

# Manistee County Board of Commissioners

Manistee County Courthouse • 415 Third Street • Manistee, Michigan 49660

CHAIRPERSON  
Jeffrey Dontz  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
Karen Goodman

Margaret Batzer  
Mark Bergstrom  
Pauline Jaquish  
Gene Lagerquist  
Richard Schmidt

**CLERK**

Jill Nowak  
(231) 723-3331

**CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR**

David A. Kieft, Jr.  
(231) 398-3504

**MANISTEE/BENZIE PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMITTEE**

Thursday, June 20, 2019  
3:41 p.m.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center  
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Jeff Dontz, Chairman, Manistee County Commissioner; Richard Schmidt, Manistee County Commissioner; Karen Goodman, Manistee County Commissioner; Gary Sauer, Benzie County Commissioner; Rhonda Nye, Benzie County Commissioner.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Honorable David A. Thompson, Chief Judge; Dave Kieft Jr., Manistee County Administrator/Controller; Jared Henry, Chief Public Defender; Lisa Sagala, Human Resources Manager/Asst. County Administrator; Anthony Cicchelli, Public Defender; and Jill M. Nowak, Manistee County Clerk.

The meeting was called to Order at 3:41 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**GENERAL UPDATE FROM PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Jared Henry, Chief Public Defender, reported that the Public Defenders Office is fully operational and fully staffed. Most open cases have now been assigned to this office as well as all new cases are being assigned to the office. The Staff has been attending training seminars for their continuing legal education credits as set by the MIDC. Mr. Henry is also bringing some training locally.

**BUDGET STAFFING FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR**

The budget has been submitted and re-submitted with a 2.2% increase for local share per statute. Also included in the revised budget request was a second Chief Assistant Public Defender and an Office Administrator both for Benzie County. MIDC has indicated that they prefer a part-time Office Administrator in Benzie County. Mr. Henry's concern with that is hiring and keeping a qualified person to do the job. The date of the approval for the submitted budget is July 23, 2019. Mr. Henry reported that standards five (5) through eight (8) have not passed yet as most of the focus has been on standards one (1) through four (4).

**OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Specialty Courts are not yet within the scope of responsibilities of the MIDC but may be in the future. The process of being assigned to cases in Court was discussed and continues to be worked on but seems to be working well. Compliance reporting has been done for Manistee and Benzie Counties prior to July 15, 2019 and therefore reimbursement from MIDC will be on schedule.

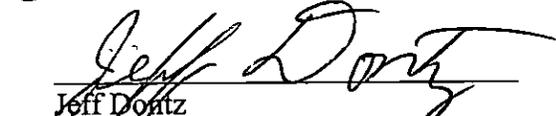
The idea of the Public Defenders Office representing a party in a Neglect/Abuse case will have to be discussed. The PDO Staff is paid by the State and Title IV E involves some federal funding. This issue would have to be researched further.

Mr. Henry has been working with the MIDC and helping them with pass through money for the JMS case management system for reimbursement to Counties.

The meeting was adjourned at the Call of the Chair at 4:08 p.m.

**MANISTEE COUNTY**

  
Karen Goodman  
Manistee County Commissioner

  
Jeff Doitz  
Manistee County Commissioner

  
Richard Schmidt  
Manistee County Commissioner

**BENZIE COUNTY**

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Gary Sauer  
Benzie County Commissioner

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Rhonda Nye  
Benzie County Commissioner