

**State's Attorney - Court Services - FOCUS House –
Judiciary & Circuit Clerk and Public Defender Committee
Tentative Minutes
October 10th, 2023**

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairwoman Corbitt called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. present: Huber, Larson, Oltmanns, Smith and Corbitt. Others Present: Finfrock, Heuer, Nordman, Judge Roe, State's Attorney Mike Rock, Director of Court Services Cindy Bergstrom, Chief Public Defender Kathleen Isley, Circuit Clerk Kim Stahl, FOCUS House Director Brenda Mason, HR Director Amanda Jacinto, and Arlene Sangmeister. Absent: Billeter and Simms
2. Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2023. Motion by Larson to approve the minutes, 2nd by Oltmanns. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Monthly Invoices:
 - Judiciary: \$108,135.65 - Motion by Larson to approve, 2nd by Oltmanns. Motion carried.
 - Public Defender: \$4,790.30 - Motion by Oltmanns to approve, 2nd by Huber. Motion carried.
 - Circuit Clerk: \$1,874.78 - Motion by Smith to approve, 2nd by Huber. Motion carried.
 - State's Attorney: \$3,721.21 - Motion by Huber to approve, 2nd by Smith. Motion carried.
 - Probation: \$875.00 – Motion by Oltmanns to approve, 2nd by Larson. Motion carried.
 - FOCUS House: \$6,978.04 - Motion by Smith to approve, 2nd by Oltmanns. Motion carried.
5. Department Reports:
 - Judiciary: Judge Roe reported \$86,000 has been received from the Administrative Order of the Courts. Every county in the state will be receiving these funds. Right now it is a onetime payment, but they've already said this it's going to be next year as well. The money is to assist the Public Defenders to operate their offices. Judge Roe and Public Defender, Kathleen Isley have spoken with our Treasurer Tiffany on whether the funds go into in the general fund, or if it's outside the general fund. The Chief Judge approves how money will be allocated and presents this information to the Supreme Court. Leanne Brandenburg our court administrator for the circuit is also a point person for this as far as what the guidelines are for using this money. It's pretty broad. The monies are to basically assist the public defenders in operating their office, because across the state, there are issues that are occurring, having difficulty keeping public defenders, hiring public defenders. Isley share that there is a lack of lawyers in our area. It's difficult to attract and retain lawyers based on compensation and commuting to our area. Lawyers in Ogle County have to be skilled to do everything; where in other counties they focus on certain legal areas. This is a great opportunity for a person to gain extensive legal experience. Isley shared recent examples of a candidate that applied that was not a lawyer, one was a no call no show to the interview and another accepted an offer elsewhere for more money.
 - Public Defender - Chief Public Defender Kathleen Isley stated things are going fine. No changes or updates in regards to their office space. Operations are going smooth. This could change when our team member retires in December. The budget is fine at 79%; funding will be spent to replenish books and replace office chairs.
 - Circuit Clerk – Circuit Clerk Kim Stahl reported her budget is at 90%, the salary shift from contingency funds has not been applied once this takes place the number will go down a little bit. The Postage expense is over budget. Paycourt is at \$128,000.00. The microfilm project is complete. The scanning project cost to date is \$105,000 we budgeted \$280,000. Today is the first Teamsters union negation meeting.

- State’s Attorney – State’s Attorney Mike Rock reported the NPV money came in as part of the pre-trial Fairness Act. There's going to be a lot less funding coming into the system overall. There's automatic fee waivers for public defender clients. There's no examination done as to their ability so they could get appointed a public defender win the Powerball tonight and get all their fines waived at the end of the case. Melissa Voss from Winnebago County is starting on Monday. She has a full range of cases, and was first chair in a felony courtroom.
- Probation - Director of Court Services Cindy Bergstrom stated the budget looks good. She has an open Probation Office position. There are five people that applied on Indeed but they have not completed the County application or the IL required steps to complete the application process. There is a lot of training taking place this month. Training for Defensive Tactics for herself and two others for one week; they will be trained to train others. Problem Solving Court Conference takes place in Bloomington. Adjusting the Safe-T act and new pre-trial procedures.
- FOCUS House – FOCUS House Director Brenda Mason reports the budget looks good, she’s at 76%. She anticipates ending the year below budget and above revenue even with the contingency coming in. Both of the houses are open with ten youth. Focus House continues to receive steady referrals. Counties and States are struggling to find resources for high risk mental health needs. Several calls have been received to home/accept females. Discussion took place on how we could home/accept females. Does it require a new resident home or separate wing in a new building? The team is attending a Probation Court Service event as a vendor and expecting referrals to spike after this event. ATS remains good; they have been able to get some part time employees. This is great news. One counseling position has been filled with a Masters student from Aurora, she will graduate in 2024. One counseling position remains open. The field coordinator will be visiting FOCUS House in November to do a full operational review. This is a public review that will be posted online. They have a meeting tomorrow to discuss the expectations and what to expect. The last review was done in 2018; no doubt this one will be better. Annual Plan for 2024 was reviewed and accepted by the Administrative office. The Car Show was a success with 144 cars. Mason requested guidance on how to ask for vehicles. They current have three vans that are struggling. They don’t need them this minute but want to be prepared. They have two county vans one is very old and struggling; this one is used for the alternative program. The other van is used for the suspension program it runs all over every day to pick up kids from a variety of place to participate in the program. The third is for transferring the residential kids. Larson advised that she make a request in writing to Don Griffin with the Long Range Planning fund for vehicle replacements. These vehicles are used to transport kids regularly. They are safe and are inspected regularly. Schools are charged a daily per Diem for this service, consideration will be given to increase these Per Diem costs. Oltmanns suggested we consider two different fee structures; one if we provide transportation or do not.

Closed Session: - 11:34 am Bruce made a motion to enter Closed Session and Huber 2nd. Motion carried. Oltmanns yes, Billeter absent, Huber yes, Simms absent, Smith yes, Corbitt yes. Returned to regular session at 11:54am Oltmanns made a motion to postpone the recommendation to the County Board for one month and to repost the opening to fill the Zoning Board of Appeals vacancy. Huber 2nd, motion carried.

6. New Business: None.
7. Old Business: None.
8. Adjournment: With no further business, Chairwoman Corbitt adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Jacinto
Human Resources Director