

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

PRESENT: M. Walters, G. Glasper, L. Dalton, J. Goggin
ABSENT: C. Dutton-Wiley, H. Mueller-Jones
OTHERS: R. Wesley, B. Cooper, M. Copeland, T. McRae, M. Davis, J. Volkmar, J. Wiesehan,
Chief Judge Mudge, C. Cohan, J. Connor

The minutes from the November meeting were approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following public comment was submitted:

Good day,

In the meeting held on November 18th, a sub-committee was established to investigate the Stepping-Up Initiative.

I am writing to the board to express my enthusiastic support for the Stepping-Up Initiative. I have reviewed the website and documentation for this program and it shows measurable and achievable goals.

This is a heartbreaking problem I have seen first-hand and any steps the board can make available to improve, should be taken with enthusiasm and care.

I look forward to hearing the results from the sub-committee in upcoming meetings.

Regards,
Kristina Remelius

DETENTION HOME:

J. Volkmar presented the Detention Home population numbers:

In County Average	26
Out of County Average	1
Average Daily Female	2
Average Daily Population	28
Highest Daily Population	30

Mr. Volkmar reported their last out of county juvenile was released yesterday and there is a moratorium on out of county admissions due to covid. He also reported 2 of his officers tested positive for covid and have since quarantined and are back to work. Currently, there are 3 officers in quarantine due to exposure. Mr. Volkmar said they had 1 minor test positive which was quarantined; they followed CDC and Health Department guidelines.

PROBATION:

J. Wiesehan reported there are 3,430 individuals on probation with 178 of those being juveniles. Ms. Wiesehan said they are experiencing an increased number in staff members testing positive for covid are working remotely. Ms. Wiesehan welcomed new members and officials and encouraged them to contact her at any time.

PUBLIC DEFENDER:

M. Copeland reported their first and only employee tested positive for covid 3 weeks ago and has since recovered. She mentioned that due to consistent safe practices, nobody else in the office has gotten sick and many are working remotely when possible. Ms. Copeland voiced her gratitude for Judge Mudge cancelling all non-essential court and how that prevented defense attorneys from being put in situations of not being able to socially distance. Ms. Copeland listed the current back log consisting of the following: 1,989 pending felonies; 374 filed felonies without preliminary hearings; 125 felony clients in jail. She said there is also thousands of misdemeanors which results to approximately 300 cases per assistant. Ms. Copeland noted they are focusing more on their clients that are currently in custody but said they are running into issues with clients being quarantined inside the jail. Ankle monitors are still being utilized for people who are able to be released on electronic monitoring.

CIRCUIT CLERK:

T. McRae reported it has been a busy first week in office and that he had the honor of watching several Circuit Judges be sworn in. Mr. McRae also presented the Circuit Clerk's purchase request for Laservault Server with Tape Emulation Software.

CIRCUIT COURT:

Chief Judge Mudge reported he has had the honor of participating in several swearing in ceremonies and welcomed the new committee members. Chief Judge also presented the Circuit Court's purchase request for Flooring, Cove Base, and Supplies for Courthouse 4th Floor and Jury Assembly Room.

SHERIFF/JAIL POPULATION:

Major Connor reported the jail numbers. He also reported that the DoC has allowed the female inmates to be transported. Major Connor said the jail has quarantine measures in place which has 3 zones; red, yellow and green.

STATE'S ATTORNEY:

None.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan reported the Center has been very busy, partly because of kids going back to school. She said they have maintained a fairly healthy staff and shared the Director of the CAC serving Macoupin, Montgomery, Jersey, Green and Calhoun Counties passed away from covid last week. Ms. Cohan said they are offering courtesy interviews as assistance in this difficult time. She also shared that 2 weeks prior, their Board President also passed away.

PURCHASE REQUESTS:

The following purchase requests were presented and discussed:

1. **Circuit Court:** Flooring, Cove Base, and Supplies for Courthouse 4th Floor and Jury Assembly Room. The cost is \$15,124.20.
2. **Circuit Clerk:** Laservault Server with Tape Emulation Software. The cost is \$29,084.00.

Ms. Glasper moved, seconded by Ms. Dalton to approve the Purchase Requests as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, L. Dalton, J. Goggin **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Ms. Glasper to approve the bills for the month. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, L. Dalton, J. Goggin NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Walters reported a Step-Up Initiative Subcommittee will be formed. The (4) members are Heather Mueller-Jones (Chair), Nick Petrillo, Judy Kuhn and Mick Madison.

Ms. Glasper moved, seconded by Ms. Dalton to approve the formation of the subcommittee and its members. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Mr. Goggin to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

/mds