

Probate Court Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 28, 2015
5:00 p.m.

Library at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator
186 Newington Road, West Hartford, CT

The meeting was convened at 5:01 p.m.

In attendance: Judge Paul Knierim, Probate Court Administrator and Chair and Judge Joseph Marino. Judge Fred Anthony participated by telephone.

Remarks by Judge Knierim

Judge Knierim gave a brief update of the state budget situation. The General Assembly convened earlier this month and passed a deficit mitigation plan. Our primary focus is on the upcoming legislative session, at which we will seek restoration of general fund support and adjustment of the fees on decedents' estates.

Public Comment and Correspondence

Pat Saviano, Chief Clerk, Danbury Probate Court and President of CAPC
Evan Brunetti, Chief Clerk, Farmington-Burlington Probate Court and Vice President of CAPC
Vera Mason, Lead PCO, Hartford Regional Children's Probate Court

2016 COLA

Judge Knierim recommended that the planned 2016 COLA be deferred from January 2016 to March 2016. The deferral would parallel the plan that the legislature adopted for state employees in the deficit mitigation package and would follow the lead of both the Judicial and Executive Branches. Judge Knierim stated that the Probate Court System should act in a manner that is fiscally responsible and consistent with the policies embodied in the state budget.

Judge Marino made a motion to authorize a 3% COLA with an effective date of March 12, 2016 (payroll date of March 31, 2016), subject to adjustment if further changes are made to the state budget. Judge Anthony seconded the motion. Judge Knierim called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Office Budgets

Andrea King presented proposed guidelines for court office budgets for fiscal year 2016-2017. There are no proposed increases to any of the guideline amounts.

Judge Anthony made a motion to approve the guidelines for fiscal year 2016-2017 office budgets. Judge Marino seconded the motion. Judge Knierim called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

None

2016 Meeting Schedule

The committee set the following schedule for 2016:

- March 16 at 4:00 p.m.
- June 15 at 5:00 p.m.
- December 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.