

Minutes
Court Technology Committee
Friday June 19th, 2020
9:30 am

Members Participating:

Hon. Jerod Tufte, Supreme Court Justice
Hon. Rhonda Ehlig, Judge – Southwest Judicial District
Hon. Lonnie Olson, Judge - Northeast Judicial District
Hon. Robin Schmidt, Judge – Northwest Judicial District
Hon. Stacy Louser, Judge – North Central Judicial District
Susan Hoffer, Clerk of District Court – Ward County
Kristen Erickson, Recorder – Cass County
Lee Ann Barnhardt, Director of Education & Communication
Rod Olson, District Court Administrator – Unit 2

Members Absent:

Petra Hulm, Chief Deputy Clerk of Supreme Court
Michele Bring, Clerk of District Court – Burleigh County

Guests:

Chris Iverson, Assistant Court Administrator – Unit 2

Staff:

John Tassava, Director of Technology
Cammie Schock, Business Analyst
Jerrold Arneson, Network Analyst
Robert Liscomb, Network Analyst
Don Wolf, Director of Finance
Sally Holewa, State Court Administrator

The meeting was called to order by Chair Justice Tufte.

Approval of Minutes from February 14th, 2020 Meeting

Rod Olson moved to approve the February 14th, 2020 meeting minutes. Judge Lonnie Olson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Welcome New IT Director – John Tassava

John gave a brief overview of his previous employment and looks forward to working with the Court Technology Committee.

Odyssey User Group Update

Chris Iverson stated there has not been a user group meeting since last year. There was an attempt to meet in April however due to the changes caused by COVID, not enough members were able to participate. She stated the group has addressed some issues via email.

General System Status Updates

Initial criminal e-filing continues to be rolled out. Cass County is already live. Barnes County will be training within the next couple of weeks. Text notifications are in place and seems to be going well. Both clerk and judge dashboards have had several small updates including search functionality.

Technology Budget Recommendation for 2021-2023 Biennium

Sally provided the IT Budget Plan for the 2021-2023 biennium. Some increases in the budget can be attributed to the blade server upgrade and maintenance agreement, QSC mixer replacements for 66 courtrooms and 75 zoom rooms to replace some of the polycom units as they reach their end of life. The polycoms cost \$25,000-\$30,000 plus maintenance whereas the zoom rooms cost is \$6000-\$8000 per courtroom. This would also allow the courts to expand to additional courtrooms at a lower cost. With regard to the blade servers, Jerrold is recommending we move to a 5 year lease agreement rather than purchasing them. Leasing would minimize the spike in costs across the bienniums and minimize version stagnation. Don stated that over 5 years, the costs for purchasing verses leasing is essentially the same.

Additional increases to the budget include support and maintenance for Odyssey, Voice IQ and AVI. 3 new projects included in the budget are the Juvenile Court Case Management system upgrade, Wi-Fi access points for courtrooms and microfiche migration to electronic documents for Grand Forks County.

Don stated there is about a 5% increase in data processing costs primarily due to the monthly ITD network charge for the disaster recovery site. IT software also has an increase due to Burleigh and Morton counties migrating to ITD's phone system.

The committee further discussed the 3 larger projects. The current Juvenile Case Management system was purchased in the late 1990's. Upgrading the system would provide efficiencies by way of reporting, allowing e-filing and electronic records as well as eliminating double entry of data. Regarding Wi-Fi access points, Judge Ehliis felt it was a priority to keep in the budget especially with the direction court is going utilizing technology. Sally stated that the access points would be switched over to the state rather than counties due to accessibility issues. Sally explained that the Grand Forks County microfiche migration is a priority due the records retention schedule however, unlike the microfilm project, microfiche will not disintegrate. Because of the labor intensive nature of migrating the data, the future cost is expected to continue to increase.

The committee also discussed the possible elimination of Word Perfect licenses as most personnel are using Microsoft Office products. Justice Tufte suggested sending a survey out to see who is still utilizing Word Perfect and requested the results be presented at the next meeting prior to making a decision to eliminate or reduce licensing.

Judge Ehlis moved to forward the proposed budget to the Supreme Court for consideration. Judge Louser seconded the motion and the motion carried.

For the Good of the Order

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 28th, 2020.