

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Council
FULL COUNCIL REMOTE MEETING

Thursday, August 19, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Illinois State Library
300 South Second St., Room 403/404
Springfield, IL 62701

A 10/10

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chairman Piazza called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and read the following statement, “I have determined that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under the Open Meetings Act is not practical or prudent because on March 9, 2020 the Governor of Illinois declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.”

He then asked Micah Miller to take the roll call. The following were present:

Council Members	Present	Absent
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X	
Lt. Colonel The' V. Tran, Illinois State Police		X
David Williams, Cook County State's Attorney's Office	X	
Sgt. Joe Hallihan, Chicago Police Department	X	
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department		X
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State's Attorney	X	
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X	
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X	
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X	
*Nick Jarmusz, AAA Insurance (Designee for Molly Hart)	X	
Charles "Chuck" Dougherty, Pekin Insurance	X	

Council Staff	Present	Absent
Micah Miller, Program Director	X	
Sherry Brticevich, Grant Monitor	X	
Amy Williams, Legal Counsel	X	
Amanda Trimmer, Budget Analyst	X	
Dave Fuchs, Program Assistant	X	

Chairman Piazza recognized that a quorum was present (6 or more). He also welcomed Sgt. Joe Hallihan who is in charge of the Chicago Major Auto Theft Investigations unit and sitting as the new member of the Council representing the Chicago Police Department.

The following individuals were also in attendance:

Capt. Elmer Garza, ISATT
 Sgt. Adam Broshous, ISATT
 Dwayne Killian, TCAT
 Sgt. Ed Grizzle, TCAT
 Doug Beckman, Village Administrator, Village of Thornton
 Lt. Matt Jany, MEATTF
 Terri Coombes, Deputy Chief of Staff, Secretary of State
 Josh Potts, Programs and Policies, Secretary of State
 Carrie Leitner, Vehicle Services Department, Secretary of State
 Irene Lyons, General Counsel, Secretary of State

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Piazza asked if there were comments on the minutes from the May 13, 2021 meeting. Ms. Brticevich noted an error on page 6 in the overall funding amount for the Village of Thornton. Mr. Miller noted the error and said that it would be corrected. Hearing no other comments, Chairman Piazza made the motion to approve and Todd Feltman seconded. The minutes were approved with a roll call vote, 9 yes – 0 no.

Vote on minutes from May 13, 2021

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X		
Lt. Colonel The' V. Tran, Illinois State Police			
David Williams, Cook County State's Attorney's Office	X		
Sgt. Joe Hallihan, Chicago Police Department	X		
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State's Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X		
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
*Nick Jarmusz, AAA Insurance (Designee for Molly Hart)	X		
Charles "Chuck" Dougherty, Pekin Insurance	X		

3. Program Director's report – Micah Miller

Mr. Miller indicated that he and Council Staff member Dave Fuchs were able to conduct site visits to all three units during the months of July and August. He recognized the local officials who were helpful in building successful operations for each unit, notably Mayor Bob Kolosh in the Village of Thornton, Sheriff Richard Watson in St. Clair County and the Joliet City Council for Tri-County's operation. Mr. Miller thanked the units for their accommodations and also the insurance representatives for their financial support, of which none of this would be possible.

4. Financial Report – Monica Melton

Chief Deputy Director Trimmer said that she would be offering the financial report on behalf of Ms. Melton. She noted the most significant change to the financial statement was the new agreement with the Mandatory Insurance Division, subject to annual review, which allocated 99% of incoming revenue to the Council and 1% to the Mandatory Insurance Division. This agreement was established by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Mr. Miller and Carrie Leitner, Deputy Director of the Vehicle Services Division.

Chief Deputy Director Trimmer noted that the end-of-year projections are showing a balance of approximately \$7.5 million for the Council. She also indicated that the Mandatory Insurance Division is still hiring individuals and it may be later in the year before better understanding their operating expenses.

Mr. Miller asked if all of the year-3 checks had been issued and received in a timely manner. Ms. Brticevich said that they were all issued and deposited in the month of July. She thanked the Secretary of State's budget office for processing everything in a timely manner.

5. Grant Review Committee Report – Sherry Brticevich

a. Vote on Bartonville contract

Ms. Brticevich indicated that Bartonville recently reached out and said that they were no longer interested in participating in the program. They were awarded approximately \$50,000 in year-1 for a License Plate Reader (LPR) program where a high traffic corridor would be monitored for stolen vehicles. Ms. Brticevich indicated that one LPR had been purchased, but they would have to return any unspent funds to the Council, which was approximately \$34,000.

Mr. Miller noted that if the Council wished to proceed with terminating their grant, it would require a vote. Matt Gall asked if they were wanting out of any grant agreements indefinitely or if they just wanted out of this specific agreement for the short term. Ms. Brticevich said that it was her understanding that they wanted out for good. Mr. Miller noted that Bartonville hired a new Chief of Police midway through this grant cycle and that may have led to this decision.

State’s Attorney Hoos said that Bartonville is very close to Peoria and she would appreciate having the time to reach out and learn more about the situation. She indicated that this particular grant award was different than the other units and delaying action wouldn’t cause a financial hardship. She offered the motion to table the vote on Bartonville’s contract and Chairman Piazza seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a roll call vote, 9 yes – 0 no.

Vote to table the vote on Bartonville’s contract

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X		
Lt. Colonel The’ V. Tran, Illinois State Police			
David Williams, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office	X		
Sgt. Joe Hallihan, Chicago Police Department	X		
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State’s Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X		
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
*Nick Jarmusz, AAA Insurance (Designee for Molly Hart)	X		
Charles “Chuck” Dougherty, Pekin Insurance	X		

ISATT

Sgt. Broshous said that for FY21, they opened just under 1100 cases, 137 criminal charges (85 felonies), 664 vehicle recoveries with a value of approximately \$14 million dollars. For scrap processors and body shops, they conducted 232 audits, found 1276 violations with 120 referrals to the Secretary of State Police for further investigation.

Sgt. Broshous noted that all of these numbers are significantly higher than last year. He thanked the Cook County States Attorneys who are assisting in prosecutions, obtaining search warrants and subpoenas. He also noted that they recently partnered with Chicago Major Auto Theft Investigations unit (CMATI) on a multi-jurisdictional carjacking detail. Sgt. Hallihan noted that the carjacking detail will be occurring twice a month and it has been extremely productive.

TCAT

Sgt. Grizzle referenced their activity for the end of the fiscal year. He indicated 383 reports, 111 arrests, and vehicle recoveries with a value of 5.6 million dollars. They were busy with presentations around the community, detective meetings and trainings. They were involved in multi-jurisdictional details and have noticed significant increases in scrap metal thefts.

He indicated that they have been very busy in the month of July not only with regular vehicle thefts, but also in executing search warrants, addressing bomb threats in Morris and pursuing cargo theft rings.

MEATTF

Capt. Jany said that for the end of the fiscal year they had 239 arrests (164 charged), 515 vehicle recoveries with a value of \$6.9 million. He said that July is looking to be very busy with 22 arrests and over \$800,000 in vehicle recoveries.

Larry Johnson congratulated all of the units on a productive year. He noted that the combined value of recoveries for all three units was over \$26 million dollars in one year. He considered that to be an outstanding rate of return when considering the total amount of funding for all three units in that timeframe was \$4.4 million dollars. Mr. Johnson said that for every dollar that is being spent on these units, they are getting \$6 in return and he thanked everyone for their hard work.

6. Mandatory Insurance Division – Carrie Leitner

Carrie Leitner said that suspension letters were sent out in July, notifying individuals that they had obtain insurance. In the month of August, they suspended 4,400 individuals for not having insurance on the date in question. She said that some off those 4,400 were suspended inadvertently, but it was easily rectified. She noted that the system is working well and they are going to be increasing the amount of verification letters in the following week.

Ms. Leitner said that the Mandatory Insurance Division is in need of a new phone system and they are working with CMS to finalize the contract. She noted that the cost will come out of their portion of funding. Todd Feltman asked how many letters were sent out in July. Ms. Leitner said that 200/day were sent out and that will be increased to 500/day starting next week.

7. Old business

There was no old business.

8. New business

There was no new business.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

Hearing no other comments, Chairman Piazza made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Feltman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.