



STATE OF MICHIGAN
TRIAL COURT FUNDING COMMISSION
LANSING

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STATE TREASURER

COMMISSIONERS
Judge Thomas Boyd, Chair
Judge James M. Alexander
Judge Michelle Appel
Michael Bosanac
Eric R. DeLong
Todd A. Drysdale
Shauna Dunnings

COMMISSIONERS
Judge Beth Ann Gibson
Milton L. Mack
Richard B. Poling
Thomas C. Rombach
Shannon Schlegel
Valerie Ann Thornburg
Patrick J. Williams

TRIAL COURT FUNDING COMMISSION
MINUTES

April 26, 2018, 1:30 PM

State Treasurers' Conference Room
1st Floor, Richard H. Austin Building
430 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48922

Commission Members Present:

Judge Thomas Boyd, Judge James M. Alexander, Judge Michelle Appel, Michael Bosanac, Eric R. DeLong, Todd A. Drysdale, Shauna Dunnings, Judge Beth Ann Gibson, Milton L. Mack, Thomas C. Rombach, Shannon Schlegel, Valerie Ann Thornburg, and Patrick J. Williams.

Commission Members Absent:

The absence of Richard B. Poling was excused.

I. Call to Order

Tom Boyd called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

Commission members agreed with the agenda and did not provide any additions.

III. Public Comment

Members of the public were invited to address the Commission at this meeting, but no one commented. Tom Boyd mentioned that if the Assistant to the Commission or any Commission members receive an email or traditional mail, which appears to represent public comment, to email it to all Commission members as soon as possible.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Shannon Schlegel to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 22, 2018, as presented. The motion was supported by Pat Williams. The minutes were unanimously approved.

"If I had 20 days to solve a problem, I would take 19 days to define it." Albert Einstein

V. Welcome and Chair's Report

Tom Boyd provided an update on the Commission's budget noting that he worked with Representative Rob VerHeulen regarding additional \$50,000 that was added to the appropriation supplemental which is scheduled for consideration this summer.

Tom Boyd addressed the Resource Request Cards requesting suggestions for speakers for Commission meetings going forward.

Chair Boyd introduced two speakers who were invited to share information with the Commission at this meeting: Chiraag Bains, Director of Legal Strategies, DEMOS, New York, New York, and Dan Hall, Vice President, National Center for State Courts, Denver, Colorado.

VI. Presentations

Chiraag Bains spoke and provided a background summary of the events that occurred in Ferguson, Missouri on August 9, 2014, when an unarmed teenager was shot and killed by the police causing long-term unrest in the community. In March of 2015, the Justice Department called on Ferguson to overhaul its criminal justice system. Mr. Bains was Senior Counsel to the U.S. Assistant Attorney General at that time and investigated constitutional violations in Ferguson. He said that courts in Ferguson were turning expensive police citations into cash as a source of generating revenue. He described how the revenue-driven system caused the constitutionality issues, and caused people there to no longer trust the local government.

Dan Hall provided a PowerPoint presentation with a national perspective on court funding describing how complicated it is. He discussed various funding and expenditure sources for trial courts, the history of how courts were funded, managing budget principles, and adequate funding principles. He described the effects of state financing and how state funding is not particularly necessary. He said the courts should be able to obtain a fair share of government expenditures, obtain a share of the revenue they collect, make flexible multi-year use of their share, move appropriated funds more freely among budget categories, be free from various executive branch financial management and personnel constraints, and carryover savings and unspent appropriations.

Commissioners discussed studying other states where courts are experiencing problems as well as courts that have achieved successful systems. Mr. Hall will assist the Commission with identifying those courts.

VII. Old Business

Procedures and Requirements Workgroup: Jim Alexander presented an update that is needed in the Commission's *Rules and Procedures* to allow the Commission to enter into contractual agreements when necessary. A motion was made by Jim Alexander to approve the Rules and Procedures with the noted changes. The motion was supported by Shauna Dunnings. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Research Assistance Workgroup: Mike Bosanac presented a contractual agreement to officially hire Public Sector Consultants (PSC) for professional research, advisory, and reporting services. PSC was selected by the Commission at its February 22 meeting following the workgroup's recommendation. The contract is retroactive to February 22, 2018. A motion was made by Mike Bosanac to approve the contract as presented. The motion was supported by Beth Ann Gibson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

VIII. New Business

Milt Mack will chair a new workgroup entitled, "*Data & Information Gathering Workgroup*." Other Commissioners in this workgroup include: Michelle Appel, Mike Bosanac, Eric DeLong, Shauna Dunnings, Pat Williams, and Valerie Thornburg.

Public Sector Consultants developed a questionnaire and requested that all Commissioners complete it by a deadline. PSC will email a computer link to all Commissioners which will lead them to the questionnaire. Jim Durian of PSC provided the reasoning for gathering the information. The questionnaire will also be sent to a few people other than Commission members.

IX. Commissioners Good and Welfare

Shauna Dunnings is now an official candidate for the position of Ingham County Probate Court Judge. The election takes place November 6, 2018.

Tom Boyd was interviewed on the Michigan Radio show (NPR News Station 91.7 FM Ann Arbor/Detroit) on April 24, 2018 to discuss the work of the Trial Court Funding Commission.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM. The next meeting is June 28, 2018 at 1:30 PM in the State Treasurers' Board Room, 1st Floor, Austin Building, Lansing, Michigan 48922.

Respectively Submitted,


Wendy Lamphier
Assistant to the Commission

Approval of Minutes:



Judge Thomas Boyd
Commission Chair



Date