JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: Mr. Wilkins, Chair

The Judiciary Committee met on October 5, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 108 at the Courthouse. Members present were Wilkins, Roeder, and Glazier. Milby was absent. Others present were Tony Arduini, Susan Ottens, Jim Heuerman, Joel Horn, and Lori Keppen.

1. The Committee reviewed claims and budget status reports for September. A motion by Mr. Glazier was made to approve the claims, seconded by Mr. Roeder. All voted in favor.

2. Court Services.

   a. Kevin Johnson was absent. The Committee reviewed his monthly report (See #32). Please note in the summary that the per diem rate for Arrowhead Ranch has increased.

      With less than two months remaining in CFY 2011, projections within the Court Services budget are favorable as it relates to expenses of Institutional Foster Care which will likely end up considerable below budgeted expectations. In addition, revenue has already exceeded budgeted expectations.

      Also in September, Whiteside County, through the Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice, opened a new Legal Self-Help Center where public access is available through the Morrison and Sterling Libraries. Although it is by no means meant to replace legal counsel, this new online legal information center is designed to provide current and correct civil legal information for those individuals who must go to court on their own. This initiative was led by Chief Judge Jeffrey O'Connor with the assistance of Whiteside County Circuit Judges John Hauptman and Stanley Steines, and Circuit Clerk Susan Ottens.

   b. Mr. Horn advised the Committee Mr. Johnson had requested to drop Foster Care by $10,000 making his budget request $120,000. Mr. Roeder made a motion to approve the amended budget for Court Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glazier. All were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Glazier then made a motion to forward the amended budget to the Finance Committee. Mr. Roeder seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. Circuit Clerk.

   a. Sue Ottens presented her monthly report.

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Total Fines:	$53,197.49	$77,005.08	$62,105.23
Total Fines Paid to County:	$32,162.35	$52,713.24	$38,200.11
Clerk's Fees:	$25,363.55	$35,043.76	$27,798.21
County % Fee:	$12,926.90	$15,075.05	$16,759.13
Sheriff's Fees:	$1,868.72	$2,193.71	$2,611.49
State's Attorney Fees:	$2,665.15	$3,333.91	$3,208.91
Bailiff's Fees:	$10,737.63	$13,296.62	$11,065.10
Public Defender Fees:	$2,406.29	$3,975.83	$4,788.42
Juror Fees Paid:	$1,405.60	$1,373.60	$3,562.40
Number of Trials:	1	1	3
Number of Trial Days:	1	1	4
Grand Jury Days:	0	0	0

   b. Budget requests were reviewed. Mr. Roeder made a motion to forward the requested budgets to the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glazier. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

4. Court Administration

   a. It was noted the Finance Committee requested no dues/fees be paid out of the General Fund. These changes were done after the September Finance meeting. Joel Horn advised there were no other changes to either Court Administration or Law Library budget requests. Mr. Glazier made a motion to forward these budget requests to the Finance Committee. Mr. Roeder seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

5. Public Defender.

   a. Jim Heuerman reviewed his monthly report with the Committee. Additional information was given to the committee on days in custody but will take several months to see any type of a pattern.

Category	July	August	Sept
Number of defendants	275	285	282
Number of new appointments	54	58	72
Number of defendants taken by private counsel	2	2	6
Number of defendants resolved	42	59	52
Number of defendants at end of month	285	282	296
Bond reductions	6	3	4
Plea agreements	30	46	42
Felonies	17	21	18
Misdemeanors	13	25	24
Open pleas	9	3	10
Felonies	5	3	10
Misdemeanors	4	0	0
Jury trials	0	0	3
Bench trials	0	2	0
Sentencing hearings	9	10	6
Felonies	5	6	5
Misdemeanors	4	4	1
Dismissed Cases	3	3	3
Juvenile appearances in court	103	149	100

   b. There were no budget changes to the Public Defender's budget. Mr. Heuerman did advise the committee he would be exhausting the expert witness fee this year. Mr. Roeder made a motion to forward this budget to the Finance Committee. It was seconded by Mr. Glazier. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Glazier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Roeder. Meeting adjourned at 2:34 PM.

Meeting Dates: The next regular meeting - November 2, 2011 at 1:30 PM in Room 108, Courthouse

MOTION: To place on file the Judiciary Committee's meeting report, September claims reports, and related informational items, as presented.