

MINUTES
COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DRAFT

111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw MI 48602

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Jack Tany - Chair, Sheldon Matthews – Vice-Chair, Rich Spitzer, Mark Piotrowski, Christopher Boyd

Others: Mary Catherine Hannah, Koren Thurston, Dave Gilbert, Jaime Ceja, Darcie Totten, Jane Collins, Terie Elbers, Mary McLaughlin, Judge Gafkay, Michael Yelsik, James Smith, Suzy Koeplinger, Renee Sharkey, and Catherine Hicks

- I. Call to order ---**Tany @ 4:04 p.m.**
- II. Welcome/Rollcall
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes (**August 6, 2024**)
---**Moved by Boyd, seconded by Spitzer, to approve. Motion carried.**
- IV. Public comment ---**None**
- V. Agenda

1. **Hon. Julie A. Gafkay, Circuit Court Chief Judge and Michael Yelsik, Circuit Court Administrator, re:**

9-17-1 Submitting a request to establish a Saginaw County Legal Self-Help Center

---Discussion was held. It was confirmed that legal advice will not be given. It will be a space offering resources, including a copy machine, printers, 4 kiosks, kids corner, waiting area and office space for one part-time employee to assist in navigating the websites, the courthouse, and community resources. Parties may use this space to prepare their documents before attending court. In addition to providing resources for the public, it is expected this self-help center will reduce the amount of time presently required to process illegibly written and unclear requests in the court documents and reduce the time it takes the courts to hear the cases. The center will be in the former Pretrial Services space presently used for storage of documents that will be purged. Commissioner Spitzer asked if there is an impact on the general fund budget. Administrator Hannah explained that the County's role is in-kind and does not hit anyone's balance sheet. He asked if there will be a security camera to which she responded that the grant money will pay for the camera. Chief Judge Gafkay explained that this space will improve people's ability to access justice.

---**Moved by Boyd, seconded by Matthews, to approve the request to establish a Legal Self-Help Center, contingent upon receiving up to \$50,400 in grant money from the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) and Saginaw County's in-kind contribution of up to \$16,700 for the use of the space and other costs. Motion carried. (Board Report)**

2. Any other matters to come before the committee ---**None**

- VI. Miscellaneous ---**None**
- VII. Adjournment ---**Moved by Matthews, seconded by Boyd, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 4:34 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jack Tany, Committee Chair
Suzy Koeplinger, Committee Clerk