

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
Jan. 8, 1980

The Judicial Committee met at 8:30 A.M. Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1980, in the chambers of Judge Timms and at 9:30 with Mr. Hugh Heffron, Friend of the Court, in his office at the Judicial Building.

Present: Chairman Mackey, Commissioners Gibbard, Godfrey and Spalding.  
Board Chairman Jane Davis. Judge Sheridan and Mr. Heffron.

Judge Timms reported that the District Court had collected the following:

	1978	1979
Fines	\$126,748	\$169,029
Court costs	373,383	415,763

Fines go to the library and could reduce the county's budget for that purpose by \$42,000. Court costs go to the general fund of the county treasury. In addition to fines and costs, the court received such funds as state judgment fees and civil case garnishments (paid to the plaintiff) so that approximately \$1,000,000 passed through the District Court in 1979.

Judge Timms announced a meeting on Monday in his chambers to discuss alternatives to incarceration — a program which is presently encouraged by the state's need to reduce expenditures where possible. Invited are Senator Mowat, Representative Hadden, the Sheriff, the Prosecuting Attorney, the Chairman of the County Commission and the five judges. Judge Timms would like a resolution from the County Commission authorizing the sheriff to provide work for prisoners as permitted under an 1857 statute. An opinion of the Attorney General in 1976 stated that prisoners are not employees and a county need not be bound by existing labor laws. Judge Timms is urging an amendment to the 1857 statute making law of the opinion of the Attorney-General.

A motion by Gibbard, seconded by Spalding, to approve sending Commissioner Godfrey with Judge Timms to observe the operation of the "workhouse" program in Toledo and to include her in the Monday, Jan. 14, meeting was passed.

The Committee then moved to the office of the Friend of the Court to continue its meeting. Mr. Heffron remarked on the continued increase in the number of cases handled by his office with a present case load of between 2500 and 3000. About 4000 children are involved. There were 350 new divorce cases involving minor children in the January through November 1979 time period. There were 500 to 550 court hearings during the month of December.

According to Mr. Heffron, the Friend of the Court office is responsible for over \$3,000,000 in funds during the year. It collects about \$3,500 a month. Four employees are funded by the state as investigators to collect from delinquent parents whose families are on ADC. The question was raised as to whether help was extended to the custodial parent who was trying to maintain his/her family without going on ADC. Mr. Heffron responded that the county did not provide funds for this purpose and the existing personnel could not serve as investigators in addition to normal duties. However,

families are informed of measures for legal recourse at the time of the divorce which include possible attachment of pay or jail sentences.

The committee analyzed the budget of the Friend of the Court and Chairman Davis is planning to seek a proportionate share of "indirect costs" for the state's use of space, telephone, equipment and postage. The present 15% "incentive" refund from collections by ADC seem to pay for the four extra investigators, but do not pay for incidental expenses.

A motion by Mackey, supported by Gibbard asks the Friend of the Court and Judge Martin to proceed immediately to work toward replacing Mrs. Pauline Woerner who for many years has handled the bookkeeping and fee collection for the office. The motion passed unanimously. There seemed to be some problem with training a present employee for this work, although one already familiar with the work of the office would seem to be an advantage over hiring a completely new person.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

cc: 5 Judges, Koselka, Heffron, Davis and 5 Committee Members plus one for the Commissioners' drop box at the Court House.

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*Pat Johnsons  
(copies already made)*

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cc: 5 Judges, Koselka, Heffron, Davis and 5 Committee Members plus one for the Commissioners' drop box at the Court House.

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JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 6, 1980

The Judicial Committee met on Wednesday, February 6, 1980 in the Committee Room of the Judicial Building at 9 A.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Godfrey, Chairman, Spaulding, Gibbard and Roback.

GUEST: County Clerk Pat Johnston.

Comm. Roback announced that the dedication of the Judicial Building is set for Saturday, March 15. A committee will be appointed to work out details of the dedication including the hour of the ceremony and plans for publicity. He announced that reinforced audio equipment has now be installed in every Court Room except that of Judge Martin.

Comm. Godfrey introduced Pat Johnston and asked her to comment n her work as clerk of the court and how she thought some things might be improved. The following reponsibilities were mentioned:

1. Voter registration and its effect on the process of selecting jurors. She would like to be sure that Township Clerks keep her central list of voters current and hopes that a new plan she is working on will make possible a composite list of jurors rather than separate lists for each court. She would continue to be responsible for notifying jurors, seeing that judges have the correct number present for each trial and for paying jurors.
2. Maintaining the judges' journal (Circuit Court only). This requires a daily report from each Judge as to work done in the Court Room the preceding day. This journal becomes a permanent record and the basis of a quarterly report to the Court Administrator's Office in Lansing.
3. Prepares the court calendar on a quarterly basis. This calendar is prepared a month before the quarter begins and gives a tentative schedule for cases to be heard during the coming quarter. It lists the plaintiff and defendant in each case, the presiding judge, the lawyers and law firms involved. Copies of the Court Calendar are sent to the Judges and all of the lawyers involved in any of the cases.
4. Receives all Court Administrative (and local Court Rules) Rules as they are promulgated and sees that those affected are informed.
5. Collects costs, attorney fees, bonds and restitution payments for Circuit and Probate Courts. Keeps accounts and makes disbursements for the public record.

She mentioned two or three items that she is considering making recommendations to the Judicial Committee and to the County Commission within the next few months.

- (a) Composite list of jurors for the use of both Circuit and Probate Court.
- (b) An increase in fees for documents requested by attorneys for their cases, perhaps \$1. per copy.
- (c) A method of getting court records on micro-film with the Register of Deeds.

Judge Timms paid a brief visit to submit the monthly financial statement of the District Court.

Comm. Godfrey presented the attorney fee scale as given to her by Judge Martin. I was rumored that aorney fees may double before the end of the year.

Comm. Godfrey announced that the regular meeting of the Judicial Committee would be at 10 A.M. in the Committee Room of the Judicial Building to be followed by a meeting with Judge Kohn at 11 A.M. at the Maurice Spear CAMPus preceding the lunch there and meeting of the Corporation Board.

Two items of legislation and a memorandum from the Administrative Office concerning additional judgeships were introduced by Godfrey. Ig was determined that she would circulate all three to the committee with a cover letter and any relevant remarks. Each committee member would add his comments and send to the next committee member so that they can be discussed at the next regular committee meeting.

Following the payment of the bills, the committee recessed to the Maurice Spear Campus. Minutes of that meeting are available at the Courthouse.

Comm. Godfrey, Clerk Pro Tem

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
March 5, 1980

The Judicial Committee met on Wednesday, March 5, at the Committee Room in the Judicial Building for its regular monthly meeting.

Present: Godfrey, Gibbard, Spalding and Mackey  
Absent: Roback  
Guest: Judge Kohn

On motion of Spalding, supported by Gibbard, the minutes of the Feb. 6 meeting were approved. The schedule of meetings for the rest of 1980 was presented and will be given to all other commissioners and officials of the Judicial branch as requested by Commissioner Gould at the Board's meeting on Feb. 27.

A discussion was held concerning the possibility of placing vital statistics on microfilm with the cooperation of the clerk's office and that of the recorder of deeds. Commissioner Mackey agreed to consult with County Clerk Johnston and Register of Deeds Richards and may propose consultation with other counties. (This follows the Johnston report on February 6, 1980.)

Commissioner Spalding asked for suggestions as to our participation in the dedication of the Judicial Building on May 26 as requested by Chairman Davis. Two suggestions were:

- (a) members of the Judicial Committee be stationed in individual court rooms as welcoming hosts.
- (b) a brochure with information submitted from judges and other court personnel be ready for distribution to interested citizens telling about the work of the courts in Lenawee County.

Bills were approved. On motion of Spalding, supported by Gibbard, and adopted unanimously, a limit ~~of~~ \$25 was approved for dinners for personnel attending conferences in January. The Chairman was asked to confer with Chairman Davis to explain the policy so that she can communicate our concern at the next meeting with department heads.

The committee asked the chairman to set up a meeting with Dave Stanifer in reference to the Juvenile Division for our next meeting (April 2) if this can be arranged.

The committee then moved to Judge Kohn's chambers for a conference with him. He mentioned that the new code which went into effect on July 1, 1979, required certain changes in procedures, but mentioned that so far few citizens have taken advantage of their new opportunities. For one thing, a will may be set aside if all the heirs agree. The new code permits the appointment of two persons to take charge of an estate when minors are involved: A guardian (of the person) and a conservator (of the money). These two may be one and the same person.

In explaining the work of the Probate Judge, Judge Kohn outlined the schedule of a recent morning:

1. Received a petition for his approval or objection in regard to a trust account.

2. Held a hearing in regard to which persons are bona fide heirs.
3. Admitted a will for probate. (The executor is now called a "personal representative" and may not always have to deal with courts or lawyers under the new code.)
4. "Construed" a will which was being questioned. This may go to the Michigan Court of Appeals for a further determination.
5. Received a request regarding a mobile home for which the resident wanted a homestead exemption.
6. Committed a person to a mental hospital for 60 days. This will be reviewed at that time and the subject may be re-committed for another 90 days. (In cases of minors sent to foster homes, hearings are automatic after six months.) Judge Kohn referred to a new telephone hook-up with Ypsilanti hospital for a doctor's testimony which expedites cases involving the mentally impaired and also saves money and time.
7. Received final accounting of an independent probate.
8. Heard a "child neglect" case.
9. Placed a juvenile with the state as a last resort.

Other work of the probate court involves:

- a. adoption proceedings
- b. financial review of fathers in cases of child support
- c. delinquency arraignments for minors. In two cases in three years, Judge Kohn has waived a juvenile (under 17 years of age) to Circuit Court for trial.
- d. condemnation proceedings.

In response to a question from Chairman Godfrey, Judge Kohn stated that he considered the relation of this committee to the judges to be one of lobbying with the full county Board of Commissioners for requests which he has convinced are necessary. He strongly objected to our questioning bills approved by the judicial branch on the grounds that when the Board of Commissioners approved a budget, the judges may spend it as they see fit. In one case a State 3 grievance went directly to the Personnel Committee thus by-passing the Judicial Committee.

The meeting adjourned at noon to the Maurice Spear Campus for lunch and a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Lenawee Youth Facility, Inc. Minutes of that meeting are available at the Courthouse.

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cc: Chairman Davis  
Commissioners Godfrey, Spalding, Gibbard, Mackey and Roback  
Judges Martin, Glaser, Kohn, Timms, and Sheridan  
County Clerk Johnston  
Drop box at Courthouse for use of other commissioners



Pat Johnston

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
April 2, 1980

Virginia  
Mackey

The Judicial Committee met on Wednesday, April 2, 1980, in the chambers of Judge Timms for its regular monthly meeting.

Present: Godfrey, Gibbard, Spalding, Mackey and Davis  
Absent: Roback  
Judges in attendance: Timms, Sheridan and Kohn

On motion of Spalding, supported by Gibbard, the minutes of the March 5 meeting were approved. The agenda previously distributed was approved and supplemented by an agenda submitted by Judge Timms.

Judge Timms reported that Virginia Stites would be retiring in December and presented two options for replacing her. He thought that option (2) below would save money for the county if it could be implemented:

- (1) Hire a full-time Court Administrator for the District Court at a possible cost of \$25,000. (Gibbard knew of another county that has a court administrator at a \$17,000 salary.)
- (2) Transfer a competent employee from another department to become Court Administrator and continue to work in his current department. This would entail an increase of about \$5,000 in the District Court's budget for next year. In response to questions, he thought that this solution could be tried out, but might have to be re-evaluated after a few months of 1981.

Judge Timms reported that more than one-third of the amount budgeted for attorney fees had been spent and alerted the committee to the need for additional funds during the 1980 fiscal year. Godfrey commented that the committee had been informed of the new scale for increasing attorney's fees on Jan. 2, 1980, and asked if consideration of the county's budget had been considered in arriving at the increase. Sheridan remarked that the 7 1/2% increase was the first for court-appointed lawyers since 1972 — far less than the increase in the cost of living since 1972. Timms defended the increase by saying that the cost per case is only slightly more for the first three months of 1980 than for the same period in 1979. (The following day, Judge Timms supplied the attached statistical analysis of fees paid to court-appointed attorneys.) Godfrey thought that unless such increases were made after consultation with the Board of Commissioners, the Board should not be required to provide the funds. Sheridan pointed out that Supreme Court decisions requiring attorneys for all defendants including indigents were made without reference to a county's financial condition and courts are expected to live with those decisions. Davis suggested that the large number of local attorneys willing to accept previously determined fees indicated that there may have been no need to increase those fees. She hoped that all parties concerned would do what is possible to hold down such costs. Judge Timms thought that something less than \$20,000 would take care of the problem for the rest of the year; however, the committee did not suggest an adjustment in the budget at this time.

Judge Timms is revising his jury system along lines reported to the Committee last year and hopes that after July 1 there will be about a \$3,500. yearly reduction for jury fees.

He also reported that the new state law permitting individuals to sue for their deductible portion of automobile insurance in Small Claims Court would in all likelihood increase the burden of the Court and, of course, the costs of such increased case load to the county.

Judge Kohn discussed the matter of approving bills which was mentioned in the March meeting. He presented a list of the bills for the Child Care Service of the Probate Court (Maurice Spear campus) and suggested that the committee use this list as a basis for evaluating expenses so that the payment of bills would not be delayed. On motion of Gibbard, supported by Spalding, the Committee "thanked Judge Kohn for providing such a list and recommended this procedure for Circuit and District Courts." Passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed a letter from Judge Glaser in reference to a sequestered place for witnesses in the new Judicial Building. The following two motions were approved unanimously:

Moved by Gibbard, supported by Spalding, to "support Judge Glaser's recommendation to find a suitable place in the new Judicial Building to sequester witnesses and to refer this matter to the Building and Grounds Committee."

Moved by Spalding, supported by Gibbard, to "refer the matter of employing a witness coordinator to the Personnel Committee with a recommendation that strong efforts be made to fill this position with CETA personnel."

A request with attached Purchase Order from the Friend of the Court's office for Building and Grounds funds to purchase necessary equipment was presented by Godfrey. Motion by Mackey, supported by Gibbard, to "recommend that Building and Grounds approve the request of the Friend of the Court to purchase a four-drawer steel filing cabinet, three trays and a rolling table." Passed unanimously.

### Reports

Mackey reported that he planned to see Pat Johnston today about the possibility of micro-filming court records with equipment in the Register of Deeds office.

Spalding reported that plans for the Judicial Building dedication for May 26 were shaping up and would probably be finalized by the next meeting of the Judicial Committee on May 7.

Godfrey announced that the May 7 meeting would be in the Prosecutor's office in the Judicial Building to be followed by a session with Dave Stanifer in the Juvenile Division of Probate Court.

Following approval of the bills, the Committee recessed to the Maurice Spear Campus for lunch and a meeting of the Executive Board of the Youth Center, Inc. (Minutes of that meeting are on file at the Courthouse.)

After the Campus business meeting, the Committee visited the new half-way house at 127 Siena Heights Drive where six young people will make the transition from the Maurice Spear Campus to return to the community. Their stay at the half-way house will be indeterminate as some will be returning to their homes and some, hopefully, will be prepared for independent living. The first residents will probably arrive within the next two weeks, but Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Brighton will be happy to show any interested person the new quarters. This half-way house was constructed through the good offices of the Herrick Foundation. No county funds were supplied.

*District Court*

ATTORNEY FEE COMPARISON

FIRST QUARTER 1979 VS. FIRST QUARTER 1980

*Reported by Judge Timms  
4/2/80*

1979

Number of court appointed cases	88
Cost of court appointed attorneys	\$7,425.00
Cost per case	\$84.38

1980

Number of court appointed cases	138
Cost of court appointed attorneys	\$12,689.00
Cost per case	\$91.94

DIFFERENCES

Number of cases with court appointed attorneys	50 (Increase)
Percent of increase	36.23%
Cost per case	\$7.57 (Increase)
Percent of increase	8.2%
Court appointed attorneys fees paid - 1979	\$35,404.00
Court appointed attorneys fees recovered - 1979	\$5,804.00
Percent of recovery - 1979	16.39%
Court appointed attorney fees recovered 1st quarter 1980	\$3,073.00
Percent of recovery - 1980	24.21%

*Pat Johnston*

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
May 7, 1980

*Copy kept  
after made*

The Judicial Committee met on Wednesday, May 7, 1980, in the Prosecutor's office in the Judicial Building for its regular monthly meeting.

Present: Godfrey, Gibbard, Mackey, Roback, Spalding and Koselka, joined later by Johnston and Stanifer.

Prosecutor Koselka reported on pending cases involving the county. Most of them (6 concerning law enforcement and the sheriff's department and one regarding the fatal accident at the airport two years ago) have been filed in federal court in Detroit but are presently being handled by our insurance company. Another case is in Washtenau Circuit Court and involves the Drain Commissioner. A third case has the county as the plaintiff in behalf of the Michigan State Fire Marshal against the Berean Faith Academy for infringements of the fire code. If by July 7 the Academy has arranged financing for its new building so that construction of a new building can proceed, the case will be dropped. There are no criminal cases in which the county is involved.

The Prosecutor announced that two recent time-consuming cases have been won by the county: the water level problem at Loch Erin and the Abraham case. The question of how the costs should be charged was discussed. Motion by Roback, supported by Spalding to "recommend that the Physical Resources Committee arrange for transfer to Loch Erin special assessments to the County General Fund for payment of Court fees" was passed unanimously.

The Prosecutor also announced that the State Supreme Court has upheld conviction of Edmunds in the much-publicized drug case of a few years ago. Koselka does not expect that he has heard the last of the case, though, since there will continue to be motions of various kinds.

The Committee examined the second floor room designated for a lawyer's lounge and agreed that it was not suitable as a place to sequester witnesses. Koselka suggested that one of the conference rooms on the ground floor be used for this purpose. Roback will take the suggestion to Building and Grounds for consideration.

Mackey moved and Gibbard supported a resolution to begin serious work on a program for finding ways in which violators can work to make restitution of losses due to criminal activities when possible. Following approval of the resolution, Godfrey asked Mackey to accompany her to discuss details of such a program with Judge Tims. The meeting was arranged for Friday, May 9 at 11 A.M. Koselka suggested a "house arrest" program be considered as an alternative to incarceration in the county jail.

Pat Johnston

At 10 A.M. the Committee met with County Clerk Johnston who reported that she is training a fourth person to handle the increasing volume of court records and is asking for a budget adjustment (not an increase at this time) to properly describe that person's duties. The Personnel Committee is meeting on May 21 and will discuss this and other matters.

Dave Stanifer

At 10:15 the Committee met with County Juvenile Officer Dave Stanifer who was asked to comment on the child abuse program. He said that recent higher court decisions have made it difficult for the local juvenile department to respond to parents who ask for help when in their opinion their children are incorrigible. At the present time, the court can act only when a child has actually committed a crime. For example, removing children from a parent's custody as a precautionary measure is likely to result in legal difficulties. He thinks that the new juvenile code leans too far toward parental rights rather than protection of juveniles.

Stanifer reported that about 50% of the 170-180 children involved in current cases are in foster homes. About eight of these homes shelter delinquent children. Several other homes are licensed for care of foster children, but the court does not have to place children in homes that they consider unsuitable.

Roback reported that a Building and Grounds meeting of April 29 considered the monthly report of maintenance needs at the Maurice Spear campus. He also said that the Campus plans to install a meter to determine whether to use a meter based on water usage or a flat fee based on the number of occupants to determine the sewer charge for the Campus when the new sewage system goes into effect. Stanifer inquired about the possibility of central purchasing of food and supplies for the Maurice Spear Campus. This will be referred to Chairman Davis for consideration.

The method of presenting bills from the Maurice Spear campus was discussed. Stanifer agreed to make a copy for each Judicial Committee member. Godfrey continues to urge the Probate and Circuit Courts to report their monthly expenses according to the county's line item budget as does the District Court and to identify each month any item which shows signs of exceeding the annual budget.

Other business

The Committee discussed recent information from Judge Glaser concerning court-appointed attorney fees as a follow-up of the discussion of April 2. Godfrey summarized information in the following table:

Court-Appointed Attorney Fees

	Budgeted 1979	Spent 1979	Budgeted 1980	Spent (First quarter) 1980	My projection for 1980
Circuit Court	\$40,000	\$36,666*	\$42,000	\$19,390**	\$77,560
Probate Court	8,000	4,562*	9,840	2,135*	8,540
Juvenile Division	30,000	\$29,065.*	28,535	\$ 7,877.*	\$31,510.
District Court	31,000	35,403***	30,000	12,689***	50,756

\* Information from Delores Slyker, May 5, 1980  
 \*\* Letter from Judge Glaser, April 25, 1980  
 \*\*\* Report from Judge Timms, April 2, 1980  
 \*\*\*\* Information from Dave Stanifer, May 12, 1980

This will be referred to the Ways and Means Committee as it will probably be a crisis situation in the 1980 budget before very long.

Roback reported that plans for the dedication of the new Judicial Building will be finalized before the May 14 Board of Commissioners meeting.

After approval of the bills, the Committee adjourned to the Maurice Spear Campus for lunch and for a meeting of the executive board of the corporation.

*Erwin Godfrey*

eg  
cc: Five judges, Davis, Gould, Koselka, Stanifer, Johnston

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
June 4, 1980

*Gerry Ambrose*

The regular meeting of the Judicial Committee was held in Judge Martin's chambers on Wednesday, June 4, 1980, at 8:30 A.M. with all Commissioners present (Godfrey, Gibbard, Mackey, Roback & Spalding). Mr. Ambrose attended for the last part of the meeting and joined us at Maurice Spear campus for lunch and a meeting of the Executive Board of the Campus. Those minutes are on file at the Court House in the usual place.

Judge Martin will talk with the other judges and the Bldg. & Grounds Committee in a continuing effort to find a suitable place to sequester witnesses in the new Judicial Building.

Motion by Spalding, supported by Gibbard and approved unanimously, commended the judges for their cooperation in the dedication of the new Judicial Building which helped to make the event a real success.

Fees for attorneys defending indigents continue to exceed budget estimates although the prospective deficit seems to be diminishing. This may be due to efforts on the part of the judges to hold down such expenses. For example:

- (a) a letter to the Bar Association of March 18 reduced the scale for motions from \$50 to \$10.
- (b) preliminary examination and conference with the prosecuting attorney, although a new item on the schedule, may reduce later expenses.
- (c) Judge Martin is keeping itemized records of fees paid to each attorney so that he can become more aware of where expenses are excessive.
- (d) Judge Martin has asked Clerk Johnston to keep a record of recoveries from indigents who may become able to pay.\* An increased effort is being made to collect such fees.

The Committee will continue to monitor this budgeted item. The Committee has asked for another report by the end of June so that the Board's Budget Committee can have up-to-date information in preparing next year's budget. The Judicial Committee continues to warn that extra funds for attorney fees may be necessary in 1980 FY.

There was further discussion of Judge Timms's request for assistance in finding places where those arrested for misdemeanors might work out their sentences. Godfrey presented a list from Gregg Arbaugh who is keeping a file of places where such persons have been assigned. Godfrey will write letters to suitable public and non-profit-making private agencies who might be able to use such people with a view to increasing the places available for them to work. All Commissioners were encouraged to publicize the program and seek opportunities to help in making the program a success.

In regard to the Friend of the Court's request for further office equipment, Godfrey and Gibbard will meet with Mr. Heffron on Monday morning, June 9 at 9 o'clock.

Following approval of the bills, the Committee adjourned to the Maurice Spear Campus. The next regular meeting of the Judicial Committee will be in Judge Timms's chambers at 8:30 A.M., Wednesday, July 2, 1980.

cc: 5 judges, Johnston, Ambrose, minute box, 5 commissioners  
eg

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\* Amount recovered from Jan. 2 to May 19, 1980 in Circuit Court is \$2,855.03, according to Clerk Johnston.

*attach  
to  
your  
minutes*

LENAWEE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
JUDICIAL BUILDING  
425 North Main Street  
Adrian, Michigan 49221  
263-8831 Ext. 262

TO Erwina Godfrey

DATE May 30, 1980

SUBJECT Work Program

Below is a list of the agencies where we have placed people on the Volunteer Work Program:

- Lenawee County Humane Society
- Blissfield Village
- Adrian City Recreation
- Lenawee County Maintenance Department
- Methodist Church in Morenci
- Kiwanis Riverview Terrace
- Tecumseh Police Department
- Hudson Police Department
- Clinton Post
- This Probation Department

*add Drain Commission  
Health Dept  
Home repairs (C.A. City)*

The most consistent and agreeable situation is with the Lenawee County Humane Society. The Methodist Church in Morenci we have used once, and we no longer use the Lenawee County Maintenance Department.

Gregg

rr



MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

July 2, 1980

The Judicial Committee met in Judge Timms's chambers at 8:30 A.M., Wed., July 2 with a quorum present. (Godfrey, Spalding and Gibbard. Judges Timms, Kohn, Sheridan and Administrator Ambrose)

Judge Kohn expressed the displeasure of all the judges upon learning that the Personnel and Ways and Means Committee had granted 7% raises with a \$1200 cap to non-represented county employees, including 15 employees of the judicial branch, without asking the judges for their comments prior to that decision. After discussion it appeared that the judges had provided input in regard to new positions and reclassification of jobs, but had not been consulted about the general pay raises. Since none of the department heads had been asked to give their opinion about general pay raises either, there was no discrimination against the judicial branch.

The judges mentioned again that they wished to pay outstanding bills without approval of the committee as long as their budgets were not exceeded. The Committee asked only that each of the three courts keep us informed about the status of their finances as is done presently in the District Court.

Judge Timms called attention again to the danger of exceeding the budget for fees to court-appointed attorneys, a matter which will need action by the Budget Committee later in the year. Another item that is exceeding the budget is for printing costs, but it was explained that bills for the last four months of 1979 arrived only in 1980 which skewed the budget somewhat.

Judge Kohn asked that the words "50 Fine" be added to the parking lot sign restricting one area to authorized personnel.

Godfrey presented the committee with a rough draft of a letter intended for public and non-profit agencies which might be persuaded to find jobs suitable for persons convicted of misdemeanors as an alternative to jail. After a thorough discussion a motion by Spalding, supported by Gibbard, was approved to ask Ambrose to send out a suitable letter to county departments only and that we continue to publicize the program by word of mouth rather than by letter.

Gibbard remarked that the conference room where we met was cooler than necessary and that the thermostat was set at 70 rather than 80 degrees as requested for public buildings. He asked for a report on the cost of utilities for the new Judicial Building.

A note from the Friend of the Court indicated that his office furniture requirements could be met from his existing budget so the bill for the new equipment was approved on a motion by Spalding, supported by Gibbard and was forwarded to Kishbaugh.

Judge Timms reported that Bixby Hospital can no longer help to subsidize the AIRC program. Judge Timms told the committee that efforts to resolve this problem might affect receipts from court costs. The problem is still under consideration.

Clerk Johnston requested consideration of funds for writing a computer program to facilitate selection of juries. Ambrose agreed to discuss this matter with her.

Godfrey reported that the MAC Criminal Justice Committee is presenting its legislative ideas to the annual conference in August. Stress will continue to be laid on state support of court-mandated local programs. The MAC Committee urged a state standard for indigency as a guide to local judges and a reimbursement program to retrieve attorney fees similar to that employed by the Friend of the Court.

After approval of the bills, the committee adjourned to the Maurice Spear campus for lunch and a meeting of the executive board of the Corporation.

Next regular meeting of the Judicial Committee will be held at 9 A.M., Wednesday, August 6, in the office of the Friend of the Court.

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
August 1980

*Ambrose*

In preparation of the budget of 1981 and as requested in material from the Budget Committee of June 24, 1980, the Judicial Committee met at various times and at the convenience of the judicial branch to discuss the 1981 budget.

Friday, August 8. Judge Timms

Present: Godfrey, Gibbard, Mackey, Roback.  
Timms, Arbagh, Stites

Judge Timms called attention to shortfalls in the 1980 estimated budget (Attorney fees, transcripts and printing.) The latter is due mainly to a lag in writing checks in relation to the judge's authorization. This put the final quarter of 1979 into 1980 and skewed the 1980 budget. Judge Timms also called attention to the difference in the District Court's line item budget numbers and those of the Budget Control officer. Such discrepancies make it difficult to compare accounts. (For example, he lists "visiting attorneys" under 705, but there is no such number in the county's accounts for 1980. Note: In the Circuit Court the line item for "visiting attorneys" in the 1980 budget is 815. (See p. 16 of 1980 budget) )

Wednesday, August 20. Judge Kohn

Present: Godfrey, Gibbard, Mackey, Spalding.  
Kohn, Stanifer, Smith  
Ambrose

Judge Kohn presented the committee with his 1981 budget for the Probate Court. It was noted that there is no increase over the current year for any item except for previously contracted salaries for permanent court employees. The judge is asking that his own salary be maintained at its current level. Judge Kohn showed the committee two beautiful stained glass panels for his courtroom doors "as my contribution to the new judicial building."

Juvenile officer Dave Stanifer appeared with Robert Smith, Director of the Department of Social Services, to present the Child Care Budget which must be sent to the Michigan Department of Social Service by September 1. Precise figures await action by the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners at the time of the adoption of our budget, but these preliminary figures must be presented now so that the state's contribution can be requested.

On motion by Spalding, supported by Gibbard and adopted unanimously, the committee "received and approved the County Child Care Budget Summary and recommended that it be submitted to the County Commission for its approval on August 27."

Stanifer then presented the 1981 budget for the Juvenile section of the Probate Court. As was true for District and Circuit Courts, a significant increase in court-appointed attorney fees is requested. Overall, the increase is 2.6% for 1981. The committee hopes that the Maurice Spear Campus revenues and expenditures will be put on the computer as soon as possible so that details can be more realistically monitored. In addition to the operating budget, requests of \$113,416 were made for capital improvements and major repairs at the campus.

A recommendation to the Ways and Means Committee will be prepared at the next regular meeting of the Judicial Committee on Wednesday, Sep't. 3.

Time: ~~9:30 AM~~ 8:30 AM

Place: Ambrose's office in Court House

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
August 1980 (continued)

*Ambrose*

Friday, August 22. Prosecutor Koselka

Present: Godfrey, Gibbard, Mackey, Spalding, Roback  
Koselka, Ambrose

Prosecutor Koselka presented his 1981 budget and included comments concerning proposed changes. As of the end of June 1980, the prosecutor's office had not spent quite 50% of its 1980 budget.

With the exception of personnel, proposed increases amount to 2.8%. When personnel increases of 5% are included, even without an increase in the prosecutor's salary, the budget for 1981 shows a 13% increase. The largest non-personnel dollar increase is in "Communications", explained as the increased cost of a new procedure for having prospective jurors and witnesses call in on the afternoon preceding a scheduled trial to be sure that the trial will actually take place. Although this shows an increase in "Communications" in the prosecutor's budget, it should be more than off-set by reduced witness and juror fees in the courts' budgets. Unfortunately, a 14% increase in warrants prevents an over-all reduction for the judicial branch. The prosecutor expects to request a used Magcard typewriter (approximately \$5,000) and two file cabinets as capital outlay.

The Judicial Committee's regular meeting for September is split into two parts. On September 3 it will meet at noon at the Maurice Spear campus for lunch and a meeting of the Board of the youth center. On September 10, the Committee will meet at 8:30 A.M. in the committee room of the court house for an over-all review of the 1981 budgets of the three courts and the prosecutor's office. (The Minutes of the special meeting of the Judicial Committee on August 20 should therefore be corrected.) At 9:30 a.m. the Committee will meet with Jerry Judd in the Circuit Court Probation Office.

On September 10 the committee will make its recommendation to the Ways and Means Committee concerning the 1981 budget.

cc: all judges, prosecutor, Judd, Johnston, Ambrose, Gould and Davis.

eg

AGENDA FOR JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
8:30 Wed., Sep't. 10, 1980  
Commissioner's Room at the Court House

1. Approval of August minutes (4)
2. Consideration of Budgets of  
3 courts  
Prosecutor's office
3. Recommendation of Judicial Committee to the Ways and Means/Budget  
Committee regarding the above budgets.
4. 9:30. Office of Probation Officer Jerry Judd.
5. Miscellaneous

Column 8: Judicial Fund Report from  
Coordinator's Office  
Fund 101

Line Item	1981 Budget Increase
131 Circuit Court	\$42,778
151 Circuit Court Probation	- 78,249
141 Friend of Court	16,791
136 District Court	44,195
148 Probate Court	3,437
149 Probate Court: Juvenile	6,924
292 Maurice Spear Campus	102,725
229 Prosecuting Attorney	20,655
132 Jury Board	- 575
143 Law Library	- 6,750
Total Increase	\$151,931 or 8.8%

*Calculated by E. Godfrey  
from Ambrose report  
to W+M/Budget*

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
September 1980

*J. Ambrose*

The Judicial Committee met in afternoon session at the Maurice Spear Campus on Wed., September 3 with all members except Gibbard present. Minutes of that meeting are prepared at the Campus and appear in the Minute Drop Box at the Court House. The Committee also approved the August bills at that time.

A morning session was held on Wednesday, September 10 at 8:30 A.M. in the Commissioner's Room at the Court House.

Present: Godfrey, Spalding, Roback and Mackey.  
Davis, Ambrose and (briefly) Judge Glaser.

A note from Judge Kohn asked that the Aug. 20 minutes regarding judicial salaries be corrected. "Judge Kohn did not say that he would be satisfied with his present salary. Judge Kohn did say that he anticipated a raise along with other county employees..." The minutes were thus corrected.

The Committee reviewed the budgets of the three courts and the prosecutor which had been previously discussed with them in separate sessions. The purpose of the current session was to make a recommendation to the Ways and Means Committee as to the 1981 budget for the Judicial Branch. Godfrey presented the following statistics gleaned from the Ambrose report to the Ways and Means Committee of September 4:

Column 8 (added): Judicial Fund Report from Coordinator's Office  
Fund 101. Calculated by E. Godfrey from report of Sept. 4, 1980.

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>1981 Budget Increase</u>
131 Circuit Court	\$42,778
151 Circuit Court Probation	- 78,249
141 Friend of Court	16,791
136 District Court	44,195
148 Probate Court	3,437
149 Probate Court: Juvenile	6,924
292 Maurice Spear Campus	102,725
229 Prosecuting Attorney	20,655
132 Jury Board	- 575
143 Law Library	- 6,750
Total Increase	\$151,931 or 8.8%

After a lengthy discussion, the following motion, made by Spalding and supported by Roback, was passed unanimously:

"The Judicial Committee will support the process being evolved by Ways and Means/Budget to inform the commissioners and Department heads of the status of our county finances and will withhold action on the Judicial Budget at this time."

At ten o'clock the Committee moved to the office of the Circuit Court's new chief probation officer, Jerry Judd, in the Judicial Building, for an information session.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

eg

*Ambrose*

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 3 and 17, 1980

The Judicial Committee met at noon on Wed., Dec. 3, at the Maurice Spear Campus. Following a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Youth Corporation (minutes available in commissioner's box) the Judicial Committee approved the bills and examined the details of the contract to extend the county's request for a Cooperative Reimbursement Program from the state for the Prosecutor's Office. A motion to recommend the contract was made by Spalding, supported by Roback, and is to be presented at the Dec. 10 meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Of the requested \$22,371, the county's share will be \$2,870 of which \$900 is "in kind."

Present: Godfrey, Spalding, Mackey, Roback.

The Judicial Committee met at 10 A.M. in the office of Greg Arbagh, Chief County Probation Officer for the District Court, for the other half of its regular meeting. A wide-ranging discussion was held concerning the function of the Department and Mr. Arbagh's newly expanded role to include administrator of the District Court.

Present: Godfrey, Spalding and Davis.

cc: Godfrey, Spalding, Mackey, Gibbard, Roback, Davis, Koselka and Arbagh  
Johnston, Minute Box, Ambrose