

Joint City, County Meeting
Opioid Multidistrict Litigation
August 21, 2018, 12:00

Grand Forks County officials in attendance David Jones, Tom Ford, Tom Faulk, David Engen, Gary Malm, Diane Knauf, Cindy Pic and Deana Mayotte. Grand Forks City officials in attendance Mike Brown, Howard Swanson, Todd Feland, Ken Vien, Jeanie Mock, Sandi Marshall, Brett Weber, Maurine Storstad and Shari Lundmark.

Matthew Daniel from Ferrer, Poirot & Wansbrough Law Firm talked about the multidistrict litigation against the pharmaceutical companies. Curtis Olafson from Aronnax was also there and the 3rd partner Matthew McCarley from Fears Nachavati Law Firm was held up in Chicago.

Matthew Daniel informed the group that the state has filed a suit against the pharmaceutical company Purdue, which is one of the smaller pharmaceutical companies. Daniel stated that there are larger pharmaceutical companies that would make a larger impact and more financial recovery for Cities and Counties should they join the lawsuit. The contingency fee would be 25% and would scale down with the recovery amount. There would be no out of pocket cost for the County and City. He is confident that there will be a settlement sometime next year and has urged the City and County to join the lawsuit. The City and County would have to sign separately so each can recover its own damages. His recommendation would be that each entity join the suit by the end of the year.

Burleigh County has hired them and Cass County selected another firm that has a contingency fee of 18%.

Grand Forks City Administrator, Todd Feland, suggested that the City Attorney and County State's Attorney develop a recommendation and bring back to their individual boards.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.

Tom Falck, GF County Commission Chair

Deana Mayotte, Assistant Treasurer II