

**MINUTES OF THE
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012

At a meeting of the **Justice and Public Safety Committee**, held Tuesday, January 24, 2012, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

DiMaria-Chair, Brown, Carabelli, Frascchetti, Gralewski, Miller, Sauger,
Sabatini, Smith and Vosburg (ex-officio).

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Flynn, Mocerri and Tocco.

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair DiMaria called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Sabatini, supported by Smith, to adopt the agenda, as presented. **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Carabelli, to approve the December 5, 2011 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

PRESENTATION BY CHIEF JUDGE DAVID VIVIANO

Chief Judge David Viviano spoke about the development of a strategic plan to improve operations in the courts and the concept of moving the Probate Court into the Circuit Court building in downtown Mount Clemens. The general goal is to consolidate court operations and employees into what he referred to as the downtown campus. Eventually, the Juvenile Court will be moved into downtown Mount Clemens. The first step in the plan already underway is moving the Mental Division of the Probate Court. The intermediate range goal is to bring the rest of the Probate Court over sometime next year.

Commissioner Sauger expressed concern about not having enough public parking in the downtown area. Judge Viviano felt a plan to accommodate parking will need to be fully discussed. A related point which is of great concern to him as well as others is to address the special needs population who come to the Probate Court and attend to their specific needs.

Commissioner Brown asked for a timeline when the proposed moves will be brought forth. Judge Viviano indicated he is looking at a 60-day timeframe to implement the Mental Division move. He explained the second part of the Probate Court move is in its early phases, but would like to see that accomplished by early next year.

Commissioner Brown inquired if there will be a recommendation for a parking structure. Judge Viviano felt to a degree that is a bit beyond his purview, but thought a parking garage will have to be part of the discussion.

Commissioner Tocco asked if it is anticipated the Probate Court and Friend of the Court will be housed in one building. Judge Viviano felt down the road dialogue will need to take place about the Friend of the Court staying in the Circuit Court building or moving their location to the County building.

Finishing up on his presentation, Judge Viviano touched on technology and spoke about a new program they are working on called Smart Bench.

MOTION

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Smith, to receive and file the presentation by Chief Judge David Viviano. **The Motion Carried.**

Chair DiMaria moved up agenda item #8. There were no objections.

PRESENTATION BY RUSSELL McPEAK, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Russ McPeak gave a brief overview of his department's funding sources. He spoke about the services and programs provided by Macomb County Community Corrections. He noted if the department did not exist, the jail count would be up an additional 150 inmates on a daily basis.

Commissioner Brown spoke about the savings of having the Tether Program and inquired about the use of tethers in Mr. Peak's operation. Russ McPeak believed 35 people are currently on a tether. He recalled at one point they had 70 to 80 on tether, but monies were cut because of financial considerations of the county.

Commissioner Smith questioned the real savings with the Tether Program being cut. To him, those individuals who would have been out on tether are now incarcerated for a

longer amount of time. Russ McPeak explained if a judge orders someone on tether, they will come up with a way to honor that request. What is not happening now, because of a lack of funds is that they are not soliciting the courts to do it as much as they used to.

Commissioner Brown inquired if billing the community from which the person was originated from for the tether has been explored. Russ McPeak indicated that has never been brought up to his knowledge.

Commissioner Brown inquired how often tether services are bid out. Russ McPeak recalled it was about three years ago. He noted it is coming up for bid this coming year and they are supposed to go along with Juvenile Court and do a joint bid. Commissioner Brown asked if it is anticipated the contract will be greater than \$15,000. Russ McPeak explained that most tethers are self-paid.

Commissioner Sauger suggested looking into utilizing drug forfeiture monies to help support the Tether Program, because it benefits every community in Macomb County. Russ McPeak indicated he will contact Sheriff Wickersham and Judge Maceroni and then follow-up with him.

Chair DiMaria inquired as to how many employees are in the Community Corrections Department. Russ McPeak indicated he has four contract employees and 11 county employees. He then introduced two of his staff who were in the audience: Patricia Mazzola, Clinical Supervisor and Linda Verville, Assistant Director.

MOTION

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Sabatini, to receive and file the presentation by Russell McPeak, Director, Community Corrections Department. **The Motion Carried.**

APPROVE ONE-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH SOUND COUNSELING / JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

Commissioners Carabelli, Brown and Miller directed questions to Chuck Seidelman. Topics of discussion included: the requirements of last year's bid process, how long the county has had a relationship with Sound Counseling, the length of the current contract and extensions, and the contract amount.

MOTION

A motion was made by Gralewski, supported by Smith, to approve a one-year contract extension with Sound Counseling to provide professional and therapeutic services at the Juvenile Justice Center from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. **Forward to the Finance Committee. The Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Sabatini, supported by Frascchetti, to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m. **The Motion Carried.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Denise M. Jacks", written over a horizontal line.

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter