

Office of the County Attorney



FINANCE, LEGAL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 9, 2022

10:30am

ATTENDANCE:

Legislators: Chair Sauerbrey, Roberts, Standinger, Mullen, Brown, Weston, and Monell

Staff: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Safety Officer Thorpe, Deputy Treasurer Chandler, Chief Accountant Jerzak, Accountant Schurter, Public Defender Awad, ILS Coordinator Graven, Secretary to the District Attorney Kovalovsky, and Personnel Officer Parke

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Legislator Monell asked for a motion to approve the July 12, 2022 minutes. Legislator Brown made the motion, seconded by Legislator Roberts and was unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL: Legal and Safety's budgets are tracking well however two of Legal's budget lines are nearly expended due to covering the supplies needed for In Rem.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The District Attorney's proposed 2023 budget is zero based.

ILS's Budget 2023 Budget has no change in the assigned counsel budget however ILS is waiting on a voucher for a current trail. The Hurrell- Haring grant covers a majority of the assigned counsel expenses allowing ILS to have a zero based 2023 budget.

The Public Defender's Office has a 2023 zero based budget due to ILS grants. The ILS budget should be zero based for at least one more year and a new grant application will be submitted.

The 2023 County Attorney's Budget is not zero based. Reducing insurance premiums was explored however this adjustment was not sufficient to offset budget needs. Legal would like to create a new budget line for Adolescent Offender appearances and add a part time attorney position. County Attorney DeWind Peter discussed the reductions made to the 2023 budget to offset the

need to increase Legal Fees, Office Supplies and Printing. The Treasurer's Office had previously covered the expenses for In Rems however this year Legal has assumed responsibility. Legal would like to add fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to Legal Fees to cover outside counsel investigations of workplace violence and sexual harassment complaints. Currently the department, that has the complaint, is charged for these expenses with outside counsel investigations averaging seven to nine thousand dollars (\$7000 to \$9000). The addition of funds to Legal Fees would provide a line item to pay for investigations relieving departments of unbudgeted costs.

Safety Officer Thorpe discussed the need to increase the 2023 Safety budget to cover audiograms, two security guards for the Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building, literature, and the purchasing of new AED pads and batteries to replace expired pads and batteries. Chair Sauerbrey clarified the salary for security would be paid from ARPA funding for the next three years. Safety would like to contract with a company who would perform on site audiograms due to the County's audiogram machine no longer being viable due to age. Legislator Standinger confirmed with Safety Officer Thorpe audiograms are an OSHA requirement.

Tax Foreclosure Auction: Paralegal Humes will be conducting the closings of the 2019 and 2020 auction properties over the next month and a half. There was an issue with one of the properties due to the winning bidder never registering with Manasse Auctions and the second highest bidder is unable to be located. The Land Bank has expressed interest in 98 Fox Street and four other properties which are currently being covered under the County's liability insurance however the County is required to maintain these properties in regards to snow removal and lawn care.

Safety Trainings and Investigations: Biweekly safety meetings are conducted with the Department of Public Works and there are two open workplace violence investigations.

Litigation: Juvenile Delinquent cases continue to rise with thirty three (33) open cases, two upcoming trials, and one appeal necessitating a large majority of County Attorney DeWind's time leaving him with limited availability for departmental needs.

PERSONNEL: None

RESOLUTIONS: ACCEPT INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES AWARD AND AMEND 2022 BUDGET, ACCEPT AUCTION BIDS FOR COUNTY TAXES, AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF DEEDS, AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF 98 FOX STREET LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE OF OWEGO, TO TIOGA COUNTY PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; these resolutions were moved into full Legislative session without further questions.

PROCLAMATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Legislator Monell adjourned the Legal and Safety Committee meeting at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Freyvogel

Secretary to the County Attorney