

10:00 a.m. Special meeting of the board is called to order by Chairman Zandstra this 24th day of January, 1997. The following Supervisors were present: Ben Zandstra, Patricia Cantrall and Ron McIntyre. Absent: Supervisors Joe Colt and Nancy J. Huffman. Auditor Judi Stevens, County Counsel Hugh Comisky, Director of Administrative Services Michael Maxwell and County Clerk Maxine Madison also present.

Following the flag salute the invocation is offered by Chairman Zandsta. Chairman notes that the agenda was posted January 23, 1997 as required by law.

1. CONSIDERATION/ACTION: AUTHORIZATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FURLOUGH AND/OR EMPLOYEE LAYOFFS DUE TO MODOC COUNTY COURTS BUDGET RESTRICTIONS.

Director Maxwell reports on the action taken at the last Board meeting regarding Trial Courts. The Board authorized the implementation of a furlough program upon receiving notice from Judicial Council that the County would be receiving \$29,604 for Trial Court Funding for the month of February, 1997. In reviewing the implementation of furlough programs it was found that reductions are limited to 20% of the total number of hours being worked. This failed to come up to the operational reduction required to meet the limitations of the funds available. It was estimated at the Board meeting that a 42% reduction was needed and the Board directed the Courts to reduce spending to the \$29,604. He reports that he contacted Steve Allen, Labor Representative and requested a waiver in order to meet the reduction. He has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Allen for Monday, the 27th. This meeting is for authorization for implementation of a furlough and/or employee layoffs.

Judge Dier reports regarding a meeting with Trial Court staff that the staff does not believe they can stay within the guide lines of his letter to the Board at the last meeting. He discusses some of the cutbacks in service that would be required, for instance Civil Filings and processing of cases. He urges the Board implement the furlough process and do not implement the layoff process. He urges the Board to extend funding to the Trial Courts in order for the courts to stay open the month of February.

Judge Baker agrees with Judge Dier and requests a short term loan to fund the Trial Courts through the month of February. The amount requested is approximately \$14,000. Most of the courts in the state will be in the same state as Modoc County by the middle of February and this will bring pressure on the legislature. At this time the smaller courts are in trouble, by the end of February larger courts will be having trouble and this will get more attention of the legislatures. The criminal work is 80 to 90 per cent of the Court work and reducing the staff as proposed will lessen the work load in other offices and he and Judge Dier suggest that the burden may be spread throughout the offices that deal with the Court staff.

Discussion regarding whether the fines and forfeitures collected by the counties should be held back from the state to help with the shortfall of the courts. Director Maxwell informs members that at a CAO's meeting he attended the group was advised not to keep the fines and forfeitures. If the fines and forfeitures are held back \$8,000 would be placed in jeopardy.

Board members discuss holding off sending out furlough or layoff notices for 2 weeks and the matter will be reconsidered at the meeting February 21, 1997. If layoff or furlough notices are sent out at that time 14 day notice period would be after the first of March.

Board members urge court employees to contact Senator Lockyear. The Judge's, CAO's and Board of Supervisors have contacted Senator Lockyear but court employees need to urge employees from other counties to contact the Senator to get the Trial Court funding bill passed.

Several Court employees and members of the local bar urge Board members to fund the Courts and keep them functioning.

Supervisor Zandstra states "that he would rather see a reduced staff rather than a drop dead day than face a cutoff point. If reductions now mean we can gain another month down the line I am in favor of that." Supervisors McIntyre and Cantrall would like to hold off sending the furlough/layoff notices out at this time and continue the issue until the second meeting in February and put it on the agenda for further consideration.

Board members agree to hold off sending out furlough or layoff notices to Court employees and to have the matter on the agenda for the February 18, 1997 Board meeting for consideration at that time.

Nothing further to come before the Board at this time the meeting is adjourned to meet in regular session, Tuesday, February 4, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.

11:25 a.m. Meeting adjourned.


Maxine Madison, Clerk


Ben Zandstra, Chairman