

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

December 12, 2019

Present: Clark Pearce, Chairman
Venise McWard, Tim Carlson, Vicki McMahan, Mike McClure

Absent: none

Others present: Becky Edwards, Mike Gianasi, Judge Paisley and Jan Bland.

The Audit/Finance Committee met on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the County Board Meeting Room, second floor Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to address agenda items and any other matters properly brought before the committee. Attendance was taken, and Finance Chairman Clark Pearce noted a quorum. There were no public comments.

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Vicki McMahan and seconded by Venise McWard to approve the claims as presented for December. The motion carried.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER APPROVED

Christian County Resident Judge Brad Paisley approached the committee to hire an assistant public defender. He reported the various types of cases required by law that judges must assign public defenders. A combination of all types of cases currently are 515 and even compared to last year of 375, is an overwhelming number. The public defender in his duties to represent these clients must defend, represent them in a timely manner and to keep them informed which is usually necessary through jail or office visits.

Judge Paisley noted that this position will not have any reimbursement from the State as does the primary PD. He recommended a salary range of \$45,000 to \$55,000 plus benefits for this assistant PD position. After some discussion, a motion was made by Vicki McMahan and seconded by Mike McClure to hire a full time assistant public defender within the salary range of \$45,000 to \$55,000. The motion carried.

The current Public Defender Mike Drake chose not to renew his contract. Former PD Greg Grigsby will fill in until another full time PD can be hired. It was commented that there are three open positions for attorneys.

COURTHOUSE PROJECTS

At this time there were no decisions to be determined by the finance committee. Possible projects include bids for the south entrance and clock tower. Chairwoman Edwards spoke briefly about the elevator project noting that the upgrade to the elevator has been talked about for years and all board members voted yes to the current needs of elevator project. She will address the full board next week.

WECS LEGAL APPROVED

As previously discussed, due to the Appellate Prosecutor not having any other attorney available having the background on wind energy systems, the County, in order to proceed with the request from PCC and addressing any changes in the current wind ordinance, must obtain legal counsel, and also as advised by States Attorney Havera. Names have been submitted for review. A motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Vicki McMahan to seek outside counsel allowing up to \$50,000 from contingency. The motion carried. The selection will be determined with consultation of Mike Havera.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Pearce
Finance/Audit Committee Chairman-