



Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 10:30 AM

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube using the web address below
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPa58akL6IQ>

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m., by Chair Mike Koppien.

II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Mike Koppien, Vice Chair Keane Hudson, Katie White, Michael Pearson

Mike Koppien and Keane Hudson attended in person. Katie White attended via Zoom (10:35-10:46). Mike Pearson was absent. Dean Freil was appointed to the committee by Chair Koppien to satisfy quorum.

Also present: Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Kevin Lalley (EMA Director), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Paul Rudolphi (Treasurer), Staci Stewart (Director of Probation and Court Services), Clay Whalen (Sheriff), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

Discussion during attendance:

- Paul Rudolph reported that W2s for Board Members and employees can be picked up in the Treasurer's Office.

III. Public Attendees

No members of the public were in attendance.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (December 10, 2024)

Minutes from the December 10, 2024, Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

V. Animal Control

There were no representatives from Animal Control in attendance and no report was submitted.

VI. Circuit Clerk

Amy Johnson reported that there were two (2) jury trials at the New Courts Building and 90 of 106 jurors showed up. She also reported that the old Courtroom was being used as a jury assembly room.

VII. Judges, Coroner, and Public Defender

No representatives were present from the Judges, Coroner, or Public Defender's Offices and no reports were submitted.

VIII. Emergency Management Agency

A. *Monthly Report*

Kevin Lalley submitted a detailed report to the committee from the Emergency Management Agency. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the January County Board agenda packet.

IX. Health Department

There were no representatives from the Health Department in attendance. Minutes from the January 14, 2024, Board of Health Meeting will be included in the January County Board agenda packet.

X. Probation

Staci Stewart invited everyone to the Veterans Treatment Court graduation that will be held on January 28th. She also reported that she attended a meeting with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts on January 13th. where she learned that there have been changes made to the Probation service fees and how they can be spent. The Supreme Court has set forth the new guidelines and Staci will be bringing updates to the committee in the future regarding the changes.

XI. Sheriff

A. *Monthly Report*

Clay Whelan submitted a detailed report from the Sheriff's Office. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the January County Board agenda packet.

XII. State's Attorney

Charley Boonstra reported that his office is also busy at the New Courts Building with the jury trials. He also explained that his office continues down the path of trying to resolve cases that are being complicated by issues stemming from the Pretrial Fairness Act.

A. *Quarterly Update on the Collection of Unpaid Fines - State's Attorney*

Charley Boonstra reported that \$11,401.68 was collected during the month of December.

XIII. Report of Abandoned/Nuisance Property Focus Group

Jeremy Englund reported that operations of the Abandoned/Nuisance Property Focus Group have been transferred to the Zoning Department, but he will be presenting the reports to Public Safety. Following are highlights from his report:

- The Magnuson Hotel has gone into foreclosure.
- The County has assumed ownership of the Lee Center School through judicial deed. This will make working with an interested developer more productive.
- The group is working through the County nuisance code to navigate pathways for the old Eldena Infirmary.
- From a residential standpoint, the County is currently in the process of developing an intergovernmental agreement platform that could be used by municipality in agreement with the County to use the Strong Communities

Grant Program funds. The City of Amboy is ready to move on a property once the agreement is completed.

Jeremy Englund also reported the following information regarding the BEAD Grant (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment):

- Illinois was awarded slightly over \$1 billion dollars for Broadband infrastructure expansion throughout the state.
- The state is currently working towards phase one within the project.
- Lee County currently has the highest eligible Broadband serviceable locations in the state that are able to receive BEAD funding. Lee County, out of the entire state, has the highest unserved or needed serviceable locations; roughly 8,300, eligible for BEAD funding. The next highest is Ogle County, which has 6,300.
- The County is currently working with four (4) service providers that are crafting draft applications for the first phase of the project which targets the hardest to serve areas. Wave two (2) of the project will hopefully start in the Spring of 2025 and target the remaining locations.

Jeremy Englund also reported the following information regarding RAISE Grant Application (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity):

- The County is working on the RAISE Planning Grant application of \$1.5 million dollars in partnership with Sauk Valley College and the Reagan Mass Transit District. The grant would be for a multi-use path from the City of Dixon to Sauk Valley College. The application is due by January 30th.
- This is the fourth application that the County has submitted for the grant. Jeremy Englund and Greg Gates met with the feds after the last submission to get a better grasp on what could be done to achieve a better response.

XIV. Unfinished Business

There were no items on the agenda under Unfinished Business.

XV. New Business

There were no items on the agenda under New Business.

XVI. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:46 a.m. **Moved** by Keane Hudson. **Second** by Dean Freil **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

Lee County Emergency Management Agency

Office of Emergency Management Activity for December 2024

The Lee County EMA Office responded to a verbal in person request for state reports on a hazardous material spill that occurred on Dec 24, 2020, west of Dixon near to the Union Pacific Railroad. A link to obtain the two state reports was provided to the requestor within 3 hours of the initial request.

Nicholson1 Communications investigated a warning light issue on the EMA 2019 GMC truck. The rear warning bar was defective and replaced. Another emergency module is malfunctioning, and the manufacturer has been contacted for a solution.

LCVC GSAR monthly training was held in the EOC. Photos were taken of each member to update ID cards; registration for the upcoming Lost Person Behavior Class was announced; swearing in of two new members was conducted. The December training topic was Winter Search Preparedness which covered being properly prepared and equipped to conduct a search for a missing person(s) in cold weather. IaR and CalTopo software were reviewed.

IT updated all computers in EOC in process found one computer malfunctioning. The IT office will be investigating but believes the computer will need to be replaced. After review by the IT Department the laptop was repaired and returned to the EOC.

On December 12, the Lee County Office of Emergency Management, Growmark Inc. and Illinois Department of Transportation District 2 Dixon Office, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office met to discuss an emergency traffic detour plan on US Rt. 30 in the event of a leak/spill at the Growmark facility. Having a predefined detour route will assist in the rerouting of vehicular traffic around the facility if the LEL (lower explosive limits) is at or above the prescribed level. With a designated detour route each agency, including Lee County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Transportation, Lee County Highway Department, and local townships will be aware of the official detour. The detour will be rated for highway vehicles. After discussion, Growmark will be running a dispersion model for flammable vapor to determine the restricted area. An additional meeting will be held after the Holidays.

The larger drone, M30T, controller was fitted with a Wi-Fi transmitter and in the command case a Wi-Fi receiver was attached to the monitor. The HDMI cable is no longer needed to stream live video from the controller to the command case monitor. The original vendor Air Worx provided the upgrade at no cost. The Mavic was equipped with the same transmitter/receiver combination, again at no cost.

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Lee County Emergency Management Agency

All equipment with an engine is started and runs for 30 minutes each month to ensure the assets are ready when needed. The Environmental Control Unit (ECU) did not start due to dead batteries. The ECU is a military unit on a trailer containing a diesel generator which runs an 18 KW heating system and an 8-ton air conditioning unit. The ECU is a 24-volt system. To access the batteries for replacement, the tent frame and tent cover must be removed. Maintenance staff assisted in the removal of the tent and finding a place where the tent can be stored. The ECU will be taken to a local mechanic to have the batteries replaced. While at the shop, the unit will have normal maintenance completed including oil changed, oil filter changed, fuel filter changed, coolant checked, and the unit checked over for obvious issues.

Attended a web meeting on EMA Rule Discussion with IEMA staff and had input on how the new rule changes would affect Lee County. The Deputy Director will be reviewing the comments and making changes. An additional web meeting will be held to discuss further changes.

On Sunday evening December 15, EMA Director Lalley received a call from the Dixon Rural Fire Department inquiring how to safely transport nitrous oxide (N₂O) cylinders. Discussed was how to manage the containers, and transportation should be in an open section of a vehicle. Once the containers arrive at the storage area, they should be secured with chains or straps to a fixed surface, stored upright, and always with the protective cap on the valve when not in use. The cylinders need to be protected from potential mechanical and physical damage.

Roland Machinery from Springfield was onsite to service the four 60 KW 3 phase two wheeled generators. Each unit had new tires installed, fuel filters replaced, and fuel treatment added to each.

Action Powersports of Sterling donated forty handwarmers to the Ground Search and Rescue Team. With the approaching cold weather, the handwarmers will assist team members during winter searches. A thank you card was sent the president of Action Powersports.

A young Boy Scout in search of merit badge to become an Eagle Scout met with the Director Lalley as prescribed by the Boy Scouts of America program. The Emergency Preparedness merit badge is a key part of the Scouts BSA program. It teaches Scouts how to be ready for all kinds of emergencies. By working on this badge, Louis learned important skills that can help him and others in tough situations. This merit badge also encourages Scouts to think ahead and be proactive. They learn about prevention and planning, which are important parts of dealing with

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emergencies. By understanding what causes emergencies and how to reduce risks, Scouts can help prevent some emergencies from happening. Either the Emergency Preparedness merit badge OR the Lifesaving merit badge is required for the rank of Eagle Scout.

Director Lalley accepted donation from Depot Days Committee for \$1000 for assisting at the 2024 Depot Days Car Show. The donation was deposited with the treasurer and will be used to purchase additional equipment for EMA.

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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

January 14, 2025

In the months of November and December, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 750 and 641 calls for service respectively.

As far as notable calls over the two-month period, the following incidents occurred...

On November 4th at approximately 4:30 p.m., a female contacted the Lee County Sheriff's Office to report a domestic violence situation from the previous evening that involved a friend of hers. The incident had occurred at a residence in Franklin Grove. A deputy met with the victim at a residence in Amboy. The 29-year-old victim indicated that she got into a physical altercation with her boyfriend that led to her being choked to the point of her losing consciousness. The boyfriend was identified as 26-year-old Dalton Bautista of Franklin Grove. At the time of this incident, Dalton Bautista was currently out on conditions of pretrial release on the charges of Aggravated Domestic Battery – Strangulation and Aggravated Domestic Battery for two separate Lee County Cases of 2024 CF 2 and 2023 CF 265. The charges stemmed from other incidents of domestic violence that occurred in November and December of 2023. As a result of the new investigation, Dalton Bautista was taken into custody and charged again with Aggravated Domestic Battery – Strangulation. He is currently being detained at the Lee County Jail with his new case number being 24 CF 268.

On November 6th, the Lee County Sheriff's Office along with the Dixon Police Department and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office – Bomb Squad executed a search warrant at the residence of Dalton Bautista at 416 East Lincoln Highway in Franklin Grove. Information had been obtained that Bautista was possibly in possession of bomb making materials and was purported to be involved in a reported explosion in Dixon on October 19th. As a result of the search, a number of items were taken into evidence, and additional charges may be pending.

CORRECTIONS/WARRANTS

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On November 12th at approximately 10:45 a.m., investigators from the Lee County Sheriff's Office, the Dixon Police Department, the Illinois State Police – Zone 2 Investigations, and the Illinois State Police Digital Crimes Unit executed a search warrant at an apartment in the 900 block of Harmon Road in Harmon. The search warrant originated from a CyberTip received from the Illinois Attorney General's Office. The CyberTip reported an upload of child pornography on July 23, 2024. A number of search warrants were issued to track down the internet protocol (IP) address where the upload of child pornography originated from. As a result of those search warrants, John Mowery, age 42, of Harmon was arrested and charged with 5 counts of Child Pornography in Lee County Case Number 24 CF 274. He is currently being held at the Lee County Jail.

On December 14th, the deputies and telecommunicators took part in our annual Shop with a Sheriff Program. The Lee County Fraternal Order of Police – Lodge 220 recognizes that the holidays often create additional economical strain on many families. With the assistance of local area agencies, the FOP selected 38 children from the community to take part in their annual Christmas shopping program at Walmart. The Lee County FOP has partnered with the Dixon Police Charitable Association along with Walmart, McDonald's, and Angelo's III for the event. This year, the program served approximately 100 children this year that may not have been so fortunate. Each child is provided with \$175.00 to shop and a mentor to shop with.

On December 31st, K9 Nemo retired from service with the Lee County Sheriff's Office. K9 Nemo is a Dutch Sheppard who is almost eight years old. He started his career in May 2019. Nemo and his first handler, Corporal Josh Coward, graduated from a six-week Utility Canine and Narcotics Detection Course in Michigan and got right to work. Nemo found narcotics during a traffic stop on his first shift, which lead to the first of many arrests.

Nemo's second handler, Corporal Nathan Hollinger took over in 2021. Over the course of Nemo's six-year career, he made a significant impact on the community. Nemo and both of his handlers have been instrumental in seizing narcotics while also searching for and apprehending suspects.

Nemo has routinely demonstrated his skill and dedication at numerous public events and area school visits. In his career, he has assisted numerous law enforcement agencies while serving as an ambassador to the community and trusted partner to his handlers. Nemo will enjoy his retirement days living with his handler.

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Staffing Update

From the Corrections Division, we are up to authorized staffing levels! Due to the contract with the Fraternal Order of Police, we were able to capitalize on the lateral transfer of a correctional deputy from another area county. This addition will save Lee County months of training and overtime expense since the new deputy will only need to learn the processes and procedures at our facility.

From the Patrol Division, we are currently three deputies short on the patrol schedule. One deputy is off for the next several months on active-duty service with the military. Corporal Nathan Hollinger resigned in December after 5 ½ years of service to pursue other ventures. He is leaving the sheriff's office to work for the Dixon Rural Fire Department. A new deputy has been recently hired to replace a vacancy that opened with a previous resignation that occurred in September. On January 5th, the new deputy began attending the 16-week Basic Law Enforcement Officer Academy at Sauk Valley Community College. The program is slated to graduate on April 24th when he will begin approximately 16 more weeks in the field training program. We are currently in the process of vetting an applicant pool to replace Corporal Hollinger.

From the Telecommunications Division, we are currently down two telecommunicators on the schedule. Telecommunicator Laura Enlow retired at the beginning of December after providing over 21 years of service. TC Enlow had provided ample notice of her retirement, so her replacement was hired early to begin the training process. In December, Telecommunicator Dylan Ehlers resigned and took another telecommunications position with the Marshall County Sheriff's Office. TC Ehlers was recently married, and he moved from the area to be with his wife. We are currently in the process of vetting an applicant pool to replace TC Ehlers.

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