

GENESEE COUNTY CLERK'S/TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 1997/12:00 P.M.  
WALLI'S SUPPER CLUB

ATTENDANCE: 25

The meeting was called to order by President, Jeff Cyphert at 12:40 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Cyphert said Public Acts were passed regarding a change in the investment abilities for municipalities whereby they can now invest in banks who only have branches in the State of Michigan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ginger Spencer gave the Treasurer's Report. She said the County would like to have the books balanced by October 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will take the information to the County Board of Commissioners for their approval and hope to start printing the tax notices as of November 1<sup>st</sup>. If the millage rates are not in from the school districts, the County will not run the tax notices until written confirmation has been received.

Ginger noted that a discussion was held concerning the survey. A committee was formed and a meeting was held in July. They are taking the information we gave them very seriously.

Paul McShane said everything seems like it is working rather well at this point.

Ginger said there are sheets on the table for general information on a parcel. These are most of the things people request when they call our offices. You can look them over and take back to your office staff and review as to whether or not there needs to be any changes made. These are only samples of some of the needs people have. Ginger also said if a training session is needed on how to use the County system, you may contact Steve and he will make arrangements for the training sessions. If you have any questions, you may also call him and he will try to help you over the phone. Ginger noted that First America Real Estate will be on-line and will get information from Steve at the County.

Janet Johnston asked how the maps for the State were coming along with the Clerks. She said she talked with Election Division in Lansing, and they are behind in getting the hardware out to the municipalities. The training sessions are still on for September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Grand Blanc Township. She said she will speak to Rob Coffman, at the County, this afternoon and address the issue of when they expect the hardware to be installed.

Sandy Wright, Treasurer, introduced her Deputy, Debbie Goring.

Guest Speaker: 67<sup>th</sup> District Judge John Conover

Judge Conover enlightened the membership about the Family Court Concept which will take place beginning January, 1998. There will be two Probate Judges and two Circuit Court Judges who will hear all of the family related cases. He said nothing is more gut wrenching than child custody hearings. The Judges will be on the panel for a two year period and then the judges will be changed.

The cases are sometimes put on the back burner because the criminal cases are heard first. There are two Judges, Mark McCabe and myself who are appointed by the State to set as Circuit Court Judges, as well as 67<sup>th</sup> District Court Judges. Approximately 50-55% of every Circuit Court Judicial Docket is made up of family law cases. It is important that the Family Court is successful.

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Judge Conover said in January of 1998, the jurisdiction of the District Court goes up to \$25,000.00 for pending litigation to allow District Judges to hear any felony matters that carry up to five (5) years.

Judge Conover said there has been an intense movement to eliminate the out county courts by merging them together. The concept of moving the Court is not a good idea. People would be traveling to other areas, as well as the officers, and this would put a burden on the departments to have their jurisdictions covered while the officers are in Court. It is important for the Judges and the Courts to be available for the residents. Senator John Cherry assures me the votes are not there to change the current court system. The Davison Court has the highest increase in cases in the last two or three years. This could be due to the building boom. Judge Conover said by going with a centralized system, we will not be saving any money in the long run. Hopefully, the local Courts are here to stay.

Judge Conover shared several stories resulting from the cases he has tried over the years.

Janet Johnston thanked the Judge for sharing the information and stories he shared with the membership.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE  
Secretary

CML