

COURT SERVICES COMMITTEE STATED MEETING – WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7, 2011

The stated meeting for the month of December was held in the Conference Room, of the Stewart Centre, on the above date with Mr. Hilton, the Vice-Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Brown, Ms. Dotson, Ms. Quiggle, Mr. Détente, Mr. Ludwig and Mr. Newton.

Circuit Clerk Curran, Assistant Probation Director Eiders and State's Attorney Vogt were also present.

The minutes of the stated meeting of Wednesday, November 2, 2011 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. Dotson, seconded Ms. Quiggle.

The agenda was amended on a motion by Mr. Détente, seconded by Ms. Dotson, to move the Circuit Clerk's report to immediately after the bills. The agenda was approved, as amended, on a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Quiggle.

Chairman Newton arrived. The claims were reviewed. Claims of \$11,150.01 were approved on a motion by Mr. Détente, seconded by Ms. Dotson.

Circuit Clerk distributed hand-outs to the Committee about a Debt Recovery Program. This program is pending the Governor's signature and allows the State to deduct fines from income tax refund checks.

The fines and fees delinquencies are increasing. Mr. Détente would like to see the Circuit Clerk's office coordinate information and pursue the collection of these fines and fees. The Circuit Clerk's office does have the software to do collection letters, but would need the approval of the State's Attorney to send these letters. The current staff would be sufficient to do this project. The Circuit Clerk would prefer to start this letter project with the reduced-to-judgment cases. The cases would be reviewed by the State's Attorney, before the letters are sent. The Committee approved a motion made by Mr. Détente, seconded by Ms. Quiggle, to allow the Circuit Clerk to coordinate and execute the collections of fines and fees, with letters being sent to the reduced-to-judgment cases, with permission and support of the Judges and State's Attorney.

State's Attorney Vogt would like to see the Fines and Fees subcommittee reactivated. The previous subcommittee had met weekly, and was starting to make some progress on collecting these delinquent fines and fees. State's Attorney Vogt suggested Mr. Détente as chairman of the subcommittee.

Presiding Judge Ursin was not present.

The Probation caseload totals were presented: as of December 7, 2011 the total for the Adult Probation Division was 2,585. The total for the Juvenile Probation Division was 179. During the month of November, 2011 the Department completed 8 Pre-Sentence Investigations. The total Pre-Sentence Investigation for the year of 2011 is 80. A total of 1 Preliminary Conference and Social History Reports were ordered to be completed, during the month of November, 2011. The total Pre-Sentence Investigations for the year of 2011 is 23. Public service work hours completed in November, 2011 were adult – 104 hours and juvenile – 0 – hours. Public Service work hours completed for the year

of 2011 were adult – 4,503 hours and juvenile – 20 hours. During the month of November, 2011, the Probation Department collected \$5,524.76 in restitution and paid out \$7,651.73. The total amount collected for the year 2011 is \$29,514.31 and the total amount paid out for the year 2011 is \$33,131.65.

Associate Probation Director Eilders reported that the Probation Department is involved in the collections of these delinquent fines and fees. The department also sends letters, sets up payment plans, and issues bench warrants when payments are not made.

State's Attorney Vogt reported that there are 2,500 warrants for outstanding fines and fees. State's Attorney Vogt reiterated that he will continue to work on the collection of fines and fees.

Teen Court Coordinator Jackie Cooley will present certificates to people involved in the Teen Court, at the County Board meeting on December 14, 2011.

The State's Attorney's office will be holding presentations on Senior Exploitations focusing on "People You Know" in January.

The Public Defender's report was presented to the Committee. Mr. Détente expressed his disappointment that the Public Defender was not in attendance. Mr. Détente commented that the Public Defender is doing a good job on the number of the cases closed verses cases opened.

Mr. Ludwig would like to see a percentage break down on how a fine or fee is divided. Chairman Newton will get the information from the Circuit Clerk.

The Youth Diversion Fee Account has a balance of \$25,074.17

The Committee would like to see a report tracking the collection of these fees and fines. The success in collecting these fines and fees could merit the cost of a financial compliance officer.

The Committee adjourned at 7:45 p.m., on a motion Ms. Quiggle, seconded by Mr. Brown.

Approved: January 4, 2012

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Wednesday, January 4, 2012 6:30 p.m.
7th Floor Conference Room, Stewart Centre