

Minutes 06-20-24

Brown County Joint Municipal Court Administrative Committee Meeting

Town of New Denmark Town Hall 5531 W Town Hall Rd Denmark, WI 54208

- 1) **Call to Order** The quarterly meeting of the Brown County Joint Municipal Court Administrative Committee was called to order by Chair Van Lanen on Thursday, June 20, 2024, 6:05 PM at The Town of New Denmark Town Hall.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance** Recited by all.
- 3) **Affidavit of Posting** Ossmann reported that the meeting was posted by Clerk Ellen Schmidt-Hubers, Clerk Cindy Ossmann, Court Clerk Bobbie Christus and host Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Wallerius.
- 4) **Attendance/Introductions** Those in attendance introduced themselves. Present were: BCJMC Administrative Committee and Town of Scott Chair Mike Van Lanen; Town of Eaton Chair Jim Osterloh; Town of Glenmore Chair Ron Nowak; Town of Humboldt Chair Tim Van Pay; Town of Humboldt Supervisor, Jeff Zlatohlavek; Town of Morrison Chair Gary Koomen; Town of New Denmark Chair William Krueger; Town of New Denmark Supervisor Mike Calewarts; Town of Rockland Chair Dennis Cashman; Judge Cletus Hubers; Clerk of Court Bobbie Christus; Treasurer/Secretary Lana Ossmann. Absent: Town of Green Bay Chair Cary Dequaine, Town of Holland Chair Mike Smits and Town of Wrightstown Chair William Verbeten.
- 5) **Review and approval of previous meeting minutes (March 21, 2024)** Court Clerk Bobbie Christus noted that Sharon was present, not her. No other comments made. **Motion Jim Osterloh/Gary Koomen to approve the minutes as presented. Voice Vote. Carried.**
- 6) **Judge's Report** Judge Hubers reported that at the March, 2024 court there were 88 citations/3 defendants appeared for Initial Appearance; 4 Hold open-reappearances; 1 Indigent hearing (defendant never showed); 2 Pretrials; 2 Trials/ 0 sent to SDC; 0 suspensions sent to DOT. There is also the breakdown for each town at the top of the sheet. No court was held in April. 36 Citations sent to SDC on 4-18-24 totaling \$9768.00. In May, 5 showed in Court; 5 Not Guilty Pleas; 15 Defaults; 40 Paid prior to Court Date; 4 sent Judge emails to review and 5 Citations sent to SDC on 5-17-24.

The judge elaborated on his reaction to young defendant speeders. He does everything he can to have them retain their license. Fines stay the same. Most are really concerned about their points. Question: What should be done if you are sure someone has lied on the witness stand? Answer: Copies are available of the actual trial recording. The legal council may request a recording of the trial from the court and/or subpoena witnesses to corroborate testimony.

Christus commented on her observation of this court. She sees respect that was not common to her previous position experience. One young man even shook the hand of the Judge following the case. Mention was made of the Wrightstown Spirit Editor comment after he visited a court session at what fine negotiation takes place here.

Question: What is SDC? Answer: State Debt Collection. After the appropriate time has lapsed, unpaid fines are forwarded to SDC. As people file their state tax returns, unpaid fines are deducted from the refund prior to sending. Yes, residents in towns who do everything by cash will not fall under this system. Another way to collect would be to suspend their driver's license. The downside to this would be they might be cancelled by their insurance but drive anyway. And if an accident occurs at the fault of the suspended licensed driver, the innocent person may not only be injured but also be responsible for damages. Lastly is putting someone in jail. That is expensive to the town because the way the system works a court might put someone in jail for several days that would equal how much they owe. But the court would be required to pay a specific amount for each day of jail time. Also, the defendant would get credit for time served deducted from his original fine. So, the court ends up paying the jail fee and reducing the fine. Another option would be to file a small claim.

- 7) **Court Clerk Report** Court Clerk Christus presented information on the following: New court date is July 18, 2024, due to Judge's conference conflict. The new court date of September 5 is due to Court Clerk convention conflict. Tentative Court Dates for 2025: January 2, 2025; March 6, 2025; May 1, 2025; July 3, 2025; September 4, 2025; November 6, 2025. A more permanent sign will be placed at the Glenmore Community Center. Discussion on the citation survey response. Capt. Rousseau answered many questions for Bobbie. Brown County has staffing issues currently. Court is not a money maker. More citations would help. Court would like to know who is authorized in each town to issue citations.
- 8) **Treasurer/Secretary Report** Treasurer/Secretary Ossmann presented information on the following: She constructed curtains for court and they are great for privacy. They are set up and taken down each time court is in session. Online Quickbooks is up and running. Different format, but understandable. She will contact Bill Verbeten about when Village of Greenleaf plans to join our court system.
- 9) **Financial Report/Review of Income/Expense/Certification Approval of Payments/Checks to be signed.** Ossmann led the discussion on the financial reports. **Motion Gary Koomen/Ron Nowak to approve the financial report and to pay the checks. Voice vote. Carried.**
- 10) **Old Business:**
- a) **.gov address progress** Process was started again from the beginning. New application sent and accepted for review on May 30, 2024. Hopefully news will be better at September meeting.
- b.) **2025 Budget** The 2025 Budget was reviewed. Pros and Cons regarding lowering the amount each town would pay for dues in 2025 expressed. General thought was to use the Certificate of Deposit that will be maturing in December 2024 to offset the deficit of the budget. **Motion Gary Koomen/Tim Van Pay to cut back the amount towns pay to \$1500 per year for 2025. Voice vote. Carried.** Ossmann will revise the budget and forward to each town for them to present at their next meeting for discussion and action.
- 11) **New Business:**
- a) **Next Court Dates: July 18, 2024(Note date change) and September 5, 2024, at 3:00 PM**
- b) **Discuss Citation Training/Host Town Location** Dates were discussed. Town of Scott offered to host a Citation Training session prior to the next quarterly BCJMC meeting on September 19, 2024. Training will begin at 5:00 PM. Administrative meeting to follow. Rockland will take the December 19th meeting due to the switch of host dates.
- 12) **Q & A (Questions & Answers** None
- 13) **Adjournment Motion Gary Koomen/Ron Nowak to adjourn. Voice Vote. Carried. 7:10 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lana Ossmann, Treasurer/Secretary
Brown County Joint Municipal Court