

**Judicial & Rules Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 22, 2021
Vermilion County Administrative Building 2nd Floor, 5:00 PM**

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Chairman Mary Ellen Surprenant called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Upon the call of roll, the following members were present: Mary Ellen Surprenant, Tom Morse, Breannah Haton, Nancy O’Kane and Phearn Butler. Absent were Steve Miller and Natalie Duncan. 5 present, 2 absent. Duncan arrived after roll call at 5:05pm. Also attending the meeting were: Larry Baughn – Vermilion County Chairman, Jaqueline Lacy – State’s Attorney, Judy Hartshorn – Juvenile Detention Center Director, Bill Donahue - Risk Consultant for Vermilion County, and Cassy Carter Vermilion County Financial Manager.

Agenda Item 2 - Adoption/Amendment to the Agenda

Morse moved, seconded by Butler, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion was carried by acclamation. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2021

O’Kane moved, seconded by Morse, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was carried by acclamation. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 4 - Audience Comments

None.

Agenda Item 5 – Juvenile Detention Center Budget 2022

Motion by O’Kane, seconded by Butler to discuss.

Judy Hartshorn explained that the budget was very similar to last year. The JDC has a full staff; however, one person was leaving soon, and another person would be leaving in the near future. They do require a bachelor degree for this position. O’Kane questioned the salary, Hartshorn explained this position starts at \$44,414 and they would receive a 3% increase in December.

Upon roll call vote the following members voted yes, to-wit: Surprenant, Morse, Haton, Duncan, O’Kane, and Butler. Absent and not voting was Miller. 5 yes, 1 absent. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 6 – States Attorney Budget 2022

Motion by Morse, seconded by Duncan to discuss.

Lacy stated the budget is similar to last year. She explained she would like to keep the salary staff funded since there are still open positions. Morse questioned the salary amount if it’s too low to find an attorney. Lacy explained the county is competitive with Champaign county. Butler praised Lacy saying she has done a great job. Lacy stated the Attorney General’s office has been a help with the murder and unsolved cases. She stated this does not cost the county any money and it is three extra employees helping the county. The Victim Advocates positions require an associate degree or high school diploma with experience in a school or dealing with children. The advocates work with public every day. The secretary positions pay is set with the union.

Upon roll call vote the following members voted yes, to-wit: Surprenant, Morse, Haton, Duncan, O’Kane, and Butler. Absent and not voting was Miller. 5 yes, 1 absent. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 7 – Executive Session:

No action needed.

Agenda Item 8 - Items of Information:

Baughn explained that the county has received a little over seven million dollars from the American Rescue COVID money. The other half will be received in 2022. There are approved spending rules, the auditor and the Chairman and staying informed on this to ensure this money is spent as allowed. Discussion ensued about various needs for this funding. There will be an Executive & Legislation meeting in July to discuss Windfarm rules.

Agenda Item 9- Adjournment:

Surprenant adjourned the meeting at 5:44 PM

Minutes by: Cassy Carter, Financial Manager