services**

Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust provided additional information on this resolution.

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 Roth
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Lenert
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Bill Roth, and Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Michael Linder, Rick Williams, and Corinne M. Pierog

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

**A. Monthly Report**

Circuit Clerk Barreiro stated the monthly reports were on file. Currently, case filings and hearings are down. In regards to the Safe-T Act, the Circuit Clerk's Office is ready for the implementation. Currently, the Clerk's Office is down only two deputy clerk positions. They will be hiring for these positions next week. Since becoming the Circuit Clerk, Barreiro stated that this is the first time the office will be fully staffed. She credited the rise in minimum salaries has helped keep up with surrounding areas. The Circuit Clerk's Office is still on the low end of the pay scale. When she began her time as the Circuit Clerk, the starting pay was \$13.25 per hour, and is now \$17.75 per hour. The office is on track to install the 2022 Tyler Systems. With this update, other departments will be able to link into the system. Lastly, the Circuit Clerk's Security Officer, Adam Kunch, has been certified in A.L.I.C.E. training. All staff has attended the Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate (A.L.I.C.E.) training with Kunch to help address any upcoming issues the office may have. Barreiro informed the Committee that if any other departments are looking to attend a training, Kunch would be available to teach that training.

**16. Coroner (R. Russell)****A. Monthly Report**

Coroner Russell stated the monthly report was on file. He explained the reason for his in-person absences during the majority of the Judicial and Public Safety Committee meetings. He spoke on the unrealistic expectations of the Coroner's Office from the public due to television programs. He explained the benefits of hosting the "National Night Out", such as allowing the public to educate themselves on what the Coroner's Office does and allowing staff to interact with the public in a positive light. Russell spoke on the County's Crime Lab. He addressed the collaboration with the Sheriff and State's Attorney. This lab will greatly out way any start-up costs, energy, or focuses. He explained that he spoke with Congressman Foster's Office and was informed that Kane County was approved for a grant, but is unsure on how much the County will receive. Russell hopes to receive the entire amount of \$3.1M. On September 30, 2023, the County will be notified of the amount. Russell reviewed the monthly statistics. Russell spoke on the newly established budget process.

**17. New Business****A. Supporting the Implementation of Ethan's Law**

Committee Member Gumz introduced this resolution to the Committee. She stated that Ethan's Law is pending legislation in Washington D.C. This law asks gun owners to be safe in their ownership, to secure their guns, and keep them from individuals that should not have them in their household. Gumz is hopeful that this law is something the community as a whole would support.

Chairman Molina suggested changing the title of the Resolution from "Authorizing the Implementation of Ethan's Law" to "Supporting the Implementation of Ethan's Law". Committee Member Gumz motioned the resolution forward as amended, Lenert seconded. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

KC Executive Committee

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

**18. Old Business**

Chairman Molina explained that Dev. Dir. VanKerkhoff, staff, and the SAO are continuing their work on the noise and firearm ordinances. She is hopeful that these ordinances will be presented to the JPS Committee in the upcoming months.

**19. Place Written Reports on File**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Roth
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Lenert
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Bill Roth, and Vern Tepe
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Michael Linder, Rick Williams, and Corinne M. Pierog

**20. Executive Session (If Needed)**

None.

**21. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)**

None.

**22. Adjournment**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Roth
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michelle Gumz

This meeting was adjourned at 10:22 AM.

Savannah Valdez  
Recording Secretary