



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)

Thursday, February 13, 2025

9:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: Co. Bd. Members Juby*, Kious*, Penesis*; Merit Comm'n Chairman Burgert; KaneComm Dir. Guthrie; OEM Dir. Buziecki & staff Alford, Hommowun; Sheriff Hain & staff Johnson, A. Hain, Wolf, McCowen; Coroner Silva & staff Richardson-Carrera, Neilsen; Court Admin. O'Brien & staff Mathis; State's Attorney Mosser & staff Frank*, Brady, Hunt*; Public Def. Conant; Court Srvs. Exec. Dir. Aust & staff Tsang; Circuit Clk. Barreiro; ITD CIO Lasky & staff Peters, Fox; and members of the press and public.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

There were no remote attendance requests for today's meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes: January 16, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Michelle Gumz

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**A. Monthly Report**

Merit Commission Chairman Burgert introduced himself and the Commission to the new Committee members. He stated the monthly report was on file. In November 2024, the Commission had 83 candidates signed up to take the Patrol Test. This is a significant increase from years prior at 24 candidates. This was the same trend in Corrections Testing with 50 candidates, compared to 18 in prior years. These candidates have been interviewed, tested, and the majority passed. The Sheriff has these certified lists. Burgert reported that changes have been made to the Commission's rules and regulations. First, Court Security are now eligible to become correction officers under the direction of the Sheriff and with completed training without the need to go through the Merit Commission. Second, Lateral Transfer interviews have increased from being once a year to every first and third Tuesdays of the month.

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

KaneComm Dir. Guthrie stated the monthly report was on file. She reported that the overall calls for service in January 2025 increased. Phone calls trended down from the year prior. A number of the municipal agencies had an increase in activities, which was due to more officer-initiated activity. She explained that on February 16, 2025, 9-1-1 will be 57 years old. On February 16, 1968, the first 9-1-1 call was made in Alabama. Guthrie addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

Committee Member Gripe requested that each departments/offices that report to this Committee name three keys: positives, negatives, and requests of the Committee. This will allow this Committee and the County Board to help.

Guthrie stated that hiring continues to be KaneComm's priority. Next round of interviews are March 6, 2025. Guthrie explained that a detailed annual report reflecting FY2024's accomplished projects and future endeavors will come out soon. She reported that KaneComm has received two grants. These grants will allow KaneComm's projects to be funded without affecting the County's General Fund. One priority project is to integrate KaneComm's Emergency Medical Dispatch Protocols into the Computer-Aided Dispatch System. Currently, Telecommunicators utilize a separate card set that lists all emergency protocols. Additionally, a grant was received to do CAD2CAD with neighboring agencies that utilize TriCom. Currently, KaneComm has CAD2CAD with Elgin. Guthrie explained CAD2CAD does and provides.

B. Authorizing an Agreement with Tyler Technologies for Computer-Aided Dispatch CAD2CAD Custom Export Interface

KaneComm Dir. Guthrie introduced this resolution. She provided additional information. Guthrie addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

9. Emergency Management (S. Buziecki)

A. Monthly Report

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated the monthly report was on file. He introduced the Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) Operations Manager, Ryan Alford, and Intern Steven Hommowun. He reported that during the recent snowstorm, OEM dispatched snow patrol to provide assistance to Sheriff Deputies. There were seven vehicles, 13 volunteers, and three staff personnel assisting with snow-related incidences. He explained that a positive for the office is that the volunteers are the strength of OEM. One of OEM's challenges is to remain knowledgeable and compliant on state mandates. OEM recently completed the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) certification. Buziecki stated that OEM's Volunteer Open House was held in the beginning of February, with another planned for March 1, 2025. He recently discovered that OEM will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in January 2026. In January 1976, Kane County passed an ordinance that formed the Emergency Service and Disaster Administration (ESDA). Buziecki handed out a draft of the Kane County Continuity of Operations Planning Policy. After conducting exercises, it was found that no County department/office had a Operations Planning Policy, which assists in emergent situations that effect daily operations. Buziecki explained that each department/office that reports to the County Board would need to identify their essential functions and types of disruption, such as loss of people, places, and/or things. (Madam Chairman Pierog arrived remotely at 9:16 a.m.) He would like to make sure that every County department/office has a plan to address possible situations. He noted that OEM would assist with the planning and provide a template. Once each department/office completes their plan, it will be compiled into a master Kane County Operations Planning Policy. This will allow the County to address all of the consequences that may happen if a situation would occur. Buziecki would like all County departments/offices and

elected offices to develop a plan. If there are any changes that need to be made or if this policy does not work for certain departments, Buziecki would welcome feedback to help make this successful for everyone. After all changes have been made, Buziecki will present a resolution to this Committee. Buziecki addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

B. Authorizing the Number of Procurement Cards Issued to the Office of Emergency Management and Each of Their Transaction Limits

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

10. Sheriff/Adult Corrections (R. Hain)

A. Monthly Report

Sheriff Hain stated the monthly report was on file. He thanked Committee Member Gripe for coming to the Sheriff's Office for a tour. He welcomed all for a tour. He explained the contents of the Sheriff's Office's monthly reports. Hain provided a presentation addressing the Kane County Adult Justice Center's (AJC) programs that have directly affected the County's recidivism rate. Hain stated that the Pretrial Fairness Act (PFA), under the SAFE-T Act, has done the exact opposite of its initial intentions. The AJC's population has increased to over 300. Hain explained that people have this interpretation of the new law that they no longer have to go to court. This results in Failure to Appear (FTP) warrants to be issued, which is holding defendants in custody for longer periods of time. Hain shared a graph that was provided by the Loyola's Center for Criminal Justice. Kane County saw an all-time low in population in January 2020. However, in January 2024, Kane County has had 1,090 admissions, which is an all-time high. Hain addressed the average detainee cost per day, which is approximately \$75.00 to \$100.00. In 2023, the average cost was \$7,391,250. Today, it costs \$9,928,000, which is a \$2,536,750 cost increase. Hain spoke on the Electric Home Monitoring Program. He stated that this program's participation has increased significantly since the implementation of the PFA. Before the implementation, the Sheriff was able to impose fees liberally, which helped pay for the program. Today, numerous judges are waiving these fees under the SAFE-T Act and PFA, which put the fees onto the Sheriff's Office budget. Lastly, Hain stated that on Friday, February 14, 2025, marks the one-year anniversary of the loss of Deputy Christopher Ruchaj. He explained that Ruchaj left behind his wife and three children. Hain stated that himself and

his wife spend time with the family on a weekly basis. Hain addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

B. Acknowledging the Annual Review of the Number of Procurement Cards Issued to the Kane County Sheriff's Office and Each of Their Transaction Limits

Chairman Molina asked if there has been any movement in the State Legislator on amendments to the SAFE-T Act. It is important to discuss and see how the County could assist with it.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

11. Coroner (M.Silva)

A. Monthly Report

Coroner Silva stated the monthly report was on file. She explained that one goal of her administration is to provide real time information. The Coroner's Office is contending with 395 cases, which require extensive investigations. She noted that this does not mean that there were only 395 deaths in Kane County. She reported that 346 of these cases were Return to Medical - No Autopsy, 30 cases were Sign-Out - Possibly No Autopsy, and 19 were Sign-Out - Unnatural - Autopsy Required. Silva spoke on the estimated cost savings of the Coroner's Office not performing autopsies. She shared a graph depicting the Deputy Caseload as of January 2025. She spoke on the amount of time it takes to close out cases and provide death certificates. Silva addressed veteran suicide in Kane County. She explained that the Coroner's Office and the Kane County Health Department (KCHD) have partnered to provide data in real time of who passed away. This data will show the deceased's race, municipality, mental health history, past suicide indications/attempts, and past overdoses. The office is trying to track these types of deaths to see what is affecting our communities. The County will now utilize REDCap, which stands for Research Electronic Data Capture. This is an online database or survey software that allows for easier and more secure data collection for the purpose of dissemination for law enforcement and public health initiatives. Silva stated she is proud of staff for pinpointing veteran suicide numbers. She shared a graph depicting the Kane County Suicide Non Veterans versus Veterans Statistics. There were 224 total suicides from 2020 to 2024, of which 13 were veterans. These deaths are utilized in the same method and were between 21 to 85 years old. In 2024, Kane

County had 51 total suicides, with one being a veteran. Silva reported that out of these 51 suicides, 73% were white males, 14% were Hispanic/Latino, 6% were black, and 4% were Asian. She presented a chart depicting Veteran Suicide by City. There were no veteran suicides in Batavia, Geneva, or Sugar Grove. Silva stated that 2021 had the highest number of veteran suicides at 5. She identified five major areas of concerns for the constituency. She stated that constituents want to know that they are safe, that the County is addressing mental health, and using resources to help those that are suffering from domestic violence, suicide ideation, bullying, and adverse childhood events. Silva explained the Coroner's Office will continue to track Fentanyl related deaths, veteran suicides, and providing answers to the community as soon as possible. She thanked Committee Member Gripe for coming to the Coroner's Office for a tour. Lastly, Silva stated that the Coroner's Office is participating in the Polar Plunge. She asked for the Committee's support with participating and/or making a donation. Silva addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

B. Acknowledging Annual Review of Number of Procurement Cards Issued to Coroner's Office and Each of Their Transaction Limits

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

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

Court Admin. O'Brien stated that the 2024 Annual Report is being finalized and will be released. She explained that Judiciary and Courts are almost finished with installation of the Courtroom Technology Project at the Judicial Center. She stated that informational kiosks and court docket displays have been placed in public spaces. Additionally, the courts are finishing programming. The first training will be held tomorrow, February 14, 2025, in Courtroom 101. O'Brien stated that at next month's Committee meeting, a presentation will be provided addressing these projects. She explained that Judiciary and Courts are awaiting the Modernization Grant award to further court technology.

Deputy Court Admin. Mathis commended O'Brien's work on the modernization of the judicial buildings. He provided an update on the projects occurring at the Third Street Courthouse. He noted that these projects will help with how the building functions, not the aesthetics. On March 3, 2025, the Jury Assembly Room, previously Courtroom 150, will open. Mathis spoke on the contents of this project. He noted that this project was

mirrored off the Jury Assembly Room at the Kane County Judicial Center (KCJC). He reported that the State completed the electronic recording installation in Courtroom 210. Additionally, double entry doors were installed with disability switches, which will help the accessibility to the building. Mathis invited those that would like to see these improvements to stop by the Third Street Courthouse. He mentioned that the Technology Modernization Project that is happening at the KCJC is occurring at the Third Street Courthouse. He noted that none of the expenses for these projects are being funded by the County's General Fund. They are being funded by other avenues, such as grants.

- A. Authorizing the Number of Procurement Cards Issued to the Kane County Judiciary and Each of Their Transaction Limits

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

13. State's Attorney (J. Mosser)

- A. Monthly Report

State's Attorney Mosser stated the monthly report was on file. She reported that the State's Attorney's Office (SAO) is out of space at the Judicial Center. She explained that the SAO's project at the Kane County Circuit Clerk's Office has been delayed for over a year. This project would include office space to house staff from the SAO's Deferred Prosecution and Collaborative Diversion. This office space would free up space at the Judicial Center for paralegals, support staff, and attorneys. Mosser requested that this office space needs to be looked into by the County Board. Mosser addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

Mosser addressed the SAFE-T Act. She explained that the SAFE-T Act is a polarized issue. There has been legislation proposed by Republicans, but opposed by Democrats. As the County's State's Attorney, Mosser continues to be active as the chair of the State's Attorney Association's Legislative Committee. She explained that a weekly meeting is held with the Association to speak on proposed legislation. Regarding the SAFE-T Act, there are numerous corrections that need to be made. A draft has been given to legislators, but no one has been willing to move forward on it. Mosser announced that a new piece of legislation was signed into law this week: Karina's Law. This law is another unfunded mandate to all counties. This law requires that firearms be taken away

from domestic abusers in an emergency order of protection. Mosser was pleased to see this legislation passed. However, the burden of this unfunded mandate will fall on the Sheriff's Office. If there is a Seizure Order for firearms and/or firearm parts at the time of service of an emergency order of protection, the Sheriff's Office would have to store all of these items. Mosser stated that there is no state funding for the extra storage this will require. She explained that they tried to have written within the law that the cost of this would be the responsibility of the respondent, but this was not allowed. There is a mechanism for the respondent to transfer the weapons, but only after court intervention occurs. Mosser stated that if a Plenary Order of Protection is issued, the Sheriff's Office has to hold the weapons for two years, which causes issues with storage and liability. In addition, the legislator is now allowing civilians to write search warrants for homes. A search warrant is a legal document that allows law enforcement to search vehicles, buildings, and homes. Now, a civilian can draft a search warrant. The civilian must draft this warrant with the same particularity of a law enforcement officer. When the warrant is issued, it is given to the Sheriff's Office for service. The Sheriff's Office is given 96 hours to review the search warrant and investigate the matter. Mosser explained that a court can direct another police agency to serve the search warrant. However, without the Sheriff's Office not having any prior knowledge of these search warrants, the liability is placed upon the law enforcement officers. Mosser stated that this legislation was pushed back on and many other suggestions were made, but it was still within the law. She explained that she will be reviewing these warrants as much as possible. She will be provided statewide training to all law enforcement to make them aware as to how to manage this situation. She stated while this is a great law, she remains fearful on what this will mean for law enforcement and County funding. Mosser addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

B. Authorizing Number of Procurement Cards Issued to the State's Attorney's Office and Each of Their Transaction Limits

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

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

Public Def. Conant stated the monthly report was on file. She explained that her office has continued to work on filling all vacant positions. The office has received applications from attorneys with experience. Conant stated that the Public Defender's Office (PDO) has approximately seven attorneys with one-year or less experience, which means lots of training is occurring. Lastly, Conant reported that Assistant Public Defender (APD), Juanita Archuleta, is fulfilling a life-long dream of becoming a Judge Advocate General (JAG) for the U.S. Navy. Conant spoke on Archuleta's 20 years of experience in the PDO and the loss she will be for the office and County. Luckily, there has been interest in filling this vacancy within the office. Conant spoke on the impact Archuleta has had on the County's specialty courts. 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 two monthly reports were on file. She explained that she is thankful for her fellow Kane County employees. She stated that they all work well together and that all Judicial Public Safety departments/offices understand that they are interrelated and interdependent. Regarding the report's statistics, Aust stated that juvenile cases are trending up. At this time last year, there were approximately 423 juveniles under supervision. At the end of December 2024, there were 466 juveniles. The Administrative Office of Illinois Courts' (AOIC) standards require that the facility have one probation officer for every 40 to 50 juveniles. Aust thanked Fin. Exec. Dir. Hopkinson for allowing Grant Administrator Cofer to assist with finding more grants. A meeting was had on January 24, 2025 where Cofer and Aust applied for grants. However, the next day these grants that Court Services were eligible for were pulled, including grants that the County has been receiving previously. Fortunately, Court Services was able to receive the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant for seven years, which allowed funding in special funds to build. The BJA Grant funded the County's drug testing, substance abuse treatment, and other items that the specialty courts utilize. Aust stated that a \$150K grant was awarded by the Bureau of Justice for the Swift, Certain, and Fair (SCF) Program, which has allowed the County to send constituents to drug treatment. However, this has now been paused. The Department of Agriculture Pass Through Grant for Food of \$100K for the Juvenile Detention was an additional one that was paused. Additionally, the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will also be paused. Aust explained that IDOT will be able to continue to fund the County's DUI Court without the grant. She is hopeful this will occur. Aust explained that Court Services has contingency plans to use, such as probation fees and the Substance Abuse Special Fund, that will be used to pay for those mentioned services. Aust addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

Discussion ensued.

B. JJC Housing Report

16. Circuit Clerk (T. Barreiro)

A. Monthly Reports

Circuit Clk. Barreiro stated the monthly report was on file. At the next Security Assessment Review Committee (SARC) meeting, she recommended that cyber security be discussed and plans be developed going forward. She spoke on the increased need for security at all County buildings. She believes these two topics are important for the County to address. Regarding state legislation, Barreiro stated that herself and Chief Judge Villa are on a task force that is collaborating on how to compile data for all 102 counties, which will help address the legislative issues of the SAFE-T Act. She stated that this must be accomplished, because professionals will not be able to move forward unless the data is known. Barreiro explained that legislation is being presented that will increase expungement. This will cause additional staff to be added to the Clerk's Office. Currently, the office is operating at a third of Deputy Clerks. Other counties have office and court clerks. Kane County cross trains all clerks to be able to perform both jobs. The office has hired over 42 new employees in the last two years, which has required lots of hours of training. Barreiro stated that the office has changed how clerks are being trained, which has allowed staff to be in court quicker. Also, the AOIC is requiring increased reporting, which will be next to impossible to accomplish with her current staff. Lastly, Barreiro spoke on space needs. The vault at the Judicial Center is at capacity. Barreiro stated that office space will need to be changed or a vault may need to be purchased. She spoke on the items kept within the vault.

17. Old Business

None.

18. New Business

A. Discussion: Additional Committee Goals

OEM Dir. Buziecki requested that the following two goals listed on the agenda be added to the 2025 Committee Goals.

1. Evaluate, Plan for, and Address the Future Staffing Needs of the Office of Emergency Management

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated that this goal is a bigger discussion to address OEM's specific job duties and responsibilities. He stated that OEM will need to be evaluated to see if they are providing adequate service or if they could be providing more. One phase OEM has difficulties with is Recovery and Mitigation. Buziecki stated that at next month's Committee meeting, he will be presenting the results to the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). The THIRA identifies threats and hazards. The answers to these gaps is a combination of staffing, training, exercises, and equipment. Buziecki would like to start these discussions.

2. Evaluate how the County's Current Mass Notification Platform is Meeting Needs for Internal and External Emergency Communications and Possibly Evaluate Other Options

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated that this second goal addresses the Mass Notification System. Currently, Kane County utilizes CodeRed. Buziecki stated that this system is not user friendly. He would like to look at a long-term solution on what the County should do for a mass notification system. Buziecki addressed questions and comments from the Committee. The Committee provided consensus to have these two goals added to the 2025 Committee Goals.

19. Place Written Reports on File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Rick Williams

20. Executive Session (If Needed)

None.

21 Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Vern Tepe
SECONDER:	Jon Gripe

This meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM.

Savannah Zgobica
Sr. Recording Secretary