

**Judicial & Rules Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 23, 2024**  
**Joseph G Cannon Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 5:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Committee Chair Jerry Hawker called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. Upon the call of roll, the following members were present: Jerry Hawker, George Weller, Gary Miller and Larry Baughn, Jr (Ex-Officio Member). Britny Hoag, Marla Mackiewicz, and Greg Shepard were absent. Becky Stark was excused absent. 4 present, 4 absent. Also attending the meeting were: Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy – Chief Judge, Cassy Carter – Financial Resources Director, Jacqueline Lacy – State's Attorney, Michael Mara – Public Defender and Missy Quick – Circuit Clerk.

**Agenda Item 2 - Adoption/Amendment to the Agenda:**

Weller moved, second by Miller to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion was carried by acclamation. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2024:**

Weller moved, second by Miller, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was carried by acclamation. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item 4 - Audience Comments:**

None.

**Agenda Item 5 – Ordinance – RE: Amendment to the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the State's Attorney Office - \$4,219.00**

Motion by Miller, second by Baughn to approve.

Lacy explained this is adding money to her salary line due to the state COLA increase of 4.7%. This will allow the state to reimburse the county at 66 2/3%.

Upon roll call vote the following members voted yes, to-wit: Hawker, Weller, Miller and Baughn. 4 yes, 4 absent. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item 6 – Ordinance – RE: Amendment to the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Public Defender's Office - \$4,089.00**

Motion by Weller, second by Miller to approve.

Mara explained this is adding money to his salary per the state COLA increase to keep the Public Defender at 90% of the State's Attorney pay. This will allow the state to reimburse the county at 66 2/3%.

Upon roll call vote the following members voted yes, to-wit: Hawker, Weller, Miller and Baughn. 4 yes, 4 absent. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7 – Budget – FY2024-2025 State's Attorney**

Motion by Weller, second by Miller to approve.

Lacy explained the salary line has increased due to the county board action of 3.125%. There are currently two open positions, that she is trying to fill so would like to keep those salaries in her budget. Another small increase in the budget is to line Books/Periodicals this is due to needing more access to case law research with the new Pretrial Fairness Act.

Upon roll call vote the following members voted yes, to-wit: Hawker, Weller, Miller and Baughn. 4 yes, 4 absent. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item 8 – Budget – FY2024-2025 Public Defender**

Motion by Miller, seconded by Weller to approve.

Mara explained the budget is the same as last year with the exception of the salary and insurance lines. This is due to an increase in salaries plus two new attorney positions. These are needed due to the larger number of cases created by the new Pretrial Fairness Act.

Upon roll call vote the following members voted yes, to-wit: Hawker, Weller, Miller and Baughn. 4 yes, 4 absent. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item 9 – Budget – FY2024-2025 Court Administration**

Motion by Weller, second by Miller to approve.

Judge O’Shaughnessy explained the salary has increased due to the county board action of 3.125%. The Commissioners are the three people appointed by the Chief Judge whom review the juror questionnaires to decide who would be eligible to be a juror. Contractual/Legal Fees line has increased due to the increased need for counsel in cases where there is a conflict and need multiple attorneys. An example of this is when a child has their own Guadian Ad Litem, whom represents the rights of the minor child.

Upon roll call vote the following members voted yes, to-wit: Hawker, Weller, Miller and Baughn. 4 yes, 4 absent. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item 10 – Budget – FY2024-2025 Circuit Clerk**

Motion by Miller, second by Weller to approve.

Quick explained with the new Pretrial Fairness Act and all the changes to bonds, fines, etc., the revenue budget has decreased. This will decrease more the next budget year as the old cases that were subject to fines and fees drop off. There was the 3.125% to salaries along with needing to move an employee whom was paid from the Child Support Fund into the General Fund due to the low fund balance. The Supplies/Copier and Supplies/Office expense lines have increased due to increase in copies and toner. Postage has increased due to the increase in postage cost. The Child Support/Main Fund has a large past due balance on the books. This is due to the \$36 yearly administration fee that is not being paid/collected. After discussion regarding using a collections company to try to collect this, Judge O’Shaughnessy and Quick are going to work together to try to flag these issues and note this in the JANO system so that at any modification case, the Judge could order this past due fee paid as part of the modification order.

Upon roll call vote the following members voted yes, to-wit: Hawker, Weller, Miller and Baughn. 4 yes, 4 absent. Motion passed

**Agenda Item 11 – Executive Session:**

None.

**Agenda Item 12 - Items of Information:**

None.

**Agenda Item 13- Adjournment:**

Committee Chairman Hawker adjourned the meeting at 6:04PM

Minutes by: Cassy Carter, Financial Resources Director