

AGENDA
COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw MI 48602
Tuesday, December 5, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

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

Others: Finance Director, Civil Counsel, Board Staff, *Media*

- I. Call to order
- II. Welcome/Roll-call
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes (***November 7, 2023 –Attached***)
- IV. Public comment
 - *Speakers limited to 3 minutes*
- V. Agenda
 1. **Julie A. Gafkay, 10th Circuit Court Chief Judge, re:**
 - **12-19-3** Requesting the assignment of two full-time Sheriff Deputies to the 4th floor of the courthouse to address concerns with security in Circuit Court
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

MINUTES
COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DRAFT

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

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

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

Others: Koren Thurston, Dave Gilbert, Lt. Mark Przybylski, Eric Snidersich, Laurie Thiel, Chris Manriquez, Darcie Graham, Jaime Ceja, Jennifer Broadfoot, Steven Fenner, Marissa Sawdon and Suzy Koeplinger

- I. Call to order ---**Tany at 4:00 p.m.**
- II. Welcome/Roll-call
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes (**October 10, 2023**)
---**Moved by Boyd, seconded by Piotrowski, to approve. Motion carried.**
- IV. Public comment ---**None**
 - *Speakers limited to 3 minutes*
- V. Agenda

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing on an application for funding assistance under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief Program (CDBG-DR) to conduct the second phase of the flood inundation map project for the areas surrounding the Tittabawassee, Saginaw, and Cass Rivers

- At 4:02 p.m., Committee Chair Tany opened a public hearing on the application for funding assistance under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief Program to conduct the second phase of the flood inundation map project. Chair Tany asked if anyone wished to speak; hearing none, he announced the hearing would remain open.
1. **Lt. Mark Przybylski, Emergency Management, re:**
 - **11-21-1** Requesting a Public Hearing on an application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for a grant to survey and create interactive inundation maps (second phase)
Lt. Przybylski explained that nothing has changed with the project. The request for public hearing is due to grant requirements regarding the second phase.

2nd Call of Public Hearing

- At 4:04 p.m., Committee Chair Tany announced the second call on the application for funding assistance under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief Program to conduct the second phase of the flood inundation map project. Chair Tany asked if anyone wished to speak; hearing none, he announced the hearing would remain open.
2. **Eric Snidersich, BS, Paramedic, MMR, re:**
 - **11-21-6** Providing an operational update and requesting review of a proposed ambulance contract
---**Moved by Boyd, seconded by Spitzer, to approve the proposed Ambulance Service Agreement that was distributed prior to the meeting, subject to review and approval by Civil Counsel. Motion carried. (Board Report)**

3rd Call and Closing Public Hearing

▪ At 4:47 p.m., Committee Chair Tany announced the third and final call of a public hearing on the application for funding assistance under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief Program to conduct the second phase of the flood inundation map project. He asked if there was anyone wishing to speak; hearing none, he announced the public hearing closed at 4:47 p.m.

3. Julie A. Gafkay, 10th Circuit Court, and Terry L. Clark, 70th District Court, re:

- **11-21-7** To provide an update on appointments made by the Chief Judges of the Saginaw County Trial Court **(No Action)**

- Update on JIS (Judicial Information System)
Chairman Boyd updated the committee on the meetings taking place to convert the Courts system to JIS. Should Saginaw County choose to move forward with this project, it will take a minimum of one and a half years to prepare for the switch. (No Action)

VI. Miscellaneous---**None**

VII. Adjournment---**Moved by Spitzer, seconded by Matthews, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 4:53 p.m.**

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

COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY

To: Courts and Public Safety Committee
From: Judge Julie A. Gafkay, Circuit Court Chief Judge
Re: Approval of Two Full-Time Deputy Sheriffs for Fourth Floor of Courthouse
Date: November 27, 2023

12-19-3

Purpose:

MCR 3.106 contemplates that a Court Officer or Bailiff (Deputy Sheriff) will be assigned to each individual Court. In the past, all judges in Saginaw County were assigned a bailiff for his/her courtroom. At some point, under a past Controller, the courts were given a choice by the County to choose a law clerk or a bailiff. The district and probate court judges chose to retain appointed bailiffs for their individual courts. The Circuit Court judges were left with no viable option, but to choose a law clerk; it would be unworkable for any Circuit Court judge not to have a law clerk to assist with written opinions and research. Accordingly, for several years now the Circuit Court (fourth floor) has had only one assigned deputy sheriff for the public hallway with no court officers ensuring the security of the courtrooms. While deputy sheriffs are in and out of the courtroom daily to transport inmates, their responsibility is to that inmate he or she is transporting. It is a potential liability for that officer to be expected to respond to courtroom security issues involving witnesses, the public, the judge, or court staff, while overseeing the security of an inmate; this is essentially what has been happening daily in the Circuit Court courtrooms.

There is a growing concern in multiple courtrooms regarding security. Recently, a defendant charged at a judge during proceedings. Another judge had to admonish members of the public against taking pictures of a witness in the courtroom and a dispute arose. On another recent occasion, jurors were roaming the judicial corridor because of lack of security. The number of pretrials and trials in the Circuit Court has increased without having the necessary security in the courtrooms. Trials in the Circuit Court involve serious felony charges and often garner a large public audience. Currently, the Circuit Court courtrooms have no court officer assigned to oversee the proceedings to address any threat that arises.

Proposal: Assign two additional full-time Deputy Sheriffs to the Fourth Floor of the Courthouse

Employer: Saginaw County, Sheriff's Department

Reports to: Sheriff and/or Undersheriff Gomez and Circuit Court Chief Judge

Duties:

- Provides constant courtroom security and impose all courtroom policies, keeping disturbances to a minimum, and executing the judge's orders
- When needed, provide aid escorting inmates to and from jail to Courtrooms
- Coordinate with Court on which defendants are in jail and make sure accurate on system
- Patrols public hallway and judicial corridor to ensure security
- Conducts regular perimeter checks
- Provides juror security assisting with juror check in and transportation
- Serves as bailiff for jury trials (ensuring jurors are secure, transport jurors to and from courtroom provide any communication from jury to judge, bring witnesses into the courtroom)
- Writes incident reports as necessary
- Performs other duties as assigned

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SAGINAW COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2023 NOV 27 A 11:23