



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)

Thursday, August 15, 2024

9:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Molina called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: Co. Bd. Members Allan*, Bates*, Juby*, Kenyon, Kiouss*; KaneComm Dir. Guthrie; OEM Dir. Buziecki; Undersheriff Johnson*; Coroner Russell; Court Admin. O'Brien & staff Mathis; State's Attorney Mosser & staff Hunt*, O'Brien, Shepro; Public Defender Conant; Court Srvs. Exec. Dir. Aust & staff Davis; Circuit Clk. Barreiro; ITD 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 Member Linder attending today's meeting remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2024

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Bill Roth

5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None.

(Committee Member Linder arrived remotely at 9:04 a.m.)

6. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None.

7. Monthly Financial Reports**A. Monthly Finance Reports**

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

8. Merit Commission

None.

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

KaneComm Dir. Guthrie stated the monthly report was on file. She stated that there were two anniversaries within KaneComm's management team in July 2024. She recognized employees, Andrew Baumann, on celebrating 12 years and Sarah Stoffa on celebrating five years with KaneComm. Guthrie stated that there are a number of projects KaneComm has been working on. She thanked the Circuit Clerk's Office for allowing them to use space to train police agencies on KaneComm's Management Project. This project is in the process of going live, which will be a version of the Sheriff's Office's record system through Tyler Technologies. This system will now be utilized by police agencies throughout the County. Guthrie noted that a resolution about this will be introduced at next month's Committee meeting. She announced that KaneComm will be receiving a grant from the State of Illinois. The grant will come from the Next Generation 9-1-1 grant, which was opened up for more uses, other than just the implementation of the system. With this grant, Guthrie will explore ways on how to make operations more efficient. KaneComm has applied for a \$100K grant to integrate the Emergency Medical Dispatch Protocols into the Computer-Aided Dispatch System. Guthrie presented the Emergency Medical Dispatch Protocols card set that is utilized by each telecommunicator during an emergency 9-1-1 call. Lastly, KaneComm's priorities continue to be hiring and training. Guthrie addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

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

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated the monthly report was on file. He shared his excitement on the Preparedness Classes for Kids that is taught by Preparedness Specialist, Beth Drendel. He noted that Drendel will have taught approximately 1,500 kids during this year. He stated that the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is actively looking for grants for this program, due to items handed out to the children at these classes, such as a first-aid kits. He explained that after the last severe storms that affected Kane County, many parents of these kids reported having a more calm demeanor and taught their families how to set up their own emergency preparedness kits. Buziecki stated that OEM volunteers have served approximately 9K hours through the end of July 2024. He reported that the Planning Specialist position has become

vacant, last month. OEM has received 26 applicants for this position and are in the process of interviewing six people. Buziecki hopes to have this position filled by next month. He shared photographs of the children that attended the Emergency Preparedness Class.

B. Tornado Presentation

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated that Kane County has had 10 tornadoes, to date. He provided the July 2024 Tornado Briefing presentation. On Sunday, July 14, 2024, at approximately 10:00 p.m. two tornadoes were spotted in Elburn and St. Charles. Buziecki shared photographs depicting the path of these two tornados. He reviewed the statistics of each tornado. On Monday, July 15, 2024, at about 9:00 p.m., three tornadoes were spotted in Maple Park, Sugar Grove/Aurora, and Sugar Grove/North Aurora areas. There were a total of 32 confirmed tornadoes in the Chicagoland National Forecast area, which broke a record of the most tornadoes in a single day. Buziecki shared the statistics of the three tornadoes. He shared numerous photographs depicting the structural damage around the County. He reviewed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Estimate of Eligible Public Assistance. He explained that OEM is required to collect damage cost estimates. Every level of government has the opportunity to submit cost damage estimates to FEMA for financial assistance. As of August 14, 2024, Kane County had approximately \$700K in damages. Buziecki explained that in order to qualify for FEMA assistance, Kane County would need \$2.3M. He noted that the damage acquired by these storms would not qualify. He explained that OEM wants to become better at finding storm damage, in order to possibly receive financial assistance. He summarized the statistics of the 10 Kane County tornadoes. Buziecki addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

11. Sheriff/Adult Corrections (R. Hain)

A. Monthly Report

Chairman Molina stated the Sheriff's monthly report was on file. No additional report was made.

12. Coroner (R. Russell)

A. Monthly Report

Coroner Russell stated the monthly report was on file. He reported on the Coroner's Office's initiatives. He spoke on preventable deaths, such as opioid-related deaths. Within the last year, the Coroner's Office and the Kane County Health Department (KCHD) have been pushing the Narcan initiative. With the partnership of KCHD, approximately 500 boxes of Narcan have been distributed throughout the County. Russell spoke on the installation of Narcan vending machines all around the County. He explained that Narcan administration will not harm a person, even if they are not suffering from an opioid overdose. He noted that having this lifesaving drug assessable for residents will help prevent less overdose deaths. Russell spoke on a second alarming trend. Since 2020, Kane County has had approximately 15 homicides

per year. He explained that DuPage County, which has 9000K residents, average 12 to 15 homicides per year. This is alarming, since Kane County has about half of the population than DuPage. Russell explained that he has partnered with author, Dr. Robert Renteria, in hopes that Kane County could help combat the violence. He spoke on Dr. Renteria's past gang-life and how he became a marine, business owner, and author. He spoke on Renteria's books' impact within the world of crime. Russell hopes to receive these books throughout the County and host events to help those that need a way out of the violent life. He anticipates these books and events will help prevent these violent deaths proactively, instead of consistently being on the defense. Russell addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

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

Court Admin. O'Brien explained that Chief Judge Villa has been absent due to family issues. She spoke on the request for reductions for FY2025 Budget. She explained that each County department/office was given strict guidelines by the Finance Department and the County Board to adhere to an increase of 2.5% for personnel and 3% in commodities/contractual services. Under these directives, Judiciary and Courts did as requested, but is still being asked to cut expenses. O'Brien explained that the Judiciary and Courts is a small department with no extra or unneeded positions. In fact, Judiciary and Courts has combined positions to better streamline operations. Over the past three years, Judiciary and Courts have applied and were awarded Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) grants in the amount of approximately \$4M to improve court technology and modernize court functions. These are dollars that Judiciary and Courts did not request from the County. O'Brien stated that Judiciary and Courts are thankful to the County for granting equity adjustments for legal staff to remain competitive in today's job market and that they support the courts' programs. If budget cuts are enforced, the progress and services will be diminished or be lost. Across the board blanket reductions seems fair, but are only fair on the surface. These reductions presume all work and costs are equal, but does not account for the differences in each departments ability to absorb those cuts. O'Brien stated that it is unfortunate that these cuts are being asked for in an effort to correct the real issue, a long-term plan to increase revenue. As justice partners, each strive to fulfill our mission to uphold the law, administer justice, and serve and protect the community. Judiciary partners manage their departments responsibly, such as applying for grants. Kane County Judiciary and Courts are recognized nationwide for their services and programs provided. By asking Judiciary and Courts to reduce expenses and cut personnel, if needed, is telling staff that they are expendable and tells the Kane County community that diminished or lack of services are okay. O'Brien reported that, at this time, Judiciary and Courts cannot make any specific reductions without discussing it with Chief Judge Villa. O'Brien addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

Deputy Court Admin. Mathis announced that former Chief Judge Hull will be retiring after serving 30+ years in public service. An open house will be held in his honor at the Kane County Judicial Center on August 16, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Mathis provided a brief personal and professional background of Judge Hull. He thanked Hull for his service.

14. 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 FY2023 Annual Report. She stated that the State's Attorney's Office (SAO) is diligently going through their budget to see where they can cut expenses. However, she wanted to present this information to express the concerns of the SAO. Mosser reviewed the significant increased statistics in investigations and cases within each SAO unit, such as the Criminal Division, Felony Screening, Major Crimes Unit, Gun and Gang, Narcotics, Child Advocacy Center, Special Victims, Domestic Violence, Victim Services, DUI and Major Traffic, Juvenile Delinquency, Abuse and Neglect, Misdemeanor and Traffic, Conviction Integrity and Resentencing, Post Conviction, Specialty Courts, Child Support, Deferred Prosecution, Collaborative Diversion, and Civil Division. She spoke of the financial impact each one of these cases have on the SAO. Mosser stated that she has visited Springfield, Illinois numerous times to request grants to help serve the community. Recently, the SAO was granted \$1M for assistance on Domestic Violence cases. Mosser spoke on her frustrations of being asked to cut 4.8% from the SAO budget. She echoed Judiciary and Courts that they are federally mandated. She spoke on her office's proactive approach to solving issues around the County. She continues to seek out grants and be fiscally responsible. She and CFO Hunt will work together to try to find areas in which the SAO could make cuts. However, Mosser stated she will not lay-off any employee from her office. Each one of these employees is crucial to the functionality of the SAO. She explained that the SAO is willing to work with the County Board, but she cannot lessen her office that is finally running efficiently. Mosser addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

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

Public Defender Conant stated the monthly report was on file. She commented on the requested budget cuts directed by the Finance Department and the County Board. As reported last month, the Public Defender's Office (PDO) will be fully staffed, due to the recognition of the County Board on the importance and need of comparable, equitable salaries for these attorneys. In the PDO, moral is up because these attorneys can afford to stay in the job they love and can focus on plans that the PDO have had. Conant stated that experienced attorneys are a premium. Many hours are spent in training these attorneys, which makes it very important to retain them. This makes a difference because the PDO is mandated through the U.S. Constitution and legislation to provide the right to counsel. Conant spoke on the amount of time it takes to appropriately address each Pretrial Fairness Act hearing. She noted that most of these hearings are not planned and are in addition to the attorney's case call. Conant stated that because of the Pretrial Fairness Act, the PDO needs to retain trained and educated attorneys, in order to effectively represent their clients.

Conant spoke on the increased impact of the Pretrial Fairness Act. Conant explained that with the additional funds granted by the County Board, the PDO was able to hire the proper amount of attorneys and support staff. Conant spoke on the impacts her office has had on each case and the ability to represent their clients in court. She explained that attorneys are the majority of the PDO's budget. If these proposed budget cuts were to be implemented, she would need to cut these attorneys. Conant explained that these attorneys carry out the mandates and without them they cannot ensure effective and efficient resolutions of cases. She echoed that if any of the Judiciary partners make staff cuts, it would impact the Judicial System as a whole. Conant explained several examples the budget cuts would have on each Judiciary partner's office/department. She stated that the PDO has followed the FY2025 guidelines and has worked to be a responsible fiscal partner. She will continue to review the PDO's budget to see where cuts could be made, but the budget is mainly salaries and wages for attorneys.

16. Court Services Administration (L. Aust)

A. Monthly Report

Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust stated the following two reports were on file. She addressed the lack of communication from the County Board to departments/offices addressing the \$2M budget cuts. She spoke on the need for Judiciary partners to sign up for public comment to address the Finance Committee at the previous Special Finance Committee meeting. She addressed the potential impacts on Court Services. She has reviewed her budget and will be able to cut one commodities, such as reducing drug testing on those on probation and essential rehabilitation services. During last's months FY2025 Budget presentations, Aust stated she proposed a cut of \$300K in Juvenile Crisis Stabilization and residential placements. This funding could potentially be switched to the County's budget as referenced in the Kane County Code, Statute 55. It states that it is the County's obligation to fund the Shelter Care Act and Detention Home Act. After that presentation, Aust spoke to County judges about these potential budget cuts. Many of them showed concern, especially with the lack of services within the current juvenile system. Aust spoke on the distance traveled by juveniles to address their mental health. She explained that if cuts are not made to the Juvenile Crisis Stabilization and residential placements, then cuts to staff will have to be made. She informed the Committee that the majority of Court Services' commodities are related to the operations of the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). She stated that Juvenile Detention is regulated closely and cuts cannot be made here. If she were to cut staff that equated to the proposed \$420K, it would take ten staff members. Aust reminded the Committee that a strike occurred in 2018 when eight staff members were let go from the Electric Home Monitoring Program. She stated that she has reviewed the Court Services Budget and has made every feasible cut she can. Any additional cuts that she is requested to make would adversely affect court operations. Aust stated that numerous meetings would need to be had with each Judiciary partner on how these proposed cuts would impact the court. Additionally, she would need to speak with the Administrative Office of

Illinois Courts (AOIC) in order to receive permission to reduce certain programs. As mentioned, judges are under no requirement to stop ordering people to probation or pretrial services, just because the County reduces funding. If Court Services has to make these cuts, it will impact the entire Kane County criminal system.

B. JJC Housing Report

C. Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Mason County for Juvenile Detention Services

Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust provided additional information on this resolution. She 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:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Vern Tepe
AYE:	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Bill Roth, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Corinne M. Pierog
AWAY:	Michael Linder

D. Authorizing the Purchase of Body Scanners for the Juvenile Justice Center

JJC Supt. Davis provided additional information on this resolution, such as the numerous mandates and legislation that has been passed that directly affect the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) and the increase in crimes committed to staff by juveniles. He asked that the Committee approve these scanners to help secure the facility more efficiently. Davis 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:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Michelle Gumz
AYE:	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Bill Roth, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Corinne M. Pierog
AWAY:	Michael Linder

17. Circuit Clerk (T. Barreiro)**A. Monthly Report**

Circuit Clk. Barreiro stated the monthly report was on file. She reported that the Circuit Clerk's Office's (CIC) caseload is up 11%. The CIC is currently fully staffed with Deputy Clerks, due to salary increases. She noted that these salary increases did not increase the CIC's overall budget. Within the CIC's Budget presentation that was shared at last month's meeting, Barreiro shared that the FY2025 budget was 6% lower than FY2024. She spoke on the numerous State statutes that the CIC has to follow. She stated that at the Special Finance Committee meeting, the Committee originally asked for \$1.2M budget cut, this was reduced, but will still have a drastic impact on the CIC. Barreiro spoke on the impacts of these budget cuts. She noted that most of the budget cuts would involve personnel, which she will not do. She spoke on her confusion on these proposed budget cuts, when wages were just increased. She explained that the 16th Judicial Court is a pillar in the State of Illinois. When Barrerio became a County Board Member in 2012, there was much discussion about a 2008 lawsuit involving former Circuit Clerk Deb Seyller. During this time, the Kane County Board cut the CIC's budget which lead to 11 staff members being laid off. When this occurred, phones were not answered and proper services were not provided. Due to this, a lawsuit was filed. Barreiro explained that the Judicial Public Safety Strategic Planning and Technology Commission was developed. This Committee was formed to protect and to fund the case management system, because in 2008, the County wanted the CIC to pay for the system that

is utilized by all Judiciary partners. Barreiro spoke on the importance of having a reliable case management system. She explained that the CIC has had a balanced budget and that she has worked under budget for the past four years. The CIC is finally fully staffed with Deputy Clerks. Barreiro spoke on the amount of work that is required of Kane County clerks to complete. She stated that she will not lay-off staff because the CIC will not efficiently run. Barreiro spoke on the financial impacts of the Pretrial Fairness Act. She addressed the challenges of implementing constant changing legislation on all Judiciary partners. She stated that it would be impossible to cut the amount that was requested by the County Board of Judiciary. She explained that she has been speaking with legislators in Springfield, Illinois on how to gain funding to cover salaries, such as hers. She asked the Committee to please look at the allocation of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Sales Tax. Barreiro addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

18. Old Business

None.

19. New Business

Chairman Molina requested that the Finance Committee allow Judiciary partners to participate in the next Special Finance meeting on Monday, August 12, 2024. Additionally, she will be reaching out to the Judicial Public Safety (JPS) Committee regarding the September 12, 2024 meeting. She noted that there is a Forest Preserve golf outing that is scheduled the same day and she would like to see who will be able to attend the JPS meeting. If many members cannot attend, an alternative date would be decided upon.

20. Place Written Reports on File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Rick Williams

21. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

22. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Bill Lenert

This meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

Savannah Valdez

Sr. Recording Secretary