

**COMMITTEE DAY
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
THURSDAY
MAY 2, 2013**

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE
10:00 AM**

Present: John Frey and Bob Edwards

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Towers, Neil McGovern, Katie Smith and Pete Klein

Bill opened the meeting and explained how this morning came about and introduced Katie.

Katie thanked everyone and explained what she has been doing. She has been reviewing the laws and the vouchers to get a better idea of where our resources are going and where we could potentially save and streamline the process.

Katie stated that this will probably be a slow process due to getting people to warm up to new ideas. She is going to talk to some of the attorneys and meet with the magistrates in June or July.

Bill stated he feels there are some things that we could do administratively to make it easier for the justices and also make it more streamlined in terms of attorneys. Bob stated we have discussed this a few years ago and this is a step in the right direction. Bill stated the best part of this is that we were able to receive grant money for the next three years to help make this happen.

Neil reported that at the Court Clerk level in the towns they basically start on a list and assign whatever attorney they can reach. Bill stated they try to split up the case load and what happens is it acts as a vacuum because they are not able to see the whole picture, meaning the other town courts. The Coordinator will be able to see the bigger picture and be able to streamline things better.

Brian Wells entered during the discussion.

Brian Towers asked how this will work; will the town justices reach out to Katie? Katie replied that is why she needs to meet with them to come up with a plan. Katie stated that going through the vouchers will give her an idea of who is being used a lot and who is closest as far as travel, such as Lisa Burgess doing a lot of the Indian Lake cases etc.

John stated in Inlet at times they have struggled to get someone to come to their court.

Brian Wells asked if they have to fill out a form to get representation. Katie stated yes, it is called a financial affidavit and then the judge reviews it to determine if they qualify.

Bill stated it is the judge that makes the determination whether they qualify financially or not.

Clark entered during the financial affidavit conversation.

Bill continued to discuss judges and financial affidavits.

As there was no further business, the meeting ended.