

Joint City, County Meeting
Opioid Litigation Presentation
October 2, 2018, 1:00pm

Grand Forks County officials in attendance David Jones, Tom Faulk, David Engen, Diane Knauf, Cindy Pic, Tom Ford and Debbie Nelson. Grand Forks City officials in attendance Howard Swanson, Todd Feland, Ken Vien, Sandi Marshall, Brett Weber, Maureen Storstad and Shari Lundmark.

Roxana Pierce and Tom Egler from Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP gave an opioid presentation.

Mr. Egler said Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd are currently involved with about 40 clients, in the United States, with cases against manufacturers and distributors of opioids. He gave overview of their firm. He said the only work on the plaintiff side. The only type of work they do is on a contingency fee basis. There is will be no upfront fees. The firm takes all the risk, until there is a judgement or settlement in the case.

Mr. Egler said the majority of their cases are class-action cases and they are used to working in a very public environment.

Roxana Pierce said they represent large cities, such as Los Angeles and Phoenix, counties around Detroit, and half of the state of Maryland. The firm has about 200 lawyers, 200 staff, with 10 offices around the nation, so they have the resources to litigate this case.

Cass County has hired Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd. They are looking at a draft complaint right now. Ms. Pierce said we could join that complaint.

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd charges an 18% contingency fee.

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd would like us to decide as soon as possible, if we would like to join the Cass County complaint or if we would choose to file a separate complaint.

Motion by Engen, seconded by Pic, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

Thomas H. Falck, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor