

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Macon County Office Building
Macon County Board Room #514
141 S. Main Street, Decatur, IL 62523**

March 25, 2021 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Kraft – Vice Chair
Jim Gresham
Lloyd Holman

MEMBER PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY

Greg Mattingley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Verzell Taylor
Bill Oliver
Dave Drobisch

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Pat Berter, Probation
Judge Griffith, Courts
Michelle Sanders, Asst Public Defender
Chief Deputy Adam Walter, Sheriff's Office
Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk
Jon Perona, DPBC
Jessie Smalley, HR

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Kraft @ 3:00 p.m. at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Holman made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Macon County Board Justice Committee meeting (2/25/2021), seconded by Mr. Gresham and roll call vote showed the motion carried 4-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Holman and roll call vote showed the motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –

Ms. Doty reported that there has been two search engines on the Circuit Clerk website. With the fees depleting from \$800,000 down to \$200,000 she said she made a choice to get rid of one & go with one that they have to have for e-filing, e-plea, e-pay. It will save about \$1,300 per month. She said she thought it was a wise & responsible decision. The attorneys are kind of upset, but she said she told them to come to her office because one thing they can not do on this one is run their own setting, but she said she has made it free of charge and her staff will email it to them.

Case types are changing January 1, 2022. Training starts April 7. It is going to be a big change. Record keeping manuals changed. The same case categories have been used since at least 1982. For example, we currently have felonies & misdemeanors & domestic violences. They will not be considered CFs or CMs anymore. They will be considered DVs for Domestic Violence. This is so

the Supreme Court can do statistics. If no children, it will be called a DM now. With Children will be DW. It is going to be a really big change trying to find cases. She will keep everybody informed.

Vice Chair Kraft asked what the purpose of two search engines had been. Ms. Doty said one had more bells & whistles for the attorneys, but she said she had taken on doing that for free for them since it is a big change and transition. It has been crashing constantly. It is from 1997 when it was designed. The pre-COVID goal was to redesign it and make it a little better, but that \$50,000 is not in the budget either.

Circuit Courts –

Judge Griffith reported that they had one jury trial in February and have had 5 jury trials earlier in March. Having trial settings along with that one & five, numerous cases have been resolved. COVID limitations are still in force with masks and distancing. Progress is being made. In terms of a backlog, with Chicago having about 20,000 felony cases that have not been tried, we have a few. Our backlog is not close to that and a lot of progress has been made recently.

Vice Chair Kraft reported that on the Monday UCCI call, they had said that they are anticipating and hoping that some of the restrictions will be lifted by June. It sounds like the schools are going to let the children go to 3' distancing possibly soon.

Coroner – No Report

Court Services / Probation –

Mr. Berter reported that in July, the Mental Health Court certification will expire. The office has already completed the documents for the program and they will be submitted next week to AOIC. One of the AOIC representatives has said there are 17 Specialty Courts in front of us, but we should have our Mental Health Court certified before the July date.

Emergency Management Agency – No Report

Public Building Commission –

Mr. Perona had no report

Public Defender's Office –

Ms. Sanders reported that she took over on March 5th which left the office with a vacancy, but they continue to push along.

Sheriff's Department –

Chief Deputy Adam Walter had no report

State's Attorney's Office –

Mr. Baggett had no report

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT –

There were no emails received via email and there were no citizens present wishing to speak.

Old Business None

New Business - None

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING April 22, 2021

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Kraft at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham , Macon County Board Office