

Judicial & Rules Committee Meeting
Tuesday August 27, 2019
Vermilion County Administration Building, 5:00 PM
MINUTES

Agenda Items 1 - Call to Order and Roll Call

Chuck Mockbee called the Judicial & Rules Committee of the Vermilion County Board to order at 5:00 PM., August 27, 2019 in the Vermilion County Administration Building.

Upon the call of roll, the following members were present: Chuck Mockbee, Phearn Butler, Robert Boyd, Tom Morse, and Nancy O’Kane.

Adam Hart, and Natalie Duncan, were excused.

5 Present & 2 absent at roll call.

Also present were: Judy Hartshorn-JD Director, Jacqueline Lacy- State’s Attorney, Michael Mara- Public Defender, Honorable Tom O’Shaughnessy- Court Administration, Dennis Gardner & Missy Quick- Circuit Clerk, Larry Baughn, County Board Chairman, Jim Watson- CB Member, Bill Donahue, Risk Consultant, Jennifer Jenkins, County Board Office Manager.

Agenda Item 2 - Adoption/Amendment to the Agenda

Mockbee asked if there were any changes/additions to the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda by Morse, second by Butler. Motion was carried by unanimous acclamation.

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2019

Motion by O’Kane and second by Morse to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was carried by unanimous acclamation.

Agenda Item 4 - Audience Comments

None

Agenda Item 5 – Budget- Juvenile Detention

Judy Hartshorn, Juvenile Detention Director, presented her budget to the committee. Contract negotiations will take place this year. There was an increase in longevity for next fiscal year. She moved \$1,000 from travel to education/training. There is ongoing online training and it is very expensive. She tries to hold down any travel for training, or other purposes. There is also a vehicle amount for this year. She would like to trade in her 2013 van. There are constant problems with it. Most often staff are hesitant to drive it anywhere.

Motion by O’Kane, second by Butler to approve the budget as presented.

Upon the call of roll, the following members voted yes, to-wit: Chuck Mockbee, Robert Boyd, Phearn Butler, Tom Morse, and Nancy O’Kane. 5-Yes & 2-Absent.

Agenda Item 6 – Budget- State’s Attorney

Jacqueline Lacy, State’s Attorney, presented her budget to the committee.

By statute the State’s Attorney’s across the state received a COLA of 2.1% which was already voted on. Essentially, some of the money that was not being used out of books/periodicals was moved to case expense. Everything else has remained the same for this upcoming fiscal year.

Motion by Morse, second by Boyd to approve the budget as presented. Upon the call of roll, the following members voted yes, to-wit: Chuck Mockbee, Robert Boyd, Phearn Butler, Tom Morse, and Nancy O’Kane. 5-Yes & 2-Absent.

Agenda Item 7 – Budget- Public Defender

Michael Mara, Public Defender, presented his budget to the committee. Like the State’s Attorney, by statute the Public Defender’s across the state received a COLA as well which was already voted on. He has requested additional money in the office supplies line due to the need for file folders. This is not done every year but will need to be done this next fiscal year. They are ordered in bulk. This is a cheaper way. Also additional \$500 in travel expense. He did a \$500 line item transfer this year to cover the expenses so it will not change from this fiscal year to next. Another change is in the mental health evaluation line. Last year it was discussed and the budget increased somewhat however this continues to be a major problem in people charged with crimes. You can not go forward with a criminal case if someone is not fit to stand trial. The Public Defender’s office do their best to only utilize the evaluations when necessary. But, that is not always something an attorney can determine. One single mental health evaluation is a little over \$500.00.

Motion by O’Kane, second by Butler to approve the budget. Upon the call of roll, the following members voted yes, to-wit: Chuck Mockbee, Robert Boyd, Phearn Butler, Tom Morse, and Nancy O’Kane. 5-Yes & 2-Absent.

Agenda Item 8 – Budget- Court Administration/Judiciary & Rules

The Honorable Tom O’Shaughnessy presented the Court Administration budget to the committee. Judge O’Shaughnessy added to the Mental Health discussion previously presented by Mara. Judge O’Shaughnessy indicated that one of the added benefits that we do have in terms of cost for mental health is that the doctor(s) that are utilized by both the State’s Attorney’s office and the Public Defender’s office are the same. Both offices value the opinion of said doctor. Therefore, we are not seeking multiple doctors, and added cost.

In regards to the upcoming fiscal year budget, one of the areas that the most substantial additional funds being requested are from is the contractual/legal fees line. There are 4 attorneys that have contracts with us. Court Administration has however, seen an increase in the amount paid to those outside of the contracted attorneys. This generally is in appeals and murder cases possibly some post-conviction cases. Also, an increase in court transcripts.

Motion by Morse, second by O’Kane to approve the Ordinance. Upon the call of roll, the following members O’Kane yes, to-wit: Chuck Mockbee, Robert Boyd, Phearn Butler, Tom Morse, and Nancy O’Kane. 5-Yes & 2-Absent.

Agenda Item 9 – Budget- Circuit Clerk

Denny Gardner informed the committee that Missy Quick will present the budget on behalf of the Circuit Clerk’s office.

Quick explained that the general budget has not changed except for the insurance/life/health line. The E-Citation fund has no increases or decreases this year. The Court Automation fund increase is in the insurance/life/health line. Clerk Operation & Administration fund does show a decrease of \$20,000

due to a transfer last year for the new case management system which involved a cd. This line is no longer needed as all cd's have been exhausted. The Court Document Storage fund has no increases except for the insurance/life/health line. Child Support Maintenance remains the same except for the insurance/life/health line.

Upon the call of roll, the following members voted yes, to-wit: Chuck Mockbee, Robert Boyd, Phearn Butler, Tom Morse, and Nancy O'Kane. 5-Yes & 2-Absent.

Agenda Item 10- Executive Session

None required

Agenda Items 11- Items of Information and Committee Concerns

Chairman Baughn updated the committee on the progress of the audit. Things are moving quickly. He was advised by Clifton, Larson, Allen team have found some monetarial adjustments from last year that should benefit the county significantly. This should be adjustments within the IMRF line and the Self-Insured line.

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment

Committee Vice-Chairman Mockbee declared the meeting adjourned at 5:38 P.M.