

League of Women Voters
Kane County Government
Monitoring Committee Report

MEETING: Judicial & Public Safety Committee

DATE: June 21, 2007 REPORTING: Darlene Bakk
ATTENDING: Mitchell, Fahy, Neuberger (late), Noverini, Shoemaker

ABSENT: Davoust and Tredup

PRESS IN ATTENDANCE: *Daily Herald, Chicago Tribune*

DID PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: NA

SUMMARY OF MEETING: For informational purposes, this committee covers Judge Weir's Drug Rehabilitation Court, Dr. Brown's Juvenile Custody, D. Kliment's Public Defender, D. Seyller, Circuit Court, J. Barsanti's State's Atty, D. Naughton's Judiciary & Courts, C. West's Coroner, P. Perez, Sheriff, the Merit Commission, Adult Corrections and Court Services Administration.

Many of the above representatives reported going over budget for various reasons briefly outlined to the committee. **T. Brown** reported the possibility of going over \$300,000, which he claimed was due to circumstances out of his control. **Barsanti** reported Elgin had so many seized vehicles they didn't know where to store them. Budget \$200,000, has spent \$283,000. No control over costs which pertain to workman's comp, possible legal fees for pending lawsuits, etc. Will ask for budget amendment next meeting. **Perez** reported that the Kane County SWAT team participated in a national competition in South Carolina. They raised \$6,000 to go and traveled in a motor home seized in a drug deal. This now will be converted into a useful department vehicle. Chair Mitchell asked about Campton Village's progress with initiating its new police department. Perez did not have a report on this but suggested the policing contracts be looked at especially since other townships may incorporate and experience the same issues.

West reported there were no increases, but he gave an example of why some of the cases were so time extensive and complicated. Briefly: dead man found in bed. He had artificial heart. The concern was because equipment--he had to be plugged into electrical outlets 2 hrs a day and there had been power outages it was difficult ruling out causes. They (West, et al) accompanied body to U of Chicago who they found inserts this type of artificial heart and who was medically able to remove, check all parts and give a full report. They brought body back, are storing it because when there is a question of death (as in probable pending lawsuit) they have to--due to statute-- keep the body indefinitely (forever). However, this is also problematic as the power has been repeatedly going off at the coroner's office--4 failures in one month halting at least one on-going autopsy. Mitchell said he will follow-up. West reported there are problems with payroll which will impact budget and he wanted to forewarn. He was referred to finance and county board chair.

Mueller reported that the new law now on the governor's desk for signing to change the age of placing juveniles in JJC from 17 to 18, will create problems which will affect its budget. Because of this, the beds will be filled with Kane County kids (30%) increase, therefore losing the revenue from charging out of county fees for beds. Have some time to work on this. Due to start up July 2008 for misdemeanors, and the following year for felonies. Williams asked if he should look into building 80 more beds and a commitment from other counties to fill those beds which he thought would help defray costs and bring in lost revenue due to new law. This will probably be covered in more detail by Herald and Tribune.

MOST CRITICAL ISSUES(S): NA

NEXT MEETING: See Kane County web-site for updates on all meetings.