JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: Mr. McMillin, Chair

The Judiciary Committee met on May 6, 2009 at 1:35 PM in Room 108 at the Courthouse. Members Present: McMillin, Hoffmiller, Milby, Roeder. Others Present: Tony Arduini, Kevin Johnson, Sheila Schipper, Bill McNeal, Joel Horn and Lori Keppen.

1. The claims and budget status reports for April were reviewed.
2. Court Services.
   a. The Committee reviewed the monthly statistical report (See #25).
   b. On April 23rd, we lost a vital member of Court Services. Jean Porter fought a very brave battle against a powerful disease.

      In addition to her outstanding work as a secretary for Court Services, Jean worked tirelessly on the Whiteside county Victim Impact Panel, speaking to DUI offenders and the importance of not victimizing (or re-victimizing) people within the community, including themselves. Jean even served on several area panels outside Whiteside County. This is particularly admirable because, as a young girl, Jean and her family were victims of a drunk driver. Despite this tragedy, she reached out to others. In various aspects of her life, Jean was a shining example to her family, our staff and those she touched in the community.
3. Circuit Clerk.
   a. Sheila Schipper presented the monthly report:

	FEB	MAR	APR
Total Fines:	$68,683.47	$69,726.39	$78,256.62
Total Fines Paid to County:	$39,996.21	$44,648.69	$56,511.77
Clerk's Fees:	$29,141.16	$33,505.03	$27,152.19
County % Fee:	$12,353.81	$13,865.04	$13,526.04
Sheriff's Fees:	$1,751.73	$1,891.72	$1,622.10
State's Attorney Fees:	$4,153.14	$4,557.68	$3,570.22
Bailiff's Fees:	$14,550.16	$15,614.74	$12,993.56
Public Defender Fees:	$7,319.70	$3,970.63	$5,001.42
Juror Fees Paid:	$3,966.10	$6,714.90	$0
Number of Trials:	3	2	0
Number of Trial Days:	5	9	0
Collected from SC Services (YTD)	$12,855.00	$12,930.00	$12,930.00

   b. The Committee was advised credit cards are up and working since April 8th for fine payments. Sheila Schipper will also be checking out another collection agency for unpaid fines.
4. Public Defender:
   a. Bill McNeal presented the monthly report:

Category	February	March	April
Number of defendants	298	281	286
Number of new appointments	65	69	85
Number of defendants taken by private counsel	2	11	9
Number of defendants resolved	80	53	68
Number of defendants at end of month	281	286	294
Bond reductions	2	2	4
Plea agreements			
Felonies	41	21	23
Misdemeanors	22	22	35
Open pleas			

Felonies	4	5	1
Misdemeanors	0	3	3
Jury trials	1	1	0
Bench trials	0	1	1
Sentencing hearings			
Felonies	6	3	1
Misdemeanors	0	3	0
Dismissed Cases	6	4	5
Juvenile appearances in court	125	175	168

A motion by Ken Roeder, seconded by Bill Milby to adjourn carried unanimously at 2:06 PM.

Meeting Dates: The next regular meeting - June 3, 2009 at 1:30 PM in Room 108, Courthouse

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