

COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS
Law, Justice and Legislation Committee
Monday, July 26, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Pledge Allegiance – Chair Judy Gilmour called the meeting to order at 3:15p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Committee Member	Status	Arrived	Left Meeting
Judy Gilmour	Here		
Amy Cesich	Present		
Dan Koukol	Present		
Ruben Rodriguez	ABSENT		
Robyn Vickers	Here		

Others Present: Sheriff Dwight Baird, EMA Director Roger Bonuchi, Public Defender Vicki Chuffo, Court Services Director Alice Elliott, Commander Jason Langston, Chief Judge Robert Pilmer, Coroner Jacquie Purcell, Undersheriff Bobby Richardson, Commander Jeanne Russo

Approval of Agenda: Member Cesich made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Member Koukol.

With four members present voting aye, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes – Member Cesich made a motion to approve the May 17, 2021 meeting minutes, second by Member Vickers.

With four members present voting aye, the motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Public Comment – Ronald Mattson, addressed the committee on the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Law and the need for a County Resolution in support of the Constitution and the Second Amendment.

Status Reports

Coroner – Written report provided. Coroner Purcell reviewed the July 2021 report stating there were a total of 225 deaths in the County this year to date, and Purcell said this included 5 suicides. Coroner Purcell stated that there were 18 hours of community service hours served in the Coroner’s Office in July.

EMA – Written report provided. Director Bonuchi reported that he and three EMA Volunteers assisted Grundy County EMA with the Battery Factory fire by answering phone calls from 4-11p.m.

Director Bonuchi also reported that the Dresden Nuclear Drill on July 20th went very well, although FEMA and IEMA met with the group remotely, there were 14 County Elected Officials and staff that

were in-person for the drill. Mr. Bonuchi stated that FEMA gave KC EMA a 100 percent on all 19 points of the drill.

Public Defender – Written reports for June provided. Ms. Chuffo stated that the number of cases continues to increase at almost double the rate as last year. Ms. Chuffo lost one Assistant Public Defender last week that will be replaced on August 9th, and will lose her First Assistant Public Defender in August. Both Assistants left Kendall County because of burn-out and the excessive case load. Assistants have approximately 500 cases per month in Kendall County, and Kane County Assistants normally carry about 100 cases per month.

Circuit Clerk – Written reports provided.

Court Services – Written reports provided. Ms. Elliott reported that the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP) union contract negotiations are ongoing. The old contract will expire on November 30, 2021.

Ms. Elliott reported that the Public Service Work Program went through a revamping prior to Covid-19 in an effort to increase the number of not-for-profit worksites receiving court ordered community service workers. The KC Court Services Office continued work through the pandemic, and had 32,383 hours of community service work hours between March 2020 and March 2021. She was happy to report that they are back on track and have completed 13,050 hours of community work hours this year. There is need for additional not-for-profit worksites to increase the availability of hours for people in the rural areas of Kendall County. Ms. Elliott said that any organization interested in the Court Service Work Program should contact the Court Services Office.

Chief Judge – Judge Pilmer reported that Judge Stuckert from DeKalb has retired, and that Judge Stephanie Kline will begin work in Kendall County on August 9, 2021 for one-year. Judge Voiland will go to the DeKalb Courts for a one-year term until Judge Kline is able to assume her role in DeKalb.

Judge Pilmer stated that the Zoom and In-Person court proceedings is working well, and that they continue with in-person Jury Trials currently. Pilmer stated that face masks are now optional in the Courthouse and courtrooms.

Judge Pilmer stated that he is very concerned for the Assistant Public Defender caseloads, and said there are very strict standards regarding the right for a defendant to have proper and adequate representation. The fact that the caseloads have doubled for the past several years, confirms the need for additional Assistant Public Defenders.

Sheriff's Report

- a. Operations Division – Written April report provided.
- b. Corrections Division – Written April report provided. Commander Russo reported an increase of intakes in the jail, and reported that the Department of Corrections is now authorized to pay for Federal housing.

Commander Russo reported that the Electronic Home Monitoring Program is going well, and that Corrections is able to collect more of the fees from participants.

c. Records Division – Written report provided.

Sheriff Baird summarized the major topics to be addressed in the SAFE-T Act that were effective on July 1, 2021, including:

1. Permanent retention of police misconduct records
2. Body Camera Video Review
3. Use of Force
4. New Reporting Requirements
5. Attorney General investigations and possible civil penalties
6. Deflection programs and nine new required areas of training
7. Specifically Defining Police Misconduct

Baird said that topics deferred until 2022 or 2023 that will be addressed in future training are:

1. Arrest for resisting vs. obstruction (2023)
2. Mental health screenings for officers (2022)
3. “30 hours of training every 3 years” (2022)
4. Decertification changes (2022)
5. Anonymous Complaints (2022)
6. Three phone calls for people in custody (2022)
7. Citations in lieu of arrest for Class B and C misdemeanor (2023)
8. Bail gives way to Pretrial Release in Bail Reform (2023)

Sheriff Baird stated that the KC Sheriff’s Office investigates their own investigations for complaints about deputies, and has their own Code of Conduct for Sheriff’s Deputies.

Old Business – None

New Business

- *Discussion and Approval of the Kendall County Emergency Management Agency Volunteer Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement* - EMA Director Roger Bonuchi briefed the committee on the form and liability agreement, and how the form affects his volunteer force. Bonuchi asked that the County Board adopt the *County Emergency Management Agency Volunteer Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement* so that protocols for volunteers could be established. Participation will be denied to any volunteer that refuses to sign the waiver and liability form.

Member Cesich made a motion to forward the *County Emergency Management Agency Volunteer Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement* to the County Board for approval, second by Member Koukol.

With four members present voting aye, the motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

Chairman’s Report/Comments – No report

Items for the August 3, 2021 Kendall County Board Meeting

- *Discussion and Approval of the Kendall County Emergency Management Agency Volunteer Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement*

Items for the August 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting - None

Public Comment – Lucas Finfrock conveyed his frustration with Kendall County, and the need for restriction of gun classes or any weapon firing at the PNA Camp on River Road. Mr. Finfrock stated that his home has been fired upon on two occasions, and that he fears for his family’s safety, and wants the County Board to enact some type of zoning ordinance restricting firearms in residential areas.

Legislative Update – None

Executive Session – Member Cesich made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of the review of discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06, 5ILCS 120-2/2, second by Member Vickers.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Member Gilmour – yes, Member Cesich – aye, Member Koukol – yes, Member Vickers – yes. **With four members present voting aye, the motion carried, and the committee entered into Executive Session at 4:35p.m.**

The committee reconvened into Open Session at 4:40p.m.

Adjournment – Member Cesich made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Koukol.

With four members in agreement, the meeting adjourned at 4:42p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valarie McClain
Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary