

GENESEE COUNTY CLERK'S/TREASURER'S MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 1996, 12:00 P.M., CROSSROADS VILLAGE WAREHOUSE RESTAURANT

ATTENDANCE: 27

Don Becker called the meeting to order at 12:40 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Becker said the April, May and June meetings will be held at Weekday's Restaurant at GASC on Torrey Road. The price of the meal will be \$6.50.

Mr. Becker said there is concern regarding personal property tax; campaign financing, which MTA opposes; recalls and residency law.

Mr. Becker said the once a year tax collection may not take place until 1998.

There will be a Clerk's Meeting held on March 28th at Richfield Township to discuss the National Voter Registration Act.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Becker said he would like Ginger Spencer to appoint a nominating committee for the election of officers in April, of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Program Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Doris Carpenter gave a report from the Treasurer's Meeting regarding the evaluation sheets. She said there should be no posting on the computers after calling for the tax rolls. All books should be in by March 20th.

GUEST SPEAKER: Jean Carl, Attorney

Darene Woodbury introduced Jean Carl. She said Jean graduated from Detroit College of Law and they had worked together at the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office. Jean was the first woman prosecutor in Genesee County, and had been at the Prosecutor's Office from 1969 to 1985 when she left there to go work for GM-UAW. She is now in private practice and semi-retired.

Ms. Carl said she was the head of the juvenile division for a period of nine (9)

years. She now takes very few cases, as she would rather volunteer to work with children. She is a member of various boards and committees and also does Court watching in behalf of children.

Ms. Carl said child abuse is definable - sexually violated. Neglected children are left along unsupervised and in 80% of the cases, substance abuse is involved. She explained that the scars from emotional abuse are as bad as those from physical abuse. She said when a complaint is made in an abuse or negligence case, it can be done anonymously. If there is a long history of abuse, a petition is filed and the child/children are made a ward of the Court. The whole purpose of this is to re-establish the home or give the parents counseling. There are certain guidelines set up and parents must follow the guidelines. There are parental classes set up for those who need such a class.

Ms. Carl told of several cases she had been involved with and said some of them are very heartbreaking. She said in the past the Court would bend over backwards
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for the parents before terminating their parental rights. There have been many times that children's rights have been sacrificed for parents rights. There is a real need for good, stable foster parents in our community.

A question was asked as to what the criteria is to be a foster parent. Ms. Carl said foster homes can be either single or married parents, the home is screened and the number of bedrooms are checked out. Also, a health report of the foster parents, criminal records are checked, and you are asked whether you want a special needs child. There are a lot of children who need help in school. If anyone is interested in being a foster parent, contact the Department of Social Services, Foster Care Department. As a foster parent you can also be employed and have other children in the home.

Ms. Carl said many times a mother is given the choice between a man and her child, and in 85% of the cases, the woman will take the man and give up the child. Ms. Carl also stated that grandparents do not have visitation rights in Michigan. If a son or daughter is deceased, a petition can be filed to see the child, but if your child is alive and they don't want you to see the child, there is nothing that can be done. At the age of 14, children can testify and grandparents could try to get guardianship of a child.

Mr. Becker thanked Ms. Carl for her presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Deputy City Clerk

CML