

**LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**  
**McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building**  
**667 Ware Road**  
**Woodstock IL 60098**

MINUTES OF MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009

Chairman Yvonne Barnes called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Yvonne Barnes, Randy Donley and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Bob Bless, Sue Draffkorn, Jim Heisler and James Kennedy were absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator-Finance; Undersheriff Lowery, Sheriff's Department; Barry Valentine, EMA; Kathy Keefe, Circuit Clerk; Mark Cook, Public Defender; Judge Michael Sullivan; Dan Wallis, Court Administrator; Tom Carroll, State's Attorney, Phil Ulmer, Court Services; interested public and the press.

Yvonne Barnes, Chairman	
Robert "Bob" Bless	Randy Donley
Sue Draffkorn	Jim Heisler
James Kennedy	Kathleen Bergan Schmidt

MINUTES: No quorum to approve minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATION

Noting there was not a quorum present Chairman Barnes elected to move forward the presentation and discussion on the Integrated Justice System.

*Integrated Justice Update:* Ms. Keefe and Mr. Austin provided a presentation on the Integrated Justice System and where they currently are on the project. The Courts had a noble goal to develop an integrated court/justice system. McHenry County was to be a guinea pig for the project. This project never took off as expected and no prioritization of what we wanted. Two and a half years ago the Courts realized that a huge investment was needed in order to get the project off the ground. They chose ISS (Integrated Software Specialist) to help build the software and hired Nick Carroccia as project manager to build an integrated court system. This system was to serve the Courts, State's Attorney, Public Defender, Circuit Clerk and Sheriff's Departments. This was not software that could be bought off the shelf, but, a product designed specifically for McHenry County. There were some unknowns about the project. Costs were initially estimated at \$3 million dollars. The Courts were to borrow \$3 million dollars, from the general fund, to be paid back over six years. Payments have been received on time. Once the project started, some additional items were needed, increasing the borrowing to \$3.5 million, to be paid back over 7 years. This expansion caused deliverable issues. Now, in order to complete the project an additional \$350,000 is needed. The Courts are not in a position to pay any more of the project; they need their fund to grow before any additional funding could come from the specified fund. Committee members noted concern that this product does not become the property of McHenry County and allows ISS to use and sell the product that was created with McHenry County dollars. They noted that they thought the product would become the property of McHenry County. They would then be able to "sell" the product to help recoup some of the costs to create the software. It was noted that some did not feel that the County would become the "owner" of the software, but, would be able to recoup some of the fees by getting "unlimited" exclusive use of the product. Ms. Keefe provided a brief demo of the courts piece of the software. Each office is working on their independent pieces for the software. It was noted that May 4<sup>th</sup> is a doable date for implementation of the product. This would allow March for testing, April for training. This product has improved the accuracy of the information received. The displays are more user friendly with financial information for each case displayed and broken down. The system would show when a fee is paid and shows if there are other cases that may be related to this specific case. This improves the accuracy if a person should have multiple cases out there. Another new feature shows payments for those not going to court. 50% of cases are paid without a court appearance so the system will automatically assess any related fees. This is a big time saver for the Circuit Clerk. The information inputted into the system, the more value will be seen. They are looking at a mid-summer date for implementation of the Probation Department. It was noted that additional details are needed to see where the additional funding is going. The State's Attorney will be reviewing the contracts to include tighter language and payment made on deliverables received. Committee members noted concern that we are considering paying additional funds for a product that was to have cost the county \$3 million dollars. When will the additional funding requests stop? They also questioned what the County could do to make this company deliver the product as promised? They also questioned why ISS was becoming the exclusive owner of the software that we paid to create. Committee

members wanted tighter controls put into any future contract and voiced concern over promises made, but not kept. It was noted that the immediate need is to finish the current project for the Circuit Clerk and to impress upon ISS the commitment to complete the project based upon their initial commitment with assurances that the additional flow of funding requests will stop. Committee members questioned if ISS is needed for the implementation of the product. They were informed that ISS is testing the product and is scheduling training for the use of the product. This testing and training will make sure this is a viable product. It was noted that ISS has not met any of their "live" dates and has missed four deliverable dates, with no penalties for not meeting their dates. Committee members stated that we should step back, let ISS tell us the total cost to implement the product and withhold the payment until the County is sure the product works as promised. The County has paid \$3.5 million to date to ISS, there has been an additional 1/2 a million set aside for the design of the integration with law enforcement, but, additional funding would be needed to build the "path". It was noted that we should also wait to see if funding from our Federal requests are received. Committee members were invited to attend a meeting with ISS officials today at 3:00pm in the Circuit Clerks office. Committee members asked if IT staff would be able to help implement the system on line. It was noted that the Courts employ 4 people to run the case management system. They are currently supporting the old software. As we migrate away from the old software, they will then be available to support the new software. The County IT department does not get involved with the Courts case management system. Judge Sullivan informed committee members that the Clerk of the Courts started using a computerized system in early 1990. They were one of the first Circuit Clerk's in the State to do so. They have had upgrades completed to the current system. When they discovered they could no longer "upgrade" the current system, they entered into discussions about obtaining a new product. New products were cost prohibitive and they then decided to create their own software for self use. They took on an extreme project and without the upgrades they would be required to hire and pay for more personnel to address the growing needs of the department. He noted they have a good product that is almost finished and feels the County should pay to move forward as the current system will not be serviced by its current vendor too much longer. It was noted that the \$350,000 was a negotiated amount as ISS had initially requested another \$550,000 to complete and implement the product. Mr. Wallis, the Trial Court Administrator noted that when he first came on board, he had a lot of concerns regarding this project. He noted that after the implementation of the product, it will be time to take a pause to discuss what will be included and explore options for the next phase of the project. This will create a better contract that includes deliverable, costs and penalties. It was noted that Nick Carroccia is an independent contractor that was hired to work for the Courts on this project. It was stated that since there is not a quorum of the committee, they cannot vote on this request funding request at this time. Committee members noted the need to discuss this project with the Finance Committee. It was noted that since the product is not available to go live immediately, it would be okay to slow down the funding request until the next committee meeting date in April. This would allow for additional discussion and research of the additional funding request.

NEW BUSINESS

*Resolution authorizing additional services with Integrated Software Specialist, Inc. for the integrated justice project:* Since a quorum was not available, this would be considered at the next regular committee meeting.

*Resolution authorizing an intergovernmental agreement between the McHenry County Conservation District and McHenry County to provide mutual aid:* Chairman Barnes noted that this Resolution could be forwarded to the County Board for consideration. Undersheriff Lowery noted that this Resolution is just a formalization of a contract. Chairman Barnes directed the Resolution forwarded to the County Board for consideration.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:**

Resolution authorizing an intergovernmental agreement between the McHenry County Conservation District and McHenry County to provide mutual aid