

Court Committee Meeting Minutes
MIDC Michigan Indigent Defense Commission
Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Conference Call

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Kevin Osbourne, Court Committee Chair
- John Kozlowski, Commissioner
- Brenda Fournier, Commissioner
- Bill Pfeifer, Attorney, MAC Administrator
- Kim Ludlow, County Treasurer
- Sgt. Christina Bednarski, Sheriff's Office Jail Administrator
- Dennis Grenkowicz, Attorney
- Tammy Bates, County Executive Manager
- Lynn Bunting, County Board Assistant
- Mary Muszynski, District Court Administrator

Chair Osbourne called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Bill Pfeifer gave an update on the Public Defenders hiring process reporting that there are currently 5 candidates and will be interviewed next month, selected and hopefully up and running by June 1, 2021.

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Pfeifer gave an update on the Public Defender's Office 501(c)3 status reporting it has been filed with the IRS and takes up to 6 months to get approval and a determination letter. He reported the state wanted some language in the liability section of the bylaws changed in Article 8 with personal liability and he updated and refiled and received back approved from the state.

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Pfeifer informed the committee that the next quarterly report for the FY21 MIDC Grant is due on April 30, 2021 and expects if this year is the same as last year could expect to have around \$50,000-\$60,000 left at the end of the year.

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Pfeifer reported nothing has changed and there are no proposed changes for the FY21 Grant. He reported that once the Public Defender Office starts there will be a monthly payment from Alpena County and Montmorency County instead of annual.

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Pfeifer informed the committee that he will submitting the FY22 MIDC Grant to the state soon as it is due April 27, 2021 and the compliance plan will be consistent with continued development of the Public Defender's Office.

Bill reported he spoke with Alcona County and they told him they are not ready to join Alpena County and Montmorency County with a Public Defender's Office and wants to wait to see how this Public Defender's Office does for Alpena and Montmorency Counties. Bill informed the committee that if continue to operate the way we are then will be consistent with this years' compliance plan.

INFORMATION ITEM: Discussion on Alpena County's contribution. Bill reported that our contribution is set by the statute remains pretty much the same this year as last year at \$163,000 for Alpena County contribution's.

INFORMATION ITEM: Standard V discussion. Bill reported that LARA passed the Standard V on October 29, 2020 which will become effective April 29, 2021. He explained what Standard V is and how it affects the MIDC plan reporting that the local courts, including the judges, can no longer make the decisions on who gets the attorney, how attorney gets paid or any oversight of attorneys handling the indigent defense cases and that there is not much of a change for us.

INFORMATION ITEM: Public Defender's Officer discussion. Bill reported that the board for the Public Defender's Office will be primarily responsible for obtaining and finding a location for the office. John reported did not discuss the County Annex building or any location for the Public Defender's Office at the last Building Maintenance Recreation & Insurance Committee meeting but did meet with Wes and looked at the basement in the County Annex Building. John reported he will have this added to the Agenda to be discussed at the next Building Maintenance Recreation & Insurance Committee meeting. Bill informed the committee that he may be able to get some board members for the Public Defender's Office attend the next BMRIC meeting in May.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adjourn. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Kozlowski, Fournier and Osbourne. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Kevin Osbourne, Court Committee Chair

Lynn Bunting, Board Assistant

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