



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, October 16, 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 Jon Gripe Board Member Michelle Gumz Board Member Michael Linder Board Member Vern Tepe Board Member Rick Williams Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
ABSENT	Board Member Bill Lenert Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. Members Juby*, Kiou*, Lewis*; KaneComm Dir. Guthrie; OEM Dir. Buziecki; Undersheriff Johnson & staff Catich, Ware; Coroner Silva*; Chief Judge Villa & staff O'Brien, Mathis; State's Attorney Mosser & staff Brady, Hunt*; Public Def. Conant; Court Srvs. Exec. Dir. Aust & staff Davis; Circuit Clk. Barreiro* & staff Herwick, Johnson; ITD CIO Lasky* & staff Peters; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; 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: September 11, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Rick Williams

Chairman Molina motioned to suspend the rules and move to agenda item 12, Williams seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

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 Guthrie stated the monthly report was on file. She spoke on the administrative work done by her staff for other County agencies, such as warrant confirmations, entering and modifying orders of protection, and sex offender modifications. She would like to make sure that the County Board is aware of these additional tasks. Guthrie stated that the Calls for Service have increased from 2024, while phone calls remain consistent. She explained that KaneComm has a number of funded projects implemented. She stated that KaneComm received a grant to implement their Emergency Dispatch protocols into the CAD System. Additionally, KaneComm received a grant to establish CAD to CAD, which is data sharing with neighboring 9-1-1 centers. Lastly, Guthrie stated she will be returning to Springfield to work with other public safety partners on HB4066/SB2670, which increases the 9-1-1 surcharge from \$1.50 to \$2.50. She explained that this increase would be a tremendous help for all 9-1-1 centers in Illinois. This increase in the surcharge will allow 9-1-1 centers to continue to compensate their staff, sustain their mandated technology, and important trainings. Guthrie explained that if this increase does not pass, there will be an impact to KaneComm's budget.

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

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated the monthly report was on file. He mentioned that the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) volunteers have served 11K hours so far this year. He stated that there has been about 200 calls, and that the office is on pace to receive approximately 240 calls for the year. He commended the volunteers for the work and service they provide. Buziecki stated that OEM hosted their Academy Graduation and 24 volunteers were sworn in. Lastly, he informed the Committee that he was asked to provide the keynote address at the Township Officials of Kane County Dinner next Wednesday. At the dinner, he will be speaking on Emergency Management and how they are improving their community efforts.

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

Undersheriff Johnson stated the monthly report was on file. No additional report was made.

B. Authorizing a Contract with IC Solutions for the Kane County Adult Justice Center Telephone/Video Visitation System

Undersheriff Johnson introduced this resolution. Johnson and KCSO Chief of Admin. Catich addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

KC Executive Committee

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

C. Authorizing a Grant Agreement with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) for the Award of the Officer Recruitment and Retention Grant

Undersheriff Johnson introduced this resolution. She explained that the Sheriff's Office has been working on recruitment and retention standards, such as childcare. This standard will ensure those that are coming forward for recruitment and retention will be provided with a voucher to assist with childcare. Additionally, this standard will bind the applicant for recruitment and retention to Kane County. Johnson mentioned that if the employee ends up leaving before their commitment time, they must repay the amount provided. She stated that this is the first time that the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) has offered this grant. Johnson addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

KC Executive Committee

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

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

Coroner Silva stated the monthly report was on file. She provided the September case comparison from 2024 versus 2025. She spoke on her concerns of having an increased caseload with minimum staff. She stated that there were 287 total cases reported to the Coroner's Office in September 2025. She spoke on the total number of cases and savings had with Sign-Out and Sign-Out - Unnatural cases. She mentioned that there were six autopsies performed. She added that the Coroner's Office never forgoes an autopsy for the sake of saving money. Silva spoke on the September 2025 Deputy Caseload. She addressed the staff size versus the size of the County. She stated that the Coroner's Officer has been successful in providing Narcan vending machines at Waubensee Community College and Aurora University. She thanked the Kane County Public Health Department for providing the machines. She believes it is important to continue to work with each other to provide this lifesaving medication to the community. She spoke the age groups in which overdoses are seen.

B. Authorizing Funding and Purchase of a Rapid DNA Instrument and Database Capability for the Kane County Forensics Lab and Related Budget Adjustment

Coroner Silva introduced this resolution. She explained that this resolution would move funding from the Coroner's budget to allow for the purchase of equipment for the lab. She mentioned that this money will be reimbursed by a grant. She spoke on the amount for extended warranty. She explained that the amount for the extended warranty is \$12,434.50. She noted that this does not affect the overall number saved. Silva and KCSO Laboratory Dir. Ware addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

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

Chief Judge Villa spoke on the Judiciary's response to the County Board's FY2026 Budget consideration. He stated that the Judiciary partners thought that the Judicial Public Safety Committee would work with them to gain an awareness of what each department/office does. He noted that the budget concerns for this year will continue on for FY2027. As a person that operates in the future, Villa stated that when looking into the future and the budgetary needs, he knows decisions will need to be made, but not without consequences. He explained that the Judiciary and the County Board are partners. The County Board votes for an allocation, but does not have a say on how each department/office provides or reduces services. Villa stated that everyone is partners who want to serve the same goal of Judicial and Public Safety. He explained that after numerous conversations, it has become prevalent that many do not understand what budget cuts mean for the Judiciary and their partners. (Committee Member Gumz arrived in-person at 9:03 a.m.). He stated that he would like the Committee to understand the financial pressure added when the County Board increases the threshold. He explained that the Judiciary did not submit an amended budget, because it is hard to provide services and bid against themselves in advance due to not knowing the allocation amount. In the Judiciary's budget, he spoke on the interpreter reimbursement line item that is impossible to cut. He explained that the Judiciary receives a 100% reimbursement for interpreter services, and the funds that are not expended are returned to the County. He stated that the Judiciary submitted a \$5.2M budget, which includes the \$900K interpreter reimbursement line item. When an allocation was presented to the Judiciary by the County Board that was \$1M shorter than the budget presented, it reflects the \$900K. Villa explained that this budget reduction would then have the \$900K come out of the \$4.1M, which equates to a \$3.2M annual budget. He spoke on the scenarios that would be created with this large of a budget cut, such as not serving the Kane County jurors food and other benefits. He explained that the Kane County Circuit Clerk's Office will be forced to not address the public's questions about their cases, such as court dates/times, which will cause the Sheriff's Office to arrest more people. Additionally, with these budget cuts there will be no Deputy Clerks in the courtrooms, which means that court call for the day will not be handled, which will not allow cases to advance in a timely manner and be prosecuted. Additionally, Villa spoke on the negotiations of the Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs). He stated that the only way to satisfy both needs, demands for

high increases and the County Board's budget reduction, is to eliminate jobs for FY2026 and FY2027. He explained that the consequences for the elimination of jobs is that there are statutory minimum requirements that must be met to operate. He stated that there is a required 8:1 ratio at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). If it is not met, the facility will be shut down. Villa spoke on the numerous potential lawsuits against Illinois Juvenile Justice facilities. He stated that he wanted all of this to be brought to the attention of the Committee because the budget allotted to the Judiciary provides services. He explained that the simplest fix for the Judiciary's budget for this year and next is the proper allocation of the tuition reimbursement line item. He mentioned that a resolution would be presented to the County Board on this matter to educate them. Villa stated that the other option for the budget is to remove the line item. However, he would then be forced to present resolutions to the County Board every three weeks asking for \$50K to pay for interpreter services, which would need to be paid. Villa stated that the Judicial Public Safety Committee and the Judiciary are partners and it is in bad form to not discuss budgetary items publicly. He explained that the Judiciary will make budget cuts, but he will be unable to reach the requested \$1.1M.

Court Svcs Exec. Dir. Aust stated that her office receives approximately \$7M in reimbursements from the State of Illinois to help support probation and juvenile detention. She explained that if her office were to cut the requested \$1.2M from the FY2026 Budget without any consideration of the revenue that is brought in, then 20 to 25 staff members would need to be terminated. She added that the majority of the staff would come from the JJC. Aust spoke on numerous lawsuits against Juvenile Centers across that State due to lack of staff. She mentioned that the Kane County Code states that the County needs to provide detention for juveniles. She spoke on the most cost effective way to provide services that incur the least amount of liability for the County. She inquired from the Committee what Juvenile Detention should look like moving forward, such as sending juveniles to other counties, and/or setting a number of occupancy.

Public Defender Conant stated that as a good fiscal partner, she examined her FY2026 Budget and tried to make the adjustments that were mandated. She explained that the Public Defender's Office (PDO) is not in the business of buying or selling goods, but they provide a service that is based on work required under unfunded mandates and case appointments. She stated that the County Board raised salaries in order to retain employees, which brought in new attorneys. She explained that the proposed adjustments that were mandated will cut positions, which will affect the services provided. With the adjustments, Conant is faced with the elimination of seven attorney positions, which is nearly the entire Misdemeanor Division. This would leave three courtrooms without public defenders, and force attorneys to deal with double the caseload, beyond what the American Bar Association has set for viable standards of caseloads. Conant stated that with increased caseloads, there is the increased risk of ineffective assistance of council and increased litigation that goes along with the claims. She explained that if attorneys are not prepared and cannot effectively represent their clients, then the client will not be provided their right to a speedy trial. Therefore, the Judiciary system will not move forward. Conant stated that she understands the need for the budget cuts, but this will cause the elimination of

attorneys from courtrooms, such as the Specialty Courts. Additionally, the cuts would mean that the PDO would not be able to accept cases. However, just because the PDO needs to cut their caseload, does not mean that the people will go without an attorney. Conant explained that this issue would fall upon the Chief Judge to appoint an attorney, because it is everyone's right to be represented by council. She stated that she wanted to make the Committee aware of the consequences and the affects on the Judiciary as a whole that these cuts would entail.

Circuit Clk. Barreiro stated that the budget cuts that were asked of the Circuit Clerk's Office (CIC) would amount to the termination of 21 deputy clerks. Per the union contract's layoff procedures, she explained that new hires would be impacted first due to the seniority distribution. She stated that layoffs would impact the staffing of deputy clerks and the courts, first. She explained that in order for her to meet the 2024 expenditure amount, she had to move some position salaries into other funds, which is not sustainable. Barreiro stated that her office's labor contract is due on December 1, 2025, which only allows the office to operate mandated services, such as staffing all 32 courtrooms. She explained that staff will continue to take time off due to sickness and/or vacation, which leaves even less employees to carry out the day to day operations. Due to the decision to cut the FY2026 Budget, she stated that the Circuit Clerk's Office will no longer be able to provide customer service, such as no answered phone calls, no opportunity to pay fees/fines outside of court, and no satellite offices to assist constituents. She explained that all payments will have to be sent into the Clerk's Office via mail and/or online. She stated that the County does not understand that the Circuit Clerk's Office provides customer service. She noted that if there are no deputy clerks in the courtrooms, the courts cannot operate, which will delay court proceedings for the Judiciary, State's Attorney's Office, and Public Defender's Office.

Undersheriff Johnson explained that when the Kane County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) is asked to cut their annual budget, it puts lives and safety at risk. These budget cuts will lessen patrol, jail operations, and emergency responses, which create a liability. Johnson explained that delayed response times can create a negligent claim, and inadequate inmate care opens the door to civil rights lawsuits. Additionally, forced staff reductions trigger union grievances and staff violations. As Sheriff Hain has suggested, every dollar cut from public safety is a potential lawsuit for the County. Johnson spoke on the waterfall affect for all Judicial partners, when the KCSO cannot operate properly. She stated that law enforcement upholds public safety, liability, and community safety. She explained that these potential lawsuits could create a loss in community trust. She stated that the Sheriff has continued to work in good faith with his budget, but has continually been asked to cut more. She questioned at what point is too much.

State's Attorney Mosser stated that her office was asked to cut over \$3M from their annual budget; \$1.9M from the County's General Fund and \$1.3M that was not awarded by the Riverboat Grant. She mentioned that she was asked by the County Board to move employee salaries into the Riverboat Fund, but was denied this funding. The results of this budget cut would be the termination of 40 employees. Mosser stated that all the Judiciary partners provide services. With these budget cuts, the County Board will be terminating all investigations and prosecution of child pornography cases,

in which the County has been sued for. Additionally, these cuts mean that the County Board would like victims of crimes to navigate the criminal justice system without trained advocates there for assistance. Mosser explained that these cuts reflect the well deserved pay equity increase that the County Board granted. She stated that this County Board is telling employees of Kane County that they cannot be compensated the same as other surrounding counties. She reminded the Committee that all judiciary and public safety budgets had to increase due to unfunded mandates such as the Pre-Trial Fairness Act (PTA) and the Safe-T Act. Additionally, she noted that her office does not control crime. After reviewing the State's Attorney's Office's (SAO) End-of-Year Report, she explained that the Board will see a rise in cases, such as child pornography, domestic violence, and driving under the influence (DUIs). She mentioned that by law, her office must prosecute these types of cases. Mosser stated that what is problematic is that this County Board is attempting to put out the image that they are being fiscally responsible by doing the sweeping budget cuts, while ignoring that they are unnecessarily accumulating money in the public treasury, which is against public policy and law. Mosser explained that in an email sent by the Finance Department, she was advised that our revenue is in excess of the 90-day reserve at \$21M. She stated that this is the very definition of unnecessary accumulation of money. She explained that those offices/departments in Public Safety and Judicial are performing their statutory duties to keep the community safe. She stated that by the County Board not using the excess money to properly fund the Judicial and Public Safety offices/departments, they are not only cutting services, but illegally keeping an emergency fund. She urged the Board to meet with all the Judiciary and Public Safety partners to speak about ways they can work together to make the necessary budget cuts, while keeping public safety at the forefront.

KaneComm Guthrie spoke on her concerns with the FY2026 Budget cuts, specifically those being made to the Sheriff's Office. She explained that KaneComm staff covers the Sheriff's Office's extra work after hours. With regards to the work that needs to be completed during the day per union contracts, she stated that with these budget cuts and potential layoffs/terminations of staff, KaneComm would be responsible for picking up the loose ends. She explained that the funding provided by the County covers the services that KaneComm is responsible for. When the County is speaking about cutting services and the administrative duties at the Sheriff's Office, they may be seeing the money now through KaneComm as an increase for their portion of the County work due to the need of more staff.

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated that his office is a smallest department of the Judiciary and Public Safety partners. He explained that he was asked to make a 12% cut to his FY2026 Budget. He stated that his office has cut everything back to the bare minimum. However, this is not going to be sustainable going forward.

Chief Judge Villa stated that all these comments are nothing new to the Committee. He explained there are going to be consequences to these budget cuts. He stated that himself and the Judiciary partners have agreed to put all of this information out in the open to clearly show what each department/office has planned to do. He mentioned that they are well aware that this budget crisis will repeat next year, but there cannot be

a short-term plan. Villa stated that he does not want anyone on the Judicial Public Safety Committee or anyone who is listening to think everyone is complaining. However, he did not want it to seem like these departments/offices were not being good partners and found the need to communicate these concerns. Villa thanked the Committee for listening.

Coroner Silva stated that she understands the budget situation that the County is in. She reviewed the budget cut implications for the Coroner's Office. She stated that the Coroner's Office is very short staffed. At this point, management needs to take cases on. Silva stated that she is concerned for not only her staff, but for Kane County as a whole. She explained that when the Coroner's Office does not have enough money to perform the job duties, they cannot speedily act on cases, while dealing with the public who are going through tough emotional times. She explained that when constituents are subjected to longer wait times, or not having their questions answered, this leads to larger implications in that person's home. Silva stated that she needs the adequate funding to run her office. Otherwise, the implications of what could happen are large. Her main concerns are for the families and her staff. Silva stated that the more the Coroner's office can do, the more they can provide data to the County Board in order to help with the overdose crisis and suicide ideation. She commended her staff on their hard work. With a skeleton crew, she explained that they are doing their best, while trying to make the necessary budget cuts. She mentioned that one thing she cannot do is cut staff, but she will find ways to save money for the future. Silva stated that with these budget cuts her wings are clipped in order to use her expertise in ways to reduce the expenses. She mentioned that sometimes the County must invest before receiving returns. She stated that the Coroner's Office is somewhere the County does not want to cut corners. She mentioned that the Coroner's Officer should have been advocated more and that their budget should have increased over the years. She stated that her office is at a point of being dangerously close to not being able to fill the 24/7 work hours. She mentioned that it is important to fund the Coroner's Office, especially for staffing needs, due to it being the basis of civilization.

The Committee moved back to agenda item five.

A. Authorizing Receipt of the Child Protection Data Courts Grant

Court Admin. O'Brien introduced this resolution. She explained that this Child Protection Data Courts Grant is received on an annual basis in the amount of \$4,150. She stated that the State provides this grant for the Abuse and Neglect courtroom to perform data analysis and case study.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

Court Admin. O'Brien stated that Deputy Court Admin. Mathis took classes to become certified as a Court Manager with the National Center for State Courts. She congratulated Mathis on his accomplishment.

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

State's Attorney Mosser stated the monthly report was on file. Through the initiative of the State's Attorney's Office (SAO) and Kane County, a law has been passed that allows police officers to use their discretion and not arrest juveniles involved in domestic violence situation. This law will allow officers to divert children to care or help, instead of placing them into the juvenile justice system. She noted that training will be given across the State of Illinois to ensure it is implemented well. Mosser spoke on the three measures that officers would utilize to determine if a child needs to be arrested versus the need for help. In these domestic violence situations, the officer can use the Adolescent and Domestic Violence Typology Tool to assess the risk level. Mosser explained that juveniles that commit strangulation or attempted murder will not be deflected. She stated that this law are for juveniles who are potentially charged with a misdemeanor domestic violence that involves a push and/or shove of a parent and/or sibling. Mosser spoke on the current Veto Session in Springfield. She stated that she will be in Springfield at the end of October 2025 to advocate on behalf of Kane County. Lastly, Mosser mentioned that two interns at her office recently passed the BAR Exam and will be sworn-in to become Assistant State's Attorneys. She congratulated these interns.

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

Public Def. Conant stated the monthly report was on file. She thanked State's Attorney Mosser for her work on the domestic battery legislation. She explained that her office deals with a plethora of domestic violence cases that involve fights among siblings. She stated that prior to this piece of legislation, kids were being arrested, put through the court system, and housed at the Juvenile Justice Center.

15. Court Services Administration (L. Aust)**A. Monthly Report**

Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust stated the following monthly reports were on file. She thanked State's Attorney Mosser for her work on the domestic violence legislation. She explained that the Domestic Violence statute was written with the idea of intimate partner violence in mind. However, there was never an age limit put in the legislation. Therefore, children were being charged as a intimate partner. In her research of the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), Aust found that Kane County has supported juvenile detention since 1958. The first youth home had ten beds. Before that, those from surrounding areas would drop their children off at a youth home. Aust spoke of old farmers that would accept these children into their homes in the 1930's and 1940's. From there, Kane County became involved in juvenile detention. Aust stated that she is seeking the County Board's input on how they would like to see the JJC operated, such as negotiating contracts with other counties for housing their juveniles.

B. JJC Housing Report**16. Circuit Clerk (T. Barreiro)****A. Monthly Report**

Circuit Clerk's Office's Chief Deputy Clerk Herwick stated the monthly report was on file. She commended Deputy Court Admin. Mathis on his Court Manager certification. She mentioned that Circuit Clerk Barreiro and a manager are taking the class, as well.

17. Old Business

Committee Ex-Officio Roth spoke on the interpreter reimbursement. He explained that at the time this was presented by the Chief Judge, he suggested that this be treated as an Accounts Receivable. He stated that the County's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) should look into this due to this money being reimbursed. He explained that this is the same with Court Services and the reimbursements received for housing out-of-county juveniles. Much discussion ensued on the revenue sources and the budget cut effects on the Judiciary and Public Safety partners. The Committee requested the Finance Director to look into these types of reimbursement revenue sources.

18. New Business

Committee Member Gripe mentioned that each Committee was tasked with reviewing their annual goals for FY2026. Chairman Molina mentioned that each committee needs to be realistic with these goals.

Gripe stated there have been comments made about the disrespect shown to police officers. He spoke on the comments made by a state governor that they will like to arrest and prosecute Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and border patrol agents. Additionally, he mentioned that the Mayor of Aurora will be laying off 20 police officers, which will affect the work of the Kane County Sheriff's Office. Gripe stated that the Mayor of Aurora has said that they should not be focused on taking care of people, but of workers. He commended the police force in Kane County. Discussion ensued.

19. Place Written Reports on File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Michelle Gumz

20. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

21. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Rick Williams
SECONDER:	Michael Linder

This meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM.

Savannah Zgobica
Sr. Recording Secretary