**LEGAL/SAFETYCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – January 14, 2020**

PRESENT: Legislators Monell, Sauerbrey, Balliet, Roberts, Standinger (arrived @ 10:37), Mullen, and Hollenbeck, County Attorney Peter DeWind, Public Defender George Awad.

ABSENT: Legislators Weston and Sullivan

Meeting convened at 10:32 a.m.

**Minutes** - On motion of Legislator Hollenbeck, seconded by Legislator Mullen and unanimously approved the minutes from the December 10, 2019 meeting were approved.

**Budget** – YTD tracking well.

**New Business:**

Indigent Legal Services and CAP Court

* Centralized Arraignment Part Court commenced on January 13, 2020 pursuant to Chief Judge Marks’ Order approving the Tioga County Plan for counsel at first arraignment and making the process mandatory for all local Courts. Attorney DeWind stated that he had just received a phone call from the Sheriff and they have their first defendant being held for arraignment tonight.
* Resolution detailing the year two ILS Hurrell-Harring Grant appropriations of $308,405.77. This resolution sets forth how the money will be allocated.
* Provisional approval for the year two ILS budget was received from the State pending final approval of the budget paperwork
* Resolution to temporarily increase Chief Asst. Public Defender’s salary by $35,000 for CAP court appearances. Attorney Awad withdrew this resolution. He reported that he has received an application for this position and another attorney be applying also.

Attorney DeWind stated that his office is working on putting a system in place for prioritizing, tracking and managing tasks.

Attorney DeWind reported that he, Doug Camin and Rita Hollenbeck met with Michael Constantine of Smith Bros/The Partners regarding the County’s cyber insurance premium. A change had to be made to the application form which had been sent to them. This resulted in a reduction of the annual premium that had previously been quoted.

The annual premium for liability insurance was lowered by increasing the healthcare professional and general healthcare deductibles to $50,000. The 2020 annual premium for liability insurance is $407,805.70. Legislators Roberts and Mullen would like to look into the County self-insuring for liability insurance. Attorney DeWind stated that the amount of money that needs to be set aside for this is based on the County’s risk pool and that there are solid rules about this under the New York State insurance regs. He stated that an expert is needed to put together the numbers to see if this is feasible. Going to a self-insurance program will require additional manpower and the County hiring personnel to administer the program since the work currently done by our agent and carrier will have to be done in house. In addition, outside counsel would have to be hired to represent the County in any lawsuits, which service is currently covered and provided by NYMIR.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.