

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE – Mr. Thomas Ausman, Chair

The Judiciary Committee meeting was held in Board Room in the Law Enforcement Center on February 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Members present were Thomas Ausman, Martin Koster (ex-officio) and Barry Cox. Others present were Jason McDearmon, Jennifer Kelly, Sue Costello, Julie Cox and Joel Horn.

1. Chair Ausman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. There was no public comment.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Cox to approve the December 2022 and January 2023 claims. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Court Services
 - a. The Committee reviewed the monthly report (See #52).
 - b. Mr. McDearmon distributed an overview of the organization and duties of his office (See #53).
 - c. Mr. Cox asked if we are able to recoup any of the cost for juvenile detention. Mr. McDearmon informed the committee that we can recoup all or part of the cost for detention if the judge so orders after the case has been adjudicated.
 - d. Mr. McDearmon also discussed Drug Court, the state taking over pretrial supervision and staffing in his office.
4. Public Defender
 - a. Jennifer Kelly presented her monthly report.

Category	November	December	January
Number of defendants on first of month	729	741	745
Number of new appointments	42*(21f 21m)	49*(29f 20m)	52*(33f19m)
Number of defendants taken by private counsel	4	5	3
Number of defendant resolved	26	40	40
Number of defendants at end of month	741	745	754
Current Cases	1082	1097	1096
Felony	499	507	513
Felony VOP	76	75	73
Misdemeanors	454	462	465
Misdemeanor VOP	53	53	45
Plea agreements	24	36	34
Felony	16	17	23
Misdemeanors	8	19	11
Jury trials	0	0	0
Bench trials	0	0	0

Felony	0	0	0
Misdemeanors	0	0	0
Sentence hearings	1	0	0
Felony	1	0	0
Misdemeanors	0	0	0
Dismissed cases	1	4	6
Juvenile appearance in court	99	123	150

*Dec - Plus 9 current defendants picked up new cases.

*Jan - Plus 12 current defendants picked up new cases.

- b. Ms. Kelly reported they have hired a full-time attorney.
- c. Ms. Kelly announced that she has been appointed as an associate judge in our circuit. The committee asked about the process of finding a new Public Defender. Ms. Kelly reported that the circuit judges would select a replacement.

5. Circuit Clerk

- a. Sue Costello presented her monthly report (See #54-56). In December 51% and January 51% was received from some kind of “e” file for the month. There were no jury trials. Collections were \$16,243 and \$12,395 for December and January.
- b. Mrs. Costello reported the union contract has been settled. As a result the highest paid union employee is now making more per hour than the chief deputy. Mrs. Costello asked the committee to refer the matter to the Wage and Salary committee to address the compression issue. After a brief discussion Mr. Cox moved the committee recommend an increase in steps to address the compression issue be sent to the Wage and Salary committee for consideration, Mr. Koster seconded, motion carried.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Meeting Date: The next regular meeting – March 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM in County Board Room

MOTION: To place on file the Judiciary Committee’s meeting report, December 2022 & January 2023 claims report and related informational items, as presented.