



FINANCE, LEGAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE

January 14, 2025

10:30 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Legislators: Chair Sauerbrey, Ciotoli, Monell, Flesher, Roberts, and Brown, Standing, Mullen, Bunce

Staff: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Treasurer McFadden, Deputy Treasurer Chandler, Safety Officer Holbrook, Personnel Officer Parke, Chief Accountant Schurter, County Administrator Bailey, Public Defender Cline, District Attorney Martin

• APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Legislator Ciotoli asked for a motion to approve December 10, 2024, minutes. Legislator Brown made the motion seconded by Legislator Mullen and was unanimously carried.

• FINANCIAL:

- Legal and Safety: Legal and Safety's budgets are tracking well at this time. Legal's "Legal Fees" object line will need to be closely monitored as there is already a possibility that the money in this line will not be sufficient for the year.

• OLD BUSINESS:

- Litigation: Outside counsel has been handling the In Rem lawsuits concerning how far back in time the obligation to return excess funds will reach. There are motions to dismiss pending and most of the Counties have been sued in some capacity. Unexpected outside counsel expenses have arisen for a case that was dismissed but recent decisions allowed the Plaintiffs to file motions to resurrect the matter. Our response papers have been filed with oral arguments coming up this Spring which will result in unforeseen expenses. A Federal case regarding out-of-state possession permits is continuing and is being handled internally for the time being. The Attorney General's Office is involved and we are working with other counties and may join them

as a cost-saving matter in retaining counsel if this case continues due to the specialized Constitutional nature of the claims.

- Even Year Election Law: Mr. DeWind is waiting to see what happens with the appeal of this new law which was ruled unconstitutional. At this time the Court of Appeals has not accepted the case or stayed the lower Court's ruling. Everyone is well aware that petitions will need to be carried soon for the upcoming election cycle.
- In Rem: Mr. Humes is continuing to work on tax foreclosure cases and on any surplus value claims for which we are still working out the process with the Courts.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Ethics Board Members: Two positions will expire in March. Both board members have agreed to serve a second term.
- Insurance Renewal: The renewal is moving forward with minimal increases.
- Annual Trainings: There are less than eight (8) employees who need to complete their trainings.
- CDL Pre and Post Trip Inspection Training: A request was made for pre and post trip training. The State Police will be conducting this training to address any questions Public Works might have.
- Property Donation: Mr. DeWind spoke about the request of a member of the public to donate their property. There is currently back property taxes owed, and it could eventually end up in the In Rem foreclosure petition. Legislators would like to explore the options regarding land/property donations.
- High Profile Case: There are housing, training, overtime, and medical charges for 2024 that will need to be accrued. District Attorney Martin gave a brief overview of current cases his office is currently prosecuting. Experts have had to be flown in to testify for one of the high profile cases adding to costs. However, Mr. Martin feels costs should start decreasing as these trials wrap up. Public Defender Cline stated his office does not handle appeals as this is handled out of Albany. Mr. Cline stated his costs have been submitted with one of the invoices to be paid from a grant while the remainder taken from the Public Defender's budget.
- As of April 1, 2025, the Herrell Haring grant has been increased significantly. Mr. Cline is working with Personnel to adjust the Data

Officer position, all of which will be covered by grant money at zero cost to the County.

- PERSONNEL:
 - Paralegal Position: A suitable candidate has been recruited for this position in the DSS Legal office and the request is to hire them starting in February.

- RESOLUTIONS:
 - UNFUND SECRETARY TO COUNTY ATTORNEY AND CREATE AND FILL (1) FULL-TIME PARALEGAL COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; AMEND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: ADD NEW POLICY TO NEW SECTION XIV. ENTITLED ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS; APPOINT PARALEGAL LAW DEPARTMENT were moved into full Legislative Session without further questions.

- PROCLAMATIONS
 - N/A

- EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - N/A

- ADJOURNMENT:
 - Legislator Ciotoli adjourned the Legal & Safety Committee at 11:37 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Freyvogel

Paralegal to the County Attorney