



FINANCE, LEGAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE

December 10, 2024

10:30 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Treasurer McFadden, Deputy Treasurer Chandler, Safety Officer Holbrook, Personnel Officer Parke, Chief Accountant Schurter, County Administrator Bailey, Assistant Public Defender Awad, Paralegal Humes

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - Legislator Ciotoli asked for a motion to approve November 12, 2024, minutes. Legislator Monell the motion seconded by Legislator Mullen and was unanimously carried.
- FINANCIAL:
 - Legal and Safety: Budgets for Legal and Safety are tracking well.
- OLD BUSINESS:
 - Tax Foreclosure Matters: Mr. Humes is completing closings on the properties sold at the auction and is working on the filings for next year.
 - Fourth Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement & Caseload Reduction Grant: Indigent Legal Services (ILS) received notification that they have received the grant but would like affirmation from the Legislature that they will support the budgetary requirements. A straw pole was conducted with full support of the Legislators of ILS accepting the grant.
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - Shared Services-Safety: A municipality has requested Ms. Holbrook's assistance with conducting some training with their staff. Ms. Holbrook has recently been trained as an instructor for Flagging and other

municipalities would like to have her conduct this class. A charge back should be explored before moving forward.

- Contracts: Mr. DeWind has reviewed and approved over four hundred and thirty-six contracts and agreements this year.
- Juvenile Delinquents: Juvenile delinquent filings have doubled this year with twenty-three cases prosecuted and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Special Hearings have been transferred to Assistant Attorney Ronald Lanouette Jr.
- Winter County Attorney's Association of the State of New York (CAASNY) Conference: Mr. DeWind and Mr. Lanouette Jr. recently attended the CAASNY winter conference. One of the topic discussions was the need for juvenile delinquent secure detention. The County currently has a contract for non-secure detention with Steuben County. Harris Beach presented regarding the In Rem lawsuit and how to handle a motion for excess In Rem value.
- Bankruptcy: A new bankruptcy claim has been received with outside counsel being utilized for the claim.
- FOIL Appeal-Thomas Kurtz: The Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) appeal for Thomas Kurtz was heard with Legislators unanimously agreeing to uphold the original denial due to the Tioga County Sheriff's Office not having the records requested in the original FOIL.
- Litigation: There has been a motion made on one of the cases. The County was recently served for a group action claim for constitutional rights violations. New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) has denied coverage so outside counsel will need to be explored possibly with other counties. There is currently a federal inmate lawsuit against the Jail and NYMIR has assigned counsel for this case. A Notice of Claim has migrated to a complaint and has been accepted by NYMIR with counsel assigned.
- Relocation: The County Attorney's Office will be relocated to other offices in the building starting December 19, 2024, due to construction.

- PERSONNEL:

- Paralegal Position: The Department of Social Services (DSS) Legal Office currently has a paralegal position open.

- RESOLUTIONS:

- APPOINT ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER LAW DEPARTMENT; ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH EVOLUTION CONSULTING, LLC FOR CDL DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING; ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH CATAMOUNT CONSULTING FOR AUDIOGRAMS; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RESOLVING CLAIMS RELATED TO THE OPIOID CRISIS were moved into full Legislative Session without further questions.
- PROCLAMATIONS
 - N/A
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - County Attorney requested to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Legislator Monell made the motion seconded by Legislator Brown at 11:25 A.M. Legislator Monell made the motion to exit Executive Session and was seconded by Legislator Brown at 11:57 A.M.
- ADJOURNMENT:
 - Legislator Ciotoli adjourned the Legal & Safety Committee at 11:58 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Freyvogel

Secretary to the County Attorney