



The Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Minutes

Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Funding Subcommittee met on December 11, 2012, at 11:00 a.m., by WebEx. The following members were present: Sharon R. Bock, Esq., Chair; Tim Smith, Putnam County Clerk Joseph E. Smith, St. Lucie County Clerk, Vice Chair; and Lisa Goodner, Office of the State Courts Administrator. Tom Hall, Clerk, Supreme Court, and Bill Kinsaul, Bay County Clerk, were not present.

- I. Hon. Sharon R. Bock, Chair, opened the meeting at 11:11 a.m. with a roll call. There was a quorum present.

Ms. Bock welcomed everyone and opened the meeting by explaining the most recent activities of the Florida Courts Technology Commission Funding Committee, chaired by Judge Northcutt.

- II. Ms. Bock recognized Kenneth A. Kent, Executive Director of the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers, to explain to the subcommittee some e-filing costs that have been acknowledged by both the courts and the association as those that could be supported through a funding source.

Mr. Kent told the subcommittee that there were a few items that are outboard of pure portal development and the Interlocal Agreement. He outlined the general expenses of operating the Authority Board of Directors, the general meeting expenses, as well as the expenses dictated by the Interlocal Agreement—the Director and Officer’s Insurance, the Annual Financial and information audits, and the legal costs. He stated that he thought board operations were in the \$100,000/year range. Other issues were filer education, both from a Help Desk perspective and an external training issue. The estimated cost he gave the board was about \$1,000,000/yr. He stated that this was a cost based on projections as portal handled more business and the number of users grew.

He explained that the Association currently had 2.5 FTE’s devoted to the portal user support, but that as the number of users and filings grew. Expectations were that this would grow to a need for 10 FTEs. However, he caveated both cost figures by saying he would like to get more specifics for the subcommittee.

Ms. Bock asked if the courts would partner with the Authority for seeking the funding for these issues? Mr. Kent explained that he believed that there would be general support for the proposals the Authority would bring forward. Ms. Lisa Goodner felt once there were numbers, that the courts and the FCCC lobbyist could take a look at the issue.

Ms. Bock asked Mr. Kent how close was he in being able to put together a proposal the subcommittee could put into a Legislative Budget Request? There was general discussion of when

the proposal would be provided to the subcommittee. Mr. Kent told the committee it would be provided to the subcommittee by close of business on January 2, 2013.

- III. Mr. Smith moved to continue the meeting on January 4, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of voting on a proposal that has been provided to us prior to that time. Ms. Goodner seconded the motion. All voted favorably.

Ms. Bock asked how to best coordinate the funding effort, if the subcommittee were to agree on numbers, join with the FCTC Funding Committee? Ms. Goodner offered to talk to Judge Northcutt and Judge Munyon and get back to the group.

- IV. The meeting closed at 11:35 a.m. to be continued at 10:00 a.m. on January 4, 2013.