



FINANCE, LEGAL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 9, 2023

10:30 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Treasurer McFadden, Chief Accountant Jerzak, Accountant Schurter, Safety Officer Holbrook, and Personnel Officer Parke

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Legislator Ciotoli asked for a motion to approve the April 11, 2023, minutes. Legislator Monell made the motion seconded by Legislator Standinger and was unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL: Safety's budget will need funds transferred into the health insurance object line due to monies not being appropriated for this object line in the 2023 budget. Legal has submitted a resolution to create an object line for afterhours arraignments of adolescent offenders and the transfer of monies from the "All-Other" object line to the newly created "Legal Fees-Adolescent Offender" budget line.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Litigation: Denial of a Motion to Dismiss in a pending matter has been appealed by both parties with the case being adjourned to November 6, 2023, and a 50H hearing was held yesterday in the Legislative conference room on another claim. Mr. DeWind continues to monitor all litigation claims.
- Ethics Board: There are two Democratic candidates submitted for Legislative approval. All applications received for this Board will be kept on file for future consideration.
- In Rem: The Supreme Court may be leaning to return auction overages to homeowners with a decision possibly being made in the next few months. Mr. McFadden stated some counties have not opted into Article 11 for In Rem procedure. They allow a ninety (90) day window for mortgage companies and homeowners to file a claim. After three (3) years the counties can keep the auction proceeds of these properties. Options for In Rem will be looked at once the field settles and there is a clearer picture of the benefits of different models. There are approximately thirty-nine (39)

properties for this year's In Rem however almost sixty percent (60%) of the properties are abandoned.

- Motorola Tower Project: Letters have been sent to prospective landowners, properties have been reviewed and the County Attorney's Office is working with Emergency Management on shelters and RFPs for this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Amend and new policies: Mr. DeWind briefly discussed the changes to the Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy and Restricting Firearms and Other Weapons in or on County Buildings, Worksites, and Vehicles. The Respirable Crystalline Silica Exposure Control Plan is a new policy that is required by PESH.
- Resolutions: Assistant County Attorney Lanouette is in the process of recruiting a second attorney for nighttime arraignments of adolescent offenders. CAP court justices have traditionally been compensated for nighttime arraignments. Mr. DeWind will reach out to OCA to facilitate payment arrangements through the newly created "Legal Fees-Adolescent Offender" budget line.
- Financial Disclosures for Boards and Section A employees are due May 15, 2023.
- Cyber Policy: Coalition, the County's cyber insurance carrier, has been doing a deep dive into the County's exposure with shared service agreements with local municipalities. Future contracts will potentially need to include language requiring municipalities to secure cyber insurance.
- Historic Artifact: Commissioner Hammond has visually inspected the bell to determine the best means of retrieval and is making diligent efforts to ensure the bell is removed before the property is sold. Tioga County Historian Emma Sedore has done substantial research to document that this bell is indeed the Bell of Sessions that originally hung in the Courthouse's southwest tower. Chair Sauerbrey stated the bell is "a significant artifact" and the County is excited to have it returned.
- ILS Budget: The ILS Executive Budget includes an adjustment for assigned counsel rate increase. The County will have to front end approximately three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00 USD). At this time, it is unclear when the grant money will arrive to cover the significant rate increase.

RESOLUTIONS: APPOINT MEMBER TO THE ETHICS BOARD; AMEND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: SECTION 35. TIOGA COUNTY SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION POLICY; ESTABLISH NEW BUDGET LINE, MODIFY 2023 BUDGET AND TRANSFER FUNDS LAW DEPARTMENT; AMEND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: SECTION IX. SAFETY RULES,

SUBSECTION M. RESTRICTING FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS IN OR ON COUNTY BUILDINGS, WORKSITES OR VEHICLES; APPOINT MEMBER TO THE ETHICS BOARD; AMEND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: ADD NEW POLICY TO SECTION IX. SAFETY RULES; SUBSECTION O., ENTITLED RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN; ACCEPT INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES AWARD AND AMEND 2023 BUDGET: these resolutions were moved into full Legislative session without further questions.

PROCLAMATIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Legislator Ciotoli adjourned the Finance, Legal, and Safety Committee meeting at 11:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Freyvogel

Secretary to the County Attorney