



Clinton County Justice Coordinating Commission
Clinton County Courthouse
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Clinton, Iowa 52732

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MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 20, 2020 **Time:** 3:30 PM

Location: Law Center – Large Conference Room/EOC

Present: Steve Diesch, Carole Dunkin, Bill Greenwalt, Kelly Greenwalt, Marlita Greve, Kevin Gyrion, Paul Hammond, Kim Hess, Tom Paarmann, Dave Porter, Kim Ralston, Dan Srp, Bert Watson, Mike Wolf

Staff Present: Vacant (Coordinator), Amanda Schwartz (Secretary)

Press: Tim Manning (DeWitt Observer)

Quorum: Yes (12 present, 9 needed)

I. Call to Order, Introductions

Supervisor Srp opened the meeting at 3:31 PM with roll call.

II. Approval of 12/20/19 Minutes

A motion to approve the December 20, 2019 minutes was moved by Chief Porter and seconded by Kim Hess. Motion passed - all ayes

III. Financial Report

Lt Paarmann reported the budget is at 61% with about a total of \$60,000 remaining. Lt. Paarmann asked if the bill had been received yet for the study from Tom Eberly. Supervisor Srp was going to follow up on the status of the invoice. A motion to approve the balance was moved by Chief Porter and seconded by Kim Hess. Motion passed – all ayes

IV. Committee Reports and Discussion

- **Alternative Sanctions & Diversions:** The last meeting included discussion on speeding up the process for inmates in jail, promoting the use of Skype and looking for more court appointed attorneys. The next meeting will be May 21st.
- **Court Issues:** The next meeting will be March 11th.
- **Jail Programming & Reentry:** The first program will start February 27th, with Don Resel with Gideons International. He has been leading this program in Scott County for the last 20 years as well as in Rock Island County. This is a five week faith based life skills course and it requires homework. Lt Hammond has also been in contact with Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous to set up those classes in few weeks. The region is now coming once a week for a full 8-hour day and has offered to work on Mental Health and Substance Abuse evaluations in the jail. They are coming on Tuesdays and Bridgeview comes on Mondays but they cannot depend on the region coming every month. With those services, inmates should not need to be transported to New Directions. ACH is the medical care provider that is contracted in the jail who may be available to do mental health services in house. The county currently pays for Bridgeview to come to the jail. If ACH is contracted for the mental health services, then the funding to Bridgeview will not be needed. Chief Deputy Diesch and Supervisor Srp agreed the region is helpful when they are available in the jail. Kim Hess stated the people from the region would try to conduct the mental health pre-screening for commitments. However, they are not always in the area so they would need to communicate over the phone. ACH may also be available for some of the jail programming. Chief Deputy Diesch is still working with Clinton Community College as there is ongoing discussion on who is going to be responsible for funding

the HiSET instructor and tests. One test costs \$55. The Sheriff's Office did not budget for the HiSET expenses in the upcoming FY 2021.

- Mental Health/Substance Abuse: The February meeting did not take place. The next meeting will be April 14th.

V. Executive Committee/Select 2020 Vice-Chair

Carole Dunkin nominated Chief Porter to be vice-chair. Chief Deputy Diesch nominated Chief Gyrion to be vice-chair. Chief Porter deferred to Chief Gyrion. The vice-chair runs for 2 years prior to moving into the position of chair. A motion to approve Chief Gyrion as vice-chair was passed with all ayes.

VI. Review/Discussion and Possible Adjustment of Multi Year Strategic Plan

The commission discussed the 2020 initiatives to assign:

- Develop and hire a Jail and CCJCC Coordinator Position – The Sheriff's Office and Attorney's Office has volunteered personnel available to help cover administrative and research roles for the CCJCC Coordinator position. The programming aspect of the position may be covered by part of the ACH contract. Discussion took place on the position and job description for the Coordinator position. At this time the FY 2021 budget does not include funding for the Coordinator position. It was suggested to table this initiative to a year from now. Discussion occurred on the role of the Coordinator position and what role the commission has. Supervisor Srp motioned this initiative to be followed up next year.
- Adopt and implement a countywide cite & release policy – Supervisor Srp suggested the work group to work on drafting the policy, training and authorization requirements to be representatives from GAPA, city personnel, county attorney's office and the courts. Attorney Wolf volunteered Robin Strausser from the Attorney's Office to work on this as well as input from the judges to review. Discussion occurred on tracking resources. The group agreed Zuercher was useful for tracking and reporting.
- Expedite plea offers on criminal cases – Attorney Wolf stated the Attorney's Office will work on this initiative along with the court administration. He plans on reaching out to the National District Attorney's Association for expertise. Judge Greve discussed the process of plea deals and how some wait for a better one, which delays the process.
- Conduct an analysis of available community services and identify service gaps – Attorney Wolf offered his employee, Jennifer Lange to work with Becky Eskildsen and Kim Ralston to collect information and create a document for the commission to review.

VII. Budget discussion/Discuss Coordinator's Position

Supervisor Srp updated the commission on the needs for the coordinator and programming positions. It was once discussed to combine both positions into one role. That is pending due to the jail having gaps in the mental health services. Chief Deputy Diesch stated the jail has since provided some possible solutions that are currently being worked on to be implemented in the future once the new fiscal year begins due to budgeting limitations. Supervisor Srp stated to keep in mind the upcoming date for a budget amendment if needed based on the current coordinator vacancy. Kim Hess suggested the need to still have a Coordinator. She thought the position should continue to be discussed each year.

I. Discuss meeting schedule 2020

Supervisor Srp reviewed the schedule with the group. The Chair (Supervisor Srp) and the Vice-Chair (Chief Gyrion) will meet to review the 2019 committee list and membership structure for 2020.

II. Review By Laws

The group reviewed the current By Laws, suggested amended changes in “Section A: Membership”

- Update the Membership roster to be consistent with the current number of members by changing “eleven” to “twelve” due to only having one citizen member now instead of two.
- Change the “City of Clinton Administrator/Designee” to the “City of Clinton Police Chief/Designee” in the membership roster.
- Chief Porter and Supervisor Srp discussed removing “Section B: Coordinator” since the coordinator position is currently vacant. Supervisor Srp thought it should stay due to the verbiage stating “The Commission may employ a coordinator...”.

A motion to approve the amended changes to the By Laws was made by Chief Porter and seconded by Lt Hammond. Motion passed – all ayes.

III. Legalization of recreational marijuana in Illinois

Supervisor Srp asked the group if there have been any impacts noticed in the area. At this time Chief Gyrion has only seen a few dispensary containers but has not seen an impact in the area with the legalization. The group talked about the Lighthouse article from the City of Clinton that includes what law enforcement has seen with this issue. Deputy Chief Greenwalt will forward the article to Amanda to forward to the group. Chief Deputy Diesch stated it is still early to see any impact.

IV. Open Forum

Deputy Chief Greenwalt updated the group on the number of hours and people sentenced to community service in the place of fines have declined over the past two years. The group questioned who is following up with the people once they are sentenced service hours. Kim Hess stated Judge Tabor has an associate court on Friday mornings where those people can come back and change their minds to pay instead of completing hours. Bert Watson stated there is a review date but many of the people do not follow up. Instead of having those people sent back to jail they have the option to pay cash instead at an hourly rate of \$7.25. Kim Hess stated some individuals come in asking to do community service instead of paying the fine but once the fine is delinquent, then they do not have the option to complete community service. Some people are able to be setup on a fine payment plan.

There are about 49 inmates in jail. There are currently three Scott County inmates being housed at the Clinton County Jail.

Adjournment

Supervisor Srp adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 3:30 PM. The location will be at the new Law Center in the Large Conference Room/EOC on the second floor. Agenda items can be emailed to Amanda Schwartz.