**LEGAL/SAFETYCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES –August 11, 2020**

PRESENT: Legislators Sauerbrey, Balliet, Roberts, Standinger, Mullen, Weston, Hollenbeck, and Monell, County Attorney Peter DeWind, Treasurer Jim McFadden, Public Defender George Awad, Carola Kovalovsky, Secretary to District Attorney, Stephanie Jerzak, Chief Accountant (and County Attorney Secretary Diane Stephens – Minutes)

ABSENT: Legislator Sullivan

Meeting convened at 10:35 a.m.

**Minutes** - On motion of Legislator Hollenbeck, seconded by Legislator Mullen and unanimously carried the minutes from the July 14, 2020 meeting were approved.

**Budget** – YTD tracking well.

**New Business:**

* **2021 Budgets:**

District Attorney: Carola Kovalovsky spoke about the budget for the District Attorney’s office. She stated that there were no increases. The 10% reduction was made to the 2020 budget. Due to a misunderstanding the 10% reduction was not made to the 2021 budget. She will work on making the 10% reduction to the 2021 budget. She indicated that more money may be needed in the Transcripts line because the need for Grand Jury transcripts may increase due to bail reform.

Legislator Mullen asked about the traffic diversion program. Ms. Kovalovsky stated that the revenue has been down, but it is starting to pick back up. They have an online form and online payment form for this program, but they’ve been waiting on IT to complete what needs to be done to utilize this. She stated that IT contracted with an outside vendor for this and she’s been paying the bill for this, but it is not up and running yet. It was the general consensus of the Legislators present that this matter needs to be addressed with IT.

Public Defender: Attorney Awad presented the 2021 budget for the Public Defender’s office. He stated he reduced each expense by 10%. Once courts are fully re-opened more money might be needed. He doesn’t know what the backlog of cases is at this time. He voiced concerns about the unknown number of people going through the traffic diversion program, who’s been accepted, and who’s completed it. The diversion notices are being sent by the DA’s office before arraignments are scheduled. When defendants don’t show up for arraignments, the courts assume they are participating in the diversion program, but they may not be and are just not showing up for their arraignment. Accurate information about this is needed. Legislator Monell stated that the issue will be addressed with the DA’s office. Attorney Awad stated that he expects court will more or less get back to normal in 2021.

Law Department: Attorney DeWind presented the 2021 budget for the Law department. He stated that most of the 10% reduction ($4500) was taken from the Legal fees line. The current contract for outside counsel ends this year. He anticipates that any new contract will contain an increase in this expense. If legal issues arise where outside counsel is needed, he may have to come back for money to cover this. In addition, the Dues/Fees line had to be increased due to the amount of dues and fees that are due in 2021. In addition, the 10% reduction was made to the Safety budget.

Attorney DeWind spoke briefly about the ILS budget that was submitted to the State. A few items needed to be changed. Since the expense for salaries is reimbursed, it often happens that they run out of money and a transfer may be needed to cover this. Right now, like everything else, ILS is in a holding pattern.

Attorney DeWind stated that things are running the same in the Law department. COVID 19 matters continue to be time consuming. The in rem foreclosure process is still on hold. The 6th Judicial District has been asked for permission to move forward with these. It’s possible that an auction could take place late this year or early next year.

Attorney DeWind stated that he anticipates presenting 3-4 resolutions on various topics to the Legislature next month.

Meeting adjourned at 1l:00 a.m.