

COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 4:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Vice Chairman Kellogg called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Member	Status	Arrived	Left Meeting
Amy Cesich	Present		
Brian DeBolt	Yes		
Elizabeth Flowers	Present	4:17 pm	
Scott Gengler	Present		
Judy Gilmour	Absent		
Scott Gryder	Here	4:10 pm	
Matt Kellogg	Present		
Dan Koukol	Here		
Ruben Rodriguez	Here		
Robyn Vickers	Here		6:02 pm

Staff Present: Sheriff Dwight Baird, State’s Attorney Eric Weis, County Administrator Scott Koepfel, Jennifer Karales, Jeanne Russo, Bobby Richardson, Mike Peters, Dan Polvere, William Curry, Coroner Jacquie Purcell, Sally Seeger.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Member Rodriguez to amend the agenda by moving #8 Public Comment item after New Business #5 Discussion of the Kendall County Jail Operations to allow for citizen comments, second by Member Cesich. **With seven members present voting aye, the motion carried by a vote of 7-0.**

Approval of Previous Month’s Meeting Minutes – Member DeBolt made a motion to approve the July 11, 2022 and July 28,2022 meeting minutes, second by Member Gengler. **With nine members present voting aye, the motion carried by a vote of 9-0.**

New Business

• ***Discussion of the Kendall County Jail Operations***

Sheriff Dwight Baird led a discussion regarding the jail operations as we move forward into fiscal year 2023. Sheriff Baird stated that his budget presentation is on the website under the Transparency tab.

The reasons for this evaluation of the jail operations and need for this discussion is due to the decreasing jail population, Sheriff Baird outlined the various factors, as this applies to Kendall County.

Sheriff Baird explained the cost analysis options of operating the jail. Four options

explained and the pros and cons for each option.

- Option A: Status Quo for personnel and house only 20 outside inmates and no positions eliminated.
- Option B: House all Kendall County inmates in the Kane County Jail and eliminate 31 correctional deputies.
- Option C: House Kendall County inmates plus 20 outside inmates and housing Kendall county female inmates at Kane county (this is being done currently) with the elimination of 13 (5 of these are vacant positions) correctional deputies.
- Option D: House only Kendall County inmates with the elimination of 13 correctional deputies.

Option A: Sheriff Baird does not recommend this option but wanted to let you know if we did not change current staffing levels. Budget \$5,750,690 minus the \$619,191 in housing revenue brings the impact to \$5,131,499.

Option B: This option has the lowest cost to the general fund budget but has the highest staffing reduction at 31. This option is budgeted at \$2.7 million less than status quo. Budget \$3,882,731 minus \$1,453,066 (insurance and benefits) brings the impact to \$2,429,665.

Option C: This option does provide savings to the county from the status quo with the elimination of 13 correctional deputies. This option is budgeted at \$1.55 million less than status quo.

Budget \$4,735,616 minus the \$619,191 in housing revenue and minus the \$535,401 (insurance and benefits) brings the impact to the budget to \$3,581,024.

Option D: This option does provide savings to the county from the status quo with the elimination of 13 correctional deputies. This option is budgeted at \$1.23 million less than status quo. Budget \$4,515,312 minus \$535,401 (insurance and benefits) brings the impact to the budget to \$3,979,911.

Sheriff Baird discussed the previous and proposed budget graph. Sheriff Baird expects the cost of operating the jail will increase a projected 3% increase on all options.

Sheriff Baird stated,

After a careful review of the financial options and discussion with local police agencies, Judiciary, States Attorney, Public Defender, Circuit Clerk, and Probations we would recommend Option C (Housing Kendall County inmates and 20 Out of County inmates, while outsourcing Kendall County Female inmates to Kane County) for FY 2023. This would be a savings of approximately \$1.5 million dollars. This would also allow us time to examine the impact of the new cashless bail system and see exactly how this will impact Kendall County.

Discussion ensued with Member Cesich wanting clarification on what the Sheriff is recommending at this time and wanting more information on the cashless bail system. States Attorney Eric Weis provided information regarding the Safe-T Act that takes effect on January 1, 2023.

Sheriff Baird discussed how the contract with Kane County to house female inmates would work once the initial contract is approved.

The benefits of increased use of home monitoring was discussed. Next year will be a gauge of what impact will be on costs and the budget. Any layoffs will need to be discussed with the union.

Sheriff Baird asked if Option C seems to be the direction that the Board would support, when he turns in his budget due next Friday.

Attorney Eric Weis commented that he does not support closing the jail, losing the jail would be a horrific idea. Closing the jail has unintended consequences, lots of intangibles, other factors other than cost savings should be considered when being discussed.

Public Comment

- Deputy Daniel Misener and Deputy Casey Cantwell made public comments regarding the discussion of the Kendall County Jail Operations.

New Business

- ***Discussion of the Kendall County Employee Handbook***

Mr. Koepfel went over a memo in the committee packet (page 10) that outlined the changes made to the employee handbook. If approved by board the Employee Handbook will become effective on September 1, 2022.

- Member Gengler made a motion to forward the Updated Employee Handbook to the August 16, 2022 County Board Meeting for approval, second by Member Cesich. **With nine members present voting aye, the motion carried by a vote of 9-0.**

- ***Training on ReMarkable Tablets***

Jennifer Karales gave the board instructions/training on the use of the ReMarkable tablets. The tablets will be replacing the budget books this year. Jennifer informed the board that the tablets will be kept in the Administration office, and brought to the meetings.

Old Business – None

Department Head and Elected Official Reports – None

Questions from the Media – None

Chairman's Report – No report

Board Action Items for August 16, 2022 Meeting

- *Approval of Kendall County Employee Handbook*

Executive Session – Not needed

Adjournment – Member DeBolt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Koukol. **With eight members present voting aye, the meeting adjourned at 6:06p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally A. Seeger
Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary