

JEROME COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

PRESENT: Ben Crouch, Chairman
Charles Howell, Vice Chairman
Art Watkins, Commissioner
Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

PUBLIC DEFENDER CONTRACTS

Present were public defense attorneys Rocky Lammers, Alex Baca, and Mark Coppin.

Rockne Lammers advised the Board that he represents juvenile, child protection, misdemeanor, mental commitment, and felony extraction cases and is the first line conflict felony public defender.

Lammers said he would be submitting contracts for public defense services as well as conflict cases for October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, saying he would retire at the end of September 2024. He requested a ten percent contract increase, noting that his office employs three secretaries who need pay raises.

Lammers stated that Alex Baca had been covering cases for the McCrae law firm and splits misdemeanor cases with Mark Coppin. He then recommended hiring Baca under his own contract.

Mark Coppin also requested a ten percent increase in a new contract. He said the McCrae law firm may submit a renewal contract and that the court would have an opinion regarding McCrae or Baca. He added that he would like to assume the juvenile cases when Lammers retires.

Alex Baca told the Board he had been covering Jerome County cases for McCrae since February of 2022 and that he also takes conflict and private cases. He said if he were under contract with Jerome County that he would be able to focus his efforts only on Jerome County rather than also representing cases in other counties as he now does. He said he is glad to work with Coppin and Lammers.

- Signing new contracts was continued until August 28.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 A.M

Respectively submitted:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

A. Ben Crouch, Chairman

Charles M. Howell, Commissioner

Art Watkins, Commissioner