JOINT MANISTEE-BENZIE COURT COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 28, 2008
2:00 P.M.

Benzie County Courthouse & Government Center
County Commissioners Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Mark Roper, Benzie County Chairperson; Allen O'Shea, Manistee County Chairperson; Ed Haik, Manistee County Commissioner

Members Absent: Don Smeltzer, Benzie County Commissioner; Kathy Fenstermacher, Manistee County Commissioner

Others Present: Tom Kaminski, Manistee County Controller/Administrator: Chuck Clarke, Benzie County Controller/Administrator; Dennis Swain, Friend of the Court; Kris Randall, Circuit Court Administrator; Karen Fredricks, Manistee County Personnel Officer/Administrative Assistant and Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Mark Roper.

Motion by O'Shea, seconded by Roper, to approve the minutes of November 29, 2007 as presented. Motion carried. Ayes: All

Topics:

I-520 Update: Kris states the install has been done and things are up and running with no problems; this was completed on President's Day so that there was no interruption with the daily work. Tom states that the bill will be paid today and Benzie will be billed accordingly.

Proposal to access new system from Benzie through Benzie's new IP Phone system: Chuck would like to do away with the 800 number being used right now that connects Benzie & Manistee with the court server; Benzie will be switching internet service to AT&T from Charter and be able access cheaper through that means. Dennis would like to have the FOC hooked in too; further discussions will be held as we move forward with this.

Amended Court Personnel Policy: Karen had requested clarification from Dennis regarding the a, b, c, d, and e paragraph having to do with steps; Ed asks that the paragraph starting "Following 36 months … unless special circumstances apply". Remove that last statement, it seems to be too broad of a statement; Dennis will discuss the issue with Judge Batzer.

Motion by O'Shea, seconded by Haik, to adopt the Amendment to the 19th Judicial Court Personnel Policy as presented. Motion carried. Ayes: All

Mediation/Counseling program update: Dennis distributes a report prepared by Mary VanDorp regarding the cases she was assigned in 2007; total of 72 cases between Benzie and Manistee Counties; he will meet with her on Friday and gather additional information regarding which case types and provide information to this committee; extensive discussion was held regarding collection of the mediation fees; Manistee has collected $300 and Benzie $1,700 so far this fiscal year; Tom will discuss this issue with the Clerk together with line numbers that funds are being deposited into; issue will be discussed on the next agenda.

Other Items from Committee Members:

Kris asks (regarding Manistee) how the paging system is coming for the courtroom. Tom responds that he has received a quote for an emergency system together with speakers in the hallway; will discuss further.

Kris also inquires of the circuit court storage system in Manistee. Tom states that they are installing today for the Probate Court and Treasurer and hopefully will free some space there; Judge will be informed of what is being looked at before it is ordered.

Public Input: None

Next meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Manistee County.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

DRAFT

MANISTEE COUNTY

Allan O'Shea, Chairperson

Ed Haik, Commissioner

BENZIE COUNTY

Mark E. Roper, Commissioner