

Court Committee Meeting Minutes
MIDC Michigan Indigent Defense Commission
Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room

DRAFT

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Osbourne, Court Committee Chair
John Kozlowski, Commissioner
Brenda Fournier, Commissioner
Bill Pfeifer, MAC Administrator
Russ Rhynard, County Legal Council (by Zoom)
Mary Catherine Hannah, County Administrator
Lynn Bunting, County Board Assistant 1
Katy Conklin, Attorney (by Zoom)
Justin Wilson, Attorney (by Zoom)
Michelle Elowski, Attorney (by Zoom)
Cristi VanMassenhove, Attorney (by Zoom)
Sheriff Kieliszewski (by Zoom)
Undersheriff Erik Smith (by Zoom)
Marcia Burns, Circuit Court Administrator (by Zoom)
Kim Ludlow, Treasurer (by Zoom)
Judge Alan Curtis, Probate Court
Bonnie Friedrichs, County Clerk (by Zoom)
Kim Elkie, County Board Assistant 2 (by Zoom)

Chair Osbourne called the meeting to order at **4:10 p.m.**

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Bill Pfeifer gave an update on the FY21 MIDC Grant reporting that there will be about \$62,000 left over which will roll not the 2022 MIDC Funds.

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Pfeifer gave an update on the FY22 MIDC Grant stating it has been approved and waiting on a signed copy coming to the County Commissioners Office from the state. Bill reported that the County received the first payment in the amount of \$128,415 (25% of grant) in November 2021 and will receive 25% of the grant monies quarterly. MAC Administrate informed the committee that the County share for FY22 will stay the same as FY21 as the amount is set by statue no matter what is spent.

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Pfeifer reported that the Public Defender's Office is up and running and they are in their new building now. Bill informed the committee that the Public Defender's Office will be holding an Open House tomorrow.

INFORMATION ITEM: County Administrator Mary Catherine Hannah gave an update on the National Opioid Settlement for Alpena County reporting that the County will receive monies from this settlement with payments made annually for about 18 years. Administrator Hannah

reported there is criteria on how this money is to be spent including training and education as well as help with the courts and law enforcement with criminals impacted by opioid use and abuse.

INFORMATION ITEM: Chair Osbourne reported he stopped by Attorney Cristie VanMassenhove's office and dropped off a copy of the Amendment that the County needs her to sign to fulfill Attorney Chelsea Wallace's agreement through the end of December 2021. Attorney Cristie VanMassenhove is on zoom today and reported she will sign and send over to the Commissioner's Office.

INFORMATION ITEM: Chair Osbourne presented the tentative Court Committee meeting dates for 2022 reporting the Board of Commissioners will need to approve the 2022 meeting dates at their Organizational meeting on January 3, 2022. Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the tentative 2022 Court Committee meeting dates as presented. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEM: Alpena County Legal Representative Russ Rhynard reported he met with the attorneys Devin Pommerenke, Katy Conklin, and Justin Wilson on the proposed 2022 Attorney Contract. Russ informed the committee there will be same terms, but the amount of money is up for discussion and approval.

Attorney's Michelle Elowski, Katy Conklin, and Justin Wilson shared their concerns and recommendations with the committee.

Russ reported he spoke with Judge Black and Juvenile Officer Janelle Mott to find other sources of funding as there are no 4E funding available for this work.

Chair Osbourne informed the attorney's that they need to provide at least 6 months' worth of hours of documented work to the Court Committee for review. Circuit Court Administrator Marcia Burns reported she will tally 2019 and 2020 hours and get the figures to Administrator Hannah before the next Court Committee meeting.

Commissioner Kozlowski informed the committee that they need to discuss the following as a committee: 1) Additional monies requested (\$68,000-\$72,000), and 2) number of hours agreed to and account for as it has more than doubled since April 16, 2020 in the amount requested for the 2022 Attorney Contract.

Administrator Hannah recommended to meet next Tuesday, December 14, 2021, and will have time to put together and have information compiled to review comparison with a 2022 Attorney Contract contingent on 5 attorneys.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to recommend gathering information from both parties and the courts and be prepared to discuss at next Court Committee meeting. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEM: Chair Osbourne reported there will be a Court Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Kevin Osbourne, Court Committee Chair

Lynn Bunting, Board Assistant

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