



Manistee County Board of Commissioners
Manistee County Courthouse • 415 Third Street • Manistee, Michigan 49660

CHAIRPERSON
Jeffrey Dontz
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Brook Shafer

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Karen Goodman
Pauline Jaquish
Richard Schmidt

CLERK
Jill Nowak
(231) 723-3331
CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR
Thomas Kaminski
(231) 398-3504

JOINT MANISTEE/BENZIE COURT COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 19, 2017
3:00 P.M.

Manistee County Courthouse and
Government Center
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room
Manistee, Michigan

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order by the Chairman.
- 2) Approval of Minutes from the Wednesday, September 20, 2017 Joint Court Committee Meeting. (APPENDIX A)
- 3) Discussion regarding indigent defense proposed plan.
- 4) Other items from Committee Members, Judges, and staff.
- 5) Reminder: Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. in Manistee County.
- 6) Adjournment.

BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

APPENDIX A

448 COURT PLACE – BEULAH, MI 49617 – (231) 882-9671
www.benzieco.net

JOINT MANISTEE-BENZIE COURT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 20, 2017
1:30 P.M.

Benzie County Courthouse & Government Center
County Commissioners Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Frank Walterhouse and Coury Carland, Benzie County Commissioners
Richard Schmidt, Karen Goodman and Jeff Dontz, Manistee County
Commissioners

Others Present: Tom Kaminski, Manistee County Controller/Administrator; Mitchel
Diesch, Benzie County Administrator; Pat Heins, Circuit Court
Administrator; John Mead, Probate Judge, Lisa Sagala, Manistee County
Personnel; Jared Henry, Manistee County Magistrate; Walter Armstrong,
Benzie County Magistrate; Lisa Vogler, and Tammy Bowers, Chief
Deputy County Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Coury Carland.

Motion by Dontz, seconded by Goodman, to approve the minutes of August 21, 2017 as presented. Motion carried. Ayes: All Nays: None

Update on Court budget and wage proposal (Benzie County progress.

Mitch Diesch stated that the proposed budget was set at the September 12, 2017 Board of Commissioner's meeting, includes the 2% wage increase. The budget is on the County Clerks counter for the public to review for two weeks. It is scheduled to be adopted at the September 26, 2017 Board of Commissioner meeting.

Discussion regarding indigent defense regulations

The webinar that the joint court was to view prior to today's meeting did not work.

Mitch will get the presentation on a DVD and scheduled it for everyone to see.

Judge Thompson stated he would like to share with the contract attorney the four standards that have been made part of the legislation and approved by the Supreme Court regarding this matter. Tom Kaminski and Mitch Diesch will meet next Wednesday to try and write a plan that mirrors the public defender office to some extent. Once we have a draft plan it will send it out to be for reviewed, then presented at the next joint court meeting. It will need to go before both Board of Commissioners, Benzie and Manistee County. This will need to be done before the November 20, 2017 deadline, for 2018-2019 year.

Jeff Dontz stated that we have the Chippewa County plan to look at; we are not looking at a Public Defenders office at this point.

Other Items from Committee Members, Judges and Staff:

Judge Thompson stated that they have ask for twice as much money in the budget for Neglect Abuse cases, regarding the indigent counsel fund. Benzie reduced the fund back to what it was previously and Manistee only increased by \$2,000.00. Attorneys are waiting to see how much money is appropriated before they determine if they will be on the contract or not. SCAO will be auditing the Family Division collection plan. In the process of adopting a formal Family Division collection policy. It will mirror the Leelanau County Plan. Have had spoken to Dawn Olney and Jill Nowak regarding this process. Hope to have something for the next joint court meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in Manistee County.

Adjourned by Carland, to adjourn at 2:02 p.m.

MANISTEE COUNTY

BENZIE COUNTY

Jeff Dontz, Commissioner

Frank Walterhouse, Commissioner

Richard Schmidt, Commissioner

Coury Carland, Commissioner

Karen Goodman, Commissioner