

Meeting with District Court

March 5, 2019

4:05 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Judge Samuelson, Judge Buzzard, Becky Butler

Guest: Linda Williams

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Judge Samuelson and Judge Buzzard discussed huge financial impacts expected statewide linked to the decriminalization of driving with a suspended license (DWSL) in the third degree. They noted that violators no longer have an incentive to pay off moving violations.

Judge Samuelson and Judge Buzzard said there will no longer be a penalty for speeding, running red lights, etc. They noted that the courts no longer have the ability to impose costs on indigent individuals.

Judge Samuelson said the courts no longer can impose fees for jail time (\$90 per day) and attorney fees (estimated at \$240), etc., and that the county no longer can charge interest.

Judge Buzzard said the Legislature has taken away his ability to hold people accountable.

Judge Buzzard thanked the commissioners for approving funding for armed security.

The judges discussed succession planning for upcoming retirements.

Judge Buzzard said he has reached out to Facilities about a courtroom remodel as well as possible carpet replacement. He said he has received conflicting information about a start date for the project. Erik Martin said he would reach out to Facilities.

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.