

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting
Adams County Courthouse
Ritzville, Washington

March 7, 2012
(Wednesday)

Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman Rudy Plager
Vice-Chairman Roger L. Hartwig

Absent:

Commissioner Jeffrey W. Stevens

[11:00:45 AM](#)

Adult Probation Position

Bailiff Position

Courthouse Security

Discussion was held on the 'proposed' creation of an "Adult Probation Officer position" for the Courts. Present were: Judge Miller, Judge Hille, Jessica Melo from Othello District Court, Prosecutor Flyckt, and Judge Brueher (who joined telephonically).

Judge Miller inquired as to the 'perceived problem' and 'how the creation and hiring of an Adult Probation Officer' would solve it. Chairman Plager mentioned several tasks that could be handled by the officer.

Prosecutor Flyckt reviewed the recent meetings of the Law and Justice Council and noted the group's recommendation to create the position based on input at the time from the members and then inquired if there was still a need to further debate this proposal. Flyckt noted that Judge Miller and Judge Hille had indicated opposition. The position, if created, would initially be handled as a 'two-year pilot project' for Othello District Court.

Judge Brueher responded that he was 'opposed' to creation of the position. Judge Brueher read a "Statement" for the record. Copies were made available by those who had received it earlier via e-mail.

Chairman Plager inquired about the procedure used to determine a client's eligibility to receive Public Defender services (this being one of the possible tasks that the Adult Probation Officer position would fulfill). There was brief discussion on how this was handled and on how appointments were made.

Chairman Plager noted that since there was no positive input from any of the Courts supporting the development of the position, then the Board had no opposition to closing the matter.

Judge Miller offered comments relative to the utilization of Fund #119 – Trial Court Improvements since State Legislative budgetary matters have not been settled and decisions affecting the continued receipt of revenue remain unconfirmed at this time. Court security improvements were noted as being a “higher priority” than creating and hiring an Adult Probation Officer.

Prosecutor Flyckt requested some verbal indication of what the group thought to be their future long term needs for the courts. Facility space, especially offices that could be used by the attorney meeting with his/her client, was noted as one priority. Reconfiguration of the Ritzville District Court areas so that offices/staff would be located on one floor, rather than two; and, attorney/client space designated in the County Public Services Building, Othello, were additional items.

Judges Hille and Miller were in agreement to retain the ‘Bailiff’ position for hall security and control during court. Funding for this position will be provided by Fund #119 and a budget amendment will be approved. Judge Brueher indicated that his court was not in need of a Bailiff position at this time.

Prosecutor Flyckt then reported on the amount of time and energy he had expended on researching and preparing papers on the proposed Adult Probation Officer position and since that was considered to be a ‘court’ function he viewed his role in the matter as completed. Flyckt reported that attendance at the local Law and Justice meetings was low; and, that minimal follow through action had been taken by the Board on any of the past recommendations from the Council.

[11:44:22 AM](#)

Adjournment @ 12:00

Submitted:
s/Linda Reimer, MMC
Clerk of the Board

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
s/Rudy Plager, Chairman
s/Roger L. Hartwig, Vice-Chairman
-ABSENT-
Jeffrey W. Stevens, Commissioner