

MINUTES

DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

Monday, November 13, 2023 @ 8:00 A.M.

CONVENED: 8:05

ROLL CALL:

Member Present:

In Person: Ron Dicke, Joe Dunn, Kent Likes, Mark Olivero and Kevin Likes

Telephonically:

By Video:

Members Absent: none

Public in Attendance: none

AGENDA:

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ron made a motion to approve minutes of August 7, 2023 Joe seconded. Motion passed.

II. QUARTERLY UPDATE

a. Review Reimbursement Report

Reimbursement for the 3rd Quarter 2023 is \$92,357.65. This includes expenses from the bat removal and painting the office.

Ron moved to approve the reimbursement request and Kent Seconded the motion.

b. Review Title IV-E Fund

We have received \$10,279.69 to date.

III. OTHER MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

a. Ron and Mark's terms expire at end of the year. Mark appointed by the PD Board and Ron is appointed by the Board of Judges.

Ron appointed by the Judges

Joe appointed by the State

Kent appointed by the Commissioners

Mark appointed by the PD Board

Ron agrees to stay on and Mark will talk to the Judges to have him reappointed.

Ron made a motion to reappoint Mark to the Board and Kent Seconded the motion. No one opposed.

- Mark spoke with the Judges after the meeting and they are all in agreement to reappoint Ron Dicke for another term.

b. Chief performance review by board

In preparation for the Board to do the Chief's performance review the Judges were asked to email statements to the Board regarding Mark's performance in Court. Ron and

Joe have both received statements from two of the Judges that they can include in their review. Cheryl is checking with Human Resources to see if they have a form that can be used and will get that to the board as soon as possible.

c. Update on Attorney benefits

This is a WORK IN PROGRESS. Council did not approve so Mark is working on getting the job description changed. He has provided the Council and sub committee with a thick packet of information and statistics regarding the attorney shortage in Indiana and he is working with the sub committee to make the attorney job description to read "full time". HR is supportive and has reached out to other counties to see what they are doing.

The State is also working to make it a state requirement, however this will take some time.

IV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The current LWOP (Life Without Parole) case was discussed. The PD office is asking for more money from the Court for the Mitigation Specialist. We were granted \$5000 at the beginning of the case but this money has already been used. We asked for more money and were denied however the Court is willing to reconsider the request if a specific amount is requested and determined to be reasonable. The Mitigation Specialist is preparing an estimate for us.

Kevin explained that with an LWOP there are two hearings/trials, one right after the other. If convicted a second trial starts the very next day on the LWOP and mitigation factors. This is where the Mitigation Specialist is needed. If the attorneys have to do the mitigation someone would have to work on this every week from now until trial.

Ron asked about the outcome of the shaken baby case. Kevin stated that the Defendant received 14o years and it is on appeal now. The Defendant also has 2 other Felony cases pending at the time. The Co-Defendant took a plea for 20 years.

This was a monumental case and took hours going through thousands of pages of discovery, medical records, text messages and child pornography. There were over 200 exhibits for trial. They had to reconfigure the court room so that the public couldn't see the child porn exhibits. In reference to the attorney benefits the County Council might not realize what the attorneys deal with and the content they have to see and read.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 5, 2024 at 8:00 A.M.

ADJOURNED:

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Bradford