

FLORIDA CLERKS OF COURT OPERATIONS CORPORATION
August 24, 2020 11:00 AM EST
EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES APPROVED AT 9/29/20 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Via WebEx and Conference call

The August 24, 2020 meeting of the Executive Council of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) was called to order by Executive Council Chair JD Peacock at approximately 11:00 AM. Clerk Crawford began the meeting with an invocation. Clerk Russell called the roll. Council Members present during the meeting were the Honorable Clerk Peacock, Clerk Smith, Clerk Russell, Clerk Butterfield, Clerk Crawford, Clerk Newton, Clerk Roth, Clerk Ruvin, Judge Ficarrota, and Clerk Colonnese.

INTRODUCTION AND AGENDA APPROVAL

Clerk Peacock began by stating that an emergency Executive Council meeting requires a motion for the meeting and to adopt the agenda. Clerk Butterfield made the motion to hold the emergency meeting and adopt the draft agenda. Clerk Colonnese seconded the motion. Clerk Peacock asked if anyone had any objections to the meeting or agenda. Hearing no objections, the Council adopted the agenda by consent.

SPENDING AUTHORITY REVISION

Clerk Peacock asked Jason Welty, CCOC Budget and Communications Director, to provide an overview and explanation of the Spending Authority Revision spreadsheet. Mr. Welty explained the calculations for the spending authority, which were the result of additional revenue collected in June and July, as well as a projected increase in August.

Clerk Peacock called for questions from the Executive Council members. Clerk Smith asked how the additional amount was distributed. Mr. Welty explained that the Budget Committee made a motion at the last meeting to do a pro-rata distribution to all counties. Counties had the opportunity to donate their share of the pro-rata distribution or request additional spending authority. If a county requested additional authority, there was a second pro-rata distribution to the Clerks who requested additional funding.

Clerk Peacock opened the floor to questions from other Clerks on the line or their staff. Clerk Vick asked Mr. Welty to explain where on the spreadsheet you could locate which Clerks had donated and how much. Mr. Welty explained that to get the mathematical equations to work, he removed the donated amounts from Column D titled "Additional Authority \$3,849,576" but could bring that information back up.

Clerk Burke thanked Clerks for donating their additional spending authority. He stated that Clerks do not have a crystal ball to see into the future when moratoriums are lifted on tenet

evictions. In his county, he currently sees about 25 percent of what they normally process. He also stated that he hopes the Executive Council can work with the REC to increase the Clerk's revenue projection should higher revenues start to come in. He stated that the cuts for the upcoming fiscal year are unbearable and he would like to see flexibility and continued conversations.

Clerk Peacock mentioned that he had conversations with the FCCC Legislative team and CCOC leadership on continuing to seek assistance from the Governor's office. Any assistance that would come in the last month of the current fiscal year may have to be rolled into next year to be fully utilized.

Clerk Cooney asked how it was determined that a Clerk's office needed additional assistance, and Mr. Welty explained that Clerks sent him an email stating they needed more assistance than the proposed increase. The spending authority adjustment was done for all Clerks and can be seen in Column F titled, "CFY 2019-20 Spending Authority with adjustment." Clerk Cooney said that he felt some Clerks were in more of a need than others, but with the distribution being made pro-rata, it may have unfairly left them with not as much as others. Clerk Peacock agreed that might have been the case, but there is no time to do any other distribution; however, he would be open to seeing options for the future. Clerk Cooney agreed that there isn't time to adjust now but would also like to see something established for the future.

Clerk Peacock pointed out that at the Budget Committee meeting, he is open to using any tools the committee can come up with and encouraged everyone to tune in tomorrow, August 25, 2020.

Clerk Cooney also asked if the counties that asked for an additional distribution gave a specific amount they needed or if the additional spending authority was just distributed pro-rata. Mr. Welty indicated that only one county gave a specific amount.

Clerk Russell asked for confirmation that the first distribution of the additional funding went to all Clerks and then the total of those who donated their amount was disbursed only to those who asked for additional funding. Mr. Welty confirmed her assessment.

Clerk Peacock called for a motion to adopt the recommended final CFY 19/20 spending authority as found in the meeting packet. **A motion was made by Clerk Jeff Smith and seconded by Clerk Colonnese. With no debate, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Clerk Peacock notified everyone on the call that they should go ahead and use the spreadsheet in today's packet to update their spending authority. CCOC staff will update appropriate forms and send out revised budget letters.

OTHER BUSINESS

Clerk Peacock again reminded everyone of the upcoming Budget Committee Meeting. It is scheduled for 9 AM to 4 PM on August 25, 2020. The morning will focus on the funding requests. The afternoon will take those decisions made in the morning and update the reduction spreadsheets. If no agreement can be found, then subsequent meetings will be called.

Clerk Russell asked if Clerks would be giving presentations on their budget requests. Clerk Peacock informed her since there would be reductions taken, he determined that the information provided in their submission would be sufficient for the committee. Clerk Russell just wanted to make sure that all counties felt they had an opportunity to speak. Clerk Peacock assured her that anyone on the call would be given the opportunity to speak.

The next Executive Council meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2020, as part of the FCCC's Virtual Fall Conference. Clerk Peacock hopes that a final budget decision can be made before that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.