



# 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, March 13, 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**

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

Also present: Co. Bd. Member Bates\*, Penesis\*; KaneComm Dir. Guthrie; OEM Dir. Buziecki; Undersheriff Johnson & staff Catich; Deputy Coroners Richardson-Carrera, Nielsen; Chief Judge Villa; Court Admin. O'Brien & staff Mathis; SAO staff Brady, Ford\*, Hunt\*; Public Defender Conant; Court Srvs. Exec. Dir. Aust & staff Saylor; Circuit Clk. Barreiro; ITD CIO Lasky\* & staff Peters; and members of the press and public.

**3. Remote Attendance Requests**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes: February 13, 2025**

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| <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 mentioned that KaneComm has numerous projects being completed. However, hiring continues to be the priority. Guthrie stated that KaneComm has been participating in several public education events and job fairs to let the public know that they are hiring. KaneComm has welcomed a new trainee on Monday, March 3, 2025. Guthrie stated that she is working on KaneComm's annual report and should be able to present it next month. She spoke on KaneComm's expenses. She stated that through the budget process it was discovered that KaneComm was missing a couple months of revenue. Now that the missing revenue has been included in the FY2025 budget, KaneComm's expenses are no longer 14% over budget. Guthrie spoke on recently reintroduced legislation, 9-1-1 Saves Act. She explained that on January 16, 2025, State Representatives Norma J. Torres and Brian Fitzpatrick announced the reintroduction of the 9-1-1 Saves Act to reclassify 9-1-1 telecommunicators as first responders. Currently, telecommunicators are classified as office/administrative support. Guthrie noted that this Act has zero cost to the American taxpayers. She thanked Committee Member Gumz for her support on this legislation.

Committee Member Gumz explained that she spoke with Representative Torres regarding this Act. She mentioned that she has no shame in advocating for this. She is hopeful this will move forward.

- B. Proclaiming April 13-19, 2025 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week  
KC Executive Committee

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

9. **Emergency Management(S. Buziecki)**

- A. Monthly Report

(Committee Member Gripe arrived remotely at 9:06 a.m.)

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated the monthly report was on file. He explained that there was a fire that happened in West Dundee at an apartment complex. This fire displaced 35 residents and pets, which all have been accommodated. Buziecki stated that a couple months ago, the County Board passed a resolution approving the storage of an American Red Cross trailer on the Kane County Government Center Campus. Due to this, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was able to set the trailer up as temporary shelter, even though no residents took advantage of it. Buziecki stated that a Resource Fair will be held on Friday, March 14, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for these residents to receive necessities. Lastly, he mentioned that OEM's emergency calls have been average. Buziecki addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

- B. Recognizing April as National Volunteer Appreciation Month

KC Executive Committee

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

**C. Kane County Threat & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)**

OEM Dir. Buziecki provided the Threat & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) presentation. The THIRA allows Emergency Management agencies to look at what is going on throughout the world and determine how it will affect their area. Buziecki stated that this assessment is mandated but it also provides good Emergency Management information for planning while completing the Emergency Operations Plan. He explained that per Illinois State Statute, each county must maintain an Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA) with jurisdiction over unincorporated areas of the County and incorporated municipalities with no established emergency management program and to support established municipal ESDAs. The statute also mandates that ESDAs maintain programs and capabilities to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from emergencies and disasters. Buziecki listed the multiple municipal Emergency Management agencies. He reviewed the four phases of Emergency Management: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. He explained that the THIRA is a comprehensive process to identify, assess, and prioritize threats and hazards, such as natural disasters, public health emergencies, or human-caused events. This plan is required by state statute, helps understand threats and hazards, identifies vulnerabilities, and the potential impacts of such disasters. It also allows Emergency Management to make informed decisions to better prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate disasters. Buziecki reviewed the County's major THIRA findings, such as lack of availability of the American Red Cross, Emergency Sheltering Operations, which require additional planning, volunteers, equipment/supplies, and training. He shared the County's THIRA process, such as identifying what could happen in Kane County and the potential disasters it faces. Buziecki listed the 23 THIRA team members from numerous County offices/departments. He reviewed the THIRA results showing the top five County vulnerabilities: cyber-attack (COOP issue), severe weather, flood/dam failure, hazardous materials, and terrorism (sheltering). Buziecki shared OEM's tasks in three out of the four phases of Emergency Management: Preparedness, Recovery, and Mitigation. He categorized each phase's task as "in progress", "not yet started", and "no capability". He noted that Recovery is OEM's weakest phase. Over the next several months, the Office of Emergency Management will present disaster scenarios to illustrate capability assessments, target capabilities, and gaps to the Judicial Public Safety Committee. Buziecki addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

Buziecki reviewed upcoming OEM activities. He explained that he will be presenting "Building a Strong Volunteer Program" at the upcoming Illinois Emergency Management Services Association (IESMA Training Summit) in Springfield on April 23, 2025 through April 25, 2025. He stated that OEM currently has 54 volunteers and 18 applicants for the April through October training. Additionally, OEM is implementing an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management software that will digitize and streamline processes and improve communication. Lastly, Buziecki spoke on the implications of federal funding being paused.

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

Undersheriff Johnson stated the monthly report was on file. She commended KaneComm for their work and support. No additional report was made.

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

Deputy Coroner Richardson-Carrera stated the monthly report was on file. She noted that staff participated in Special Olympics Polar Plunge. They were able to raise \$2,190.

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

Chief Judge Villa announced that the Kane County Judiciary will be participating in Law Day. Law Day is a national day sponsored by the American Bar Association. Law Day events include a theme, downloadable materials, and proclamations. This year the theme for Law Day is E Pluribus Unum. Villa explained that because these events are standardized and a theme is assigned, it is easy for high school students to submit essays on their thoughts of what the theme means. He noted that the Kane County Bar Foundation will be providing cash awards to the essay winners. Essays will be reviewed and the top three high school juniors and seniors will receive the cash award and Law Day merchandise. He looks forward to this event increasing in size and recognition. Villa stated that in October 2025, the Kane County Law Library will be hosting a pro-bono open house luncheon celebration. He urged members and the public to attend to recognize the work the Law Library provides. Additionally, he recognized the Guardian Ad Litem. He spoke on the services provided by this group. In October 2025, the Judiciary will be hosting an event to recognize them. Lastly, Villa stated that the Judicial Center has several construction projects underway and a presentation will be provided to the Committee once they're completed.

Deputy Court Admin. Mathis acknowledged the Kane County Mock Trial Competition. He mentioned that Saint Charles East High school students were the winners of the high school competition. He stated that Kane County hosted the College Mock Trial. Numerous students from colleges all around the country attended. He acknowledged Kane County's Court Security and Building Management.

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

ASA Brady stated the monthly report was on file. No additional report was made.

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

Public Defender Conant stated the monthly report was on file. She stated that her office is continuing to hire within the competitive atmosphere. On March 12, 2025, there were 11 Public Defender Offices with job postings on the Office of

State Appellate Defender website. Conant stated that her office is participating in job fairs in the City of Chicago for applicants. She spoke on her participation as a judge during the mock trial event.

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

**A. Monthly Report**

Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust stated the monthly reports were on file. She highlighted the list of trainings that Court Services participated in this past month. She noted that each staff member has required training hours to complete annually. For every probation officer, they need to acquire a minimum of 20 to 30 training hours per year. Detention staff need to have 40 to 50 hours. Aust spoke on the time needed and reorganization of staff in order for these training hours to be completed. Lastly, she stated that detention numbers have decreased back to where they were a few years back.

**B. JJC Housing Report**

**C. Problem Solving Courts**

Court Svcs. Dir. Saylor provided a presentation on the Kane County Problem Solving Courts. She shared the Court Services Department's FY2024 Expenses by Function. As of January 25, 2025, the department's total FY2024 expenses were \$13,936,895. Kane County has four certified Problem Solving Courts: Drug Rehabilitation Court, Veterans' Court, Treatment Alternative Court, and DUI Court. She noted that Kane County was the first to have four certified Problem Solving Courts. Saylor stated that applicants to these courts must want to be part of the program and be a Kane County resident. In every special court, treatment is mandatory, which requires a team-based approach by the Judiciary, State's Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, Diagnostic Center, Kane County Jail, Veteran's Assistance Commission, and community treatment providers. Saylor reviewed the Probation staff that helps with these Problem Solving Courts. She stated that Problem Solving Courts address community problems that other systems cannot. She reviewed statistics on Kane County emergency room visits for drug overdoses. Saylor shared graphs that depicted All Drug and Opioid Emergency Department Encounters from 2018 to 2023 and All Drug and Opioid Fatalities in Kane County. She spoke on risk distribution compared to adult probation. She stated that Kane County Problem Solving Courts work. In order for them to work effectively, Court Services must have the correct defendants in these courts. She explained that those that participate in the Specialty Courts are those that are at risk to re-offend and in the highest need of services. Saylor broke down the work that was done by County staff in relation to these courts in 2024, such as 5,302 home visits, on-going crisis management, and 8,887 drug tests. She reviewed each Problem Solving Court's mandated statutes and statistics. Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust stated that these problem solving courts are for individuals that are committing crimes in the community who have an issue with one of the circumstances these courts address. In these courts, it is about mitigating risk and decrease the likeness that these offenders will re-offend.

Chief Judge Villa spoke on the Drug Court graduations. He stated that these courts have positively changed lives. He suggested that the amount of savings each of these courts provide to the County should be shared. Discussion ensued.

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

**A. Monthly Reports**

Circuit Clk. Barreiro stated the monthly report was on file. She reported that her office is down three Deputy Clerks within the Court/Office Team and are accepting applications. She thanked Chief Judge Villa for his comments at a presentation that was shared last month. She appreciates all those in the Judiciary and Public Safety.

**17. Old Business**

None.

**18. New Business**

Committee Member Williams reminded the Committee of the Retail Sales Tax Referendum that will be voted on by Kane County citizens on April 1, 2025. He mentioned that Board Members received an email from Fin. Exec. Dir. Hopkinson that stated out of the \$138M budget, 69% of it is utilized by departments/offices in this room today. He explained that if this referendum does not pass, the Judiciary and Public Safety departments/offices will need to look at their budget and see where savings can be found to make up for the deficit. At the April Judicial Public Safety Committee meeting, triage planning will have to occur, if this referendum does not pass.

**19. Place Written Reports on File**

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|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>  | Vern Tepe                            |

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

None.

**21. Adjournment**

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Rick Williams                 |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Bill Lenert                   |

This meeting was adjourned at 9:51 AM.

Savannah Zgobica

Sr. Recording Secretary