



**Manistee County Board of Commissioners**  
Manistee County Courthouse • 415 Third Street • Manistee, Michigan 49660

CHAIRPERSON  
Ken Hilliard  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
Jeff Dontz

Mark Bergstrom  
Karen Goodman  
Alan Marshall  
Richard Schmidt  
Brook Shafer

CLERK

Jill Nowak  
(231) 723-3331

CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR

Thomas Kaminski  
(231) 398-3500

**JOINT MANISTEE-BENZIE COURT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, October 13, 2015  
3:00 p.m.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center  
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Jeff Dontz, Chairman, Manistee County Commissioner; Richard Schmidt, Manistee County Commissioner; Coury Carland, Benzie County Commissioner; Frank Walterhouse, Benzie County Commissioner.

Members Absent: Karen Goodman, Manistee County Commissioner; Vance Bates, Benzie County Commissioner (Mr. Walterhouse substituting for Mr. Bates)

Others Present: Tom Kaminski, Manistee County Administrator/Controller; Karl Sparks, Benzie County Administrator; Mitch Dietch, Incoming Benzie County Administrator; John Mead, Chief Judge; David Thompson, Circuit Court Judge; Thomas Brunner, Probate Judge; Pat Heins, Circuit Court Administrator; Cameron Clark, Youth Services Coordinator; Lisa Sagala, Human Resources Manager/Asst. County Administrator; and Jill M. Nowak, Manistee County Clerk.

The meeting was called to Order at 3:00 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 JOINT MANISTEE-BENZIE COURT**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Carland to approve the Joint Manistee-Benzie Court

Committee Minutes of Tuesday, September 8, 2015.

Motion Carried

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**DISCUSSION REGARDING FY 2015/16**  
**WAGE AND FRINGE BENEFIT ISSUES**

Mr. Kaminski, Manistee County Controller/Administrator, stated that the Manistee County Board of Commissioners has approved a 1% wage increase for all Non-Union and Non-Court Personnel. This is the wage increase that is being offered to the Courts. Karl Sparks, Benzie County Administrator, reported that four (4) or the five (5) unions have settled their contract with 0% wage increase and the last union contract continues to be worked on. The Benzie County budget does not allow for any raises this next year. Various union contracts such as 9-1-1 and the Benzie Sheriff/Corrections were discussed but all parties agreed that union contracts are all over the board and the agreements are never the same due to circumstances or laws that affect different units or different language like a me too clause that affect different unions.

Discussion as to the Headlee Roll Back issue needing to be addressed in Benzie County. The Courts emphasized how they have cut two positions in the last year and the County has realized a substantial savings from those cuts. In addition, the Juvenile/Family Division of Circuit Court and the Circuit Court were both under budget this past year. There are also CRP monies and grants available to decrease the actual costs to the Counties. Judge Thompson expressed concern that employees need to be recognized and appreciated for the work they do and we need to say thank you. However, Representatives from Benzie County reiterated there was no money available and that Benzie County is currently running a large deficit in the current budget and next year may not be any better. Mr. Sparks indicated that the report on the County audit will not be completed until March 2016. Mr. Kaminski indicated that the Audit report for Manistee County will not be completed until March 2016 either but that by December, he will have a good idea on the outcome of the budget. Mr. Kaminski indicated that most if not all technology expenses requested by the Courts and FOC have been budgeted for the 2015/16 Budget year.

**Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Dontz to recommend to the Manistee County Board of Commissioners a wage increase of 1% for Manistee County's prorated portion of all Court employee salaries effective October 1, 2015. Benzie County will remain at status quo.**

Motion Carried

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**INDIGENT DEFENSE CONTRACT**

Judge Thompson asked about the forms that independent counsel are asked to complete concerning workman's compensation insurance. Local attorneys generally do not carry malpractice insurance because it is so costly. These same attorneys are on the Indigent Defense Contract. Mr. Kaminski stated that if attorneys do not complete the form and indicate whether they are a Sole Proprietor or not, the County is charged a Workers Compensation premium on every dollar that is paid to the attorney. MMRMA states that all those who have contracts with the County are required to have insurance. There seems to be a bit of confusion as to the types of insurance that is required whether it be worker's compensation liability or malpractice insurance. Mr. Kaminski will look into this matter and bring it back to the Committee.

**AS 400 LEASE**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court requested \$38,723 for a new AS 400 computer system. This has been budgeted by both Counties for the 2015/16 budget year. The AS 400 can either be purchased outright or by signing a Lease Purchase Agreement for a three (3) year term at 2.21% interest rate with IBM Credit LLC. This cost will be split 60% Manistee County/40% Benzie County. In order to enter into a lease/purchase agreement, the County is required to 1) Get an attorney's legal opinion saying we are a local unit of government and tax exempt etc. and 2) The Clerk and the Chairman of the County Board certify there was action taken by the County Board to approve the agreement.

**Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Carland to recommend approval of a three (3) year Lease Purchase Agreement between IBM Credit LLC and Manistee County for the purchase of an AS400 computer system for the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, at a total principal cost of \$38,723 plus interest of 2.21%, with Benzie County responsible for 40% of this expense over a three (3) year period, and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. Ayes: All. Motion Carried.**

Motion Carried

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**OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS, JUDGES AND STAFF**

None.

**THE NEXT MEETING DATE**

There are no meetings scheduled for this Committee for the remainder of 2015.

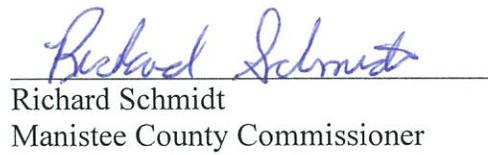
The meeting was adjourned at the Call of the Chair at 4:17 p.m.

**MANISTEE COUNTY**

Absent

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Karen Goodman  
Manistee County Commissioner

  
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Jeff Dontz  
Manistee County Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Schmidt  
Manistee County Commissioner

**BENZIE COUNTY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Walterhouse  
Benzie County Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cory Carland  
Benzie County Commissioner