



# CCOC

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OPERATIONS CORPORATION

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## Minutes of January 27<sup>th</sup> CCOC Budget Committee Meeting

Approved by Budget Committee at meeting on 3/8/21.

The Budget Committee of the Clerk of Courts Operation Corporation (CCOC) held a meeting via WebEx on January 27, 2021. An agenda and materials were distributed in advance of the meeting and posted on the CCOC website. Provided below is a summary of staff notes from the meeting. These staff notes are designed to document committee action, not to be a full record of committee discussions. All motions adopted by the committee are in **bold** text. All CCOC staff action items based on committee direction are in red and **bold** text.

### 1. Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Clerk JD Peacock, Chair of the Budget Committee. Marleni Bruner, CCOC Senior Budget Manager called the roll.

Present for meeting conference call: Clerk JD Peacock, Clerk Ken Burke, Clerk Stacy Butterfield, Clerk Pam Childers, Clerk Gary Cooney, Clerk John Crawford, Clerk Brenda Forman, Clerk Tara Green, Clerk Carla Hand, Clerk Bill Kinsaul, Clerk Tiffany Moore Russell, Clerk Don Spencer, Clerk Carolyn Timmann, Clerk Angela Vick

Absent from conference call: Clerk Jeffrey Smith, Clerk Tom Bexley, Clerk Greg Godwin, Clerk Kellie Rhoades

### 2. Agenda Item 2 – Approve Agenda

In review of the agenda, Clerk Peacock stated that Agenda Item 4 had a lot of work put into it; however, there were concerns with the final product due to emphasis placed on the actions of the Circuit Judge. Clerk Peacock stated that the item would be tabled until it needs to be taken up, as there is no urgency.

**A motion was made by Clerk Vick to adopt the agenda as modified and seconded by Clerk Timmann. Hearing no objections, the motion was adopted.**

### 3. Agenda Item 3 – Approve Minutes from November 23, 2020 Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting on November 23, 2020 were presented for approval. There was a correction to the version in the packet that improperly reference comments made by Clerk Peacock to Clerk Maloy.

**Hearing no objections, the corrected minutes were adopted by consent.**

4. Agenda Item 4 – Judge Transfer Policy

This item was removed.

5. Agenda Item 5 – CFY 2019-20 Settle Up

Jason Welty reviewed this item and directed everyone to the spreadsheet in the packet. Clerk Green spoke up regarding settle-up a process for reconciling projected revenue and 1/12<sup>th</sup> authority. She stated that the 1/12<sup>th</sup> process should be considered for future discussion as there is a lot of money being sent to counties who just send money to the trust fund. Clerk Kinzel requested to be any future workgroup.

Clerk Burke asked if Miami-Dade is a surplus county. Mr. Welty answered that yes, this year they were a depository county sending money to the CCOC trust fund.

There were no other questions or comments.

6. Agenda Item 6 – CFY 2020-21 Revenue and Expenditure Update

Jason Welty reviewed the information in the packet. Mr. Welty then stated that revenue is currently \$8.4 M ahead of REC projection. Mr. Welty stated that this excess was tied to unanticipated voter restoration money. Mr. Welty explained that the expenditure rate is 22% but varies widely among clerks.

Clerk Spencer stated that Santa Rosa County saw a big spike with government stimulus money. Mr. Welty said that he observed a spike with the first stimulus, so there may be an increase in January 2021 and again should the government release another stimulus.

Clerk Green shared that her county is also on track to have a strong January as well. Clerk Green then asked if there were any projections based on Operation Green Light revenues. Mr. Welty stated that he just started looking at revenue projections but does not have Operation Green Light built in yet. Mr. Welty stated that in October of 2019, \$1.7 M was accrued in revenue, and in March around \$2 M. Clerk Burke stated that he received \$600 K from voter restoration money of which, approximately \$250 K was Clerk revenue, which was unexpected.

Clerk Moore Russell suggested that documentation is shown for any increase and decrease in divisions. Clerk Moore Russell recalled a shift in threshold that went into effect last January. Mr. Welty agreed to include that information. Clerk Moore Russell

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suggested adding a note to identify why the change occurs. Mr. Welty clarified that when the numbers are added together, it is a wash as the number of cases didn't change, just the court division.

Mr. Welty mentioned recent articles on Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties which identified counties receiving funds for renter's assistance, which will decrease the demand for evictions. Clerk Peacock stated his hopefulness for these plans to work. Clerk Green stated that it was good public policy and indicated SHIPP funding which help individuals with their mortgages. Clerk Green recalled the nuances that relate to the CARES Act funding that CCOC should track to help observe foreclosures and evictions.

Mr. Welty indicated that Broward received \$59 M for renter's assistance while Palm Beach received \$45 M, and Miami-Dade received \$61 M. Clerk Peacock asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

#### 7. Agenda Item 7 – Legislative Committee Update

Jason Welty began the update by assuring all that it was a brief, high level update of items that directly relate to the budget. The Legislative Committee approved the development of a Legislative Budget Request to provide for the backlog of cases due to COVID-19 that would follow OSCA's path, and request statutorily authorized funding for injunctions, which requires legislative funding. The CCOC would also include a request to have the any unexpended jury funding reverted and appropriated for the same purpose to assist the with case backlog. Mr. Welty explained that the House filed an FRS bill, which would increase among clerks statewide. Additionally, two Fine and Fee Bills have been filed in the Senate.

Clerk Peacock thanked Mr. Welty for this high-level brief for the Budget Committee. Clerk Timmann thanked Legislative Committee members for a great meeting and Mr. Welty for his good report. Clerk Vick, as chair of the Jury Management Workgroup, thanked Clerk Timmann and Mr. Welty for their hard work. Clerk Vick stated that Citrus staff are available for discussion regarding bill analysis requests.

Mr. Welty clarified that what happens at CCOC is entirely different than FCCC's Legislative agenda. Mr. Welty clarified that policy holds long-term effects and CCOC drives short-term financial solutions for right now.

#### 8. Agenda Item 8 – Usage of Excess Revenue – Executive Council Direction

Clerk Peacock stated that the update from the Executive Council was to agree with the concept but wait for the February REC meeting to take action due to limited available data. This concept proposes using future projected revenue now. Clerk Peacock explained that the concept would be in coordination with our legislative partners and is contingent on the revenue coming in. Clerk Peacock explained that he does not want to take liberties, but have good, honest, and open conversations

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with legislative partners. However, some counties are in dire need and really need the extra resources. Clerks need to help themselves.

Clerk Peacock suggested that the committee think about ideas for a budget amendment. Clerk Peacock stated that a subjective review, with hard data, narrative, presentation form would occur to request additional funding. Clerk Peacock clarified that this review would not take place across the board, but only for those in dire need and were subject to cuts during budget development.

Clerk Peacock stated that the Budget Committee will need to meet after the REC meeting to decide what should be done and how it will be done. Clerk Peacock suggested that conversations with stakeholders should occur so that they do not think clerks are taking liberties with the law. Clerk Burke stated that the thirty counties held harmless should be exempt from the distribution. Clerk Peacock asked for other comments. There were none.

Clerk Peacock stated that the distribution is not ready yet, but it will be in short order. Clerk Peacock suggested that the committee be thinking about this, should dollars become available. Mr. Welty stated that the sooner January EC reports can be received, the better for the revenue estimates. Clerk Peacock agreed.

9. Agenda Item 9 – Other Business

Clerk Peacock asked for public comments, which there were none. Clerk Peacock asked for committee member comments, which there were no additional comments.

Clerk Peacock stated that the next meeting will be held after the REC meeting. CCOC will schedule and notify once a date has been set for REC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.

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