

**MINUTES**  
**COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw MI 48602  
**Tuesday, January 12, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**VIA TELECONFERENCE PER**  
**PA 228 & PA 254 of 2020**

Present: Sheldon Matthews - Chair, Kathy Dwan - Vice-Chair, Christopher Boyd, Kyle Harris, Carl Ruth  
Others: Robert Belleman, Dave Gilbert, Judge Jackson, Vanessa Guerra, Sue Bidwell, Jennifer Broadfoot, A. Lewis, Mary McLaughlin, Sheriff Federspiel, Undersheriff Gomez, Michael Webster, Jack Tany, Cindy Louchart, Suzy Koeplinger, Sue Arceo

***The Courts & Public Safety Committee meeting was held via Zoom.  
As the County Building is closed to the public, the meeting was open remotely  
to allow participation during the public portion of the meeting.***

I. Call to order---**Matthews at 4:00 p.m.**

***Roll-call by County Clerk Vanessa Guerra as follows:***

***Commissioner Boyd – Saginaw Twp., MI***

***Commissioner Harris – St. Charles, MI***

***Commissioner Ruth – Saginaw, MI***

***Vice-Chair Dwan – Freeland, MI***

***Chair Matthews – Spaulding Twp., MI***

II. Welcome

III. Public comment (*Speakers limited to 3 minutes*) ***\*See Miscellaneous***

IV. Agenda

1. Approval of 2021 Committee and Board Session Calendar

***---Moved by Dwan, seconded by Boyd, to approve the 2021 Committee and Board Session Calendar. Motion carried.***

2. **Robert Belleman, Controller/CAO, re:**

- **1-19-3** Submitting a Status Report on the Saginaw County Adult Detention & Sheriff Administration Building Project (*On file*)

***---Moved by Ruth, seconded by Boyd, to receive and file the report. Motion carried.***

3. **Hon. Darnell Jackson, Chief Judge, re:**

- Providing an update on the Courts

***---Judge Jackson spoke to the committee about the effect of the COVID pandemic on the courts. Everything came to a grinding halt on March 13, 2020. The courts planned to begin holding jury trials at the Dow Event Center – Red Room in November but the COVID numbers exploded and large gatherings were not permitted. The courts pivoted into holding arraignments in November/December/January. Courtrooms are too small for social distancing and hopefully jury trials can begin in March 2021.***

***---The Controller advised that when they worked out the plan at the Dow, they were going to use CARES Act funding. However, that funding ended December 31, 2020. The courts will have to come to the board to cover the cost of jury trials (\$7,200/day) using General Fund fund balance.***

***---Judge Jackson provided information on watching courtroom activity on YouTube and searching by the Judge's name to view past proceedings. (Clark/Hoffman/Fichtner) He also advised the Supreme Court has issued guidance on allowing remote testimony for preliminary hearings but not jury trials. He will send the plan.***

**4. Undersheriff Mike Gomez, re:**

- Providing the Sheriff "Year in Review" (*on file*) and update on Sheriff Administration & Jail

V. Miscellaneous---***Under Public Comment, Commissioner Boyd noted that approval of minutes from the previous meeting are not on the agenda. The statute states "all proceedings," not just board minutes, should be approved. He will send Dave Gilbert, Civil Counsel, the relevant statute.***

VI. Adjournment---***Moved by Dwan, seconded by Harris, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 4:30 p.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheldon Matthews, Committee Chair  
Vanessa Guerra, County Clerk  
Suzy Koepplinger, Committee Clerk