

Legal/Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

Present: Legislators Sauerbrey (Chair), Balliet, Standinger, Hollenbeck, Monell, Mullen, Sullivan, Roberts, and Weston, Legislative Deputy Clerk Eiklor, Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney Peter DeWind, Treasurer Jim McFadden, Chief Accountant Stephanie Jerzak, Deputy Treasurer Katie Chandler, Secretary to County Attorney Christine Freyvogel

Meeting convened by Legislator Monell at 10:32am

Minutes: On motion of Legislator Hollenbeck, seconded by Legislator Monell and unanimously carried the minutes from September 13, 2021 were approved

YTD Budget: Financials are on track for this time of year

New Business:

- **Resolutions:** Attorney DeWind stated there are 2 resolutions put forth. The first is to confirm Christine Freyvogel as Secretary to the County Attorney. The second is concerning a proposed settlement for some defendants in the Opioid lawsuits. Attorney DeWind stated the funds from this settlement are similar to the prior settlement with Johnson and Johnson with the final amount to be received depending upon how many entities participate. As with the first one, funds will be both restricted and unrestricted with much of the total funding going through the state and distributed as grants to address opioid addiction programs. It is hoped that we can maximize the amount of program dollars coming to Tioga although many of the addiction programs are located in neighboring counties.
- **Flood Insurance:** Expenditures saw an 8% to 10% increase this year, Adjustments were made to 2 properties and the \$25,753 flood insurance premium was paid
- **Claims and Litigations:** Received a new claim which was referred to NYMIR and one claim was closed through NYMIR involving the Sheriff's Office with no cost to the county.
- **Indigent Client Funding:** Upcoming meetings include work on the next year's budget for the Herrell-Harring enhancements. County Attorney reviewed that this is the next step adding an additional \$154,000 per year over 5 years. We are in year four of this funding. Legislator Sullivan raised the question if the State no longer pays for this service will the county be expected to pay for it. Attorney DeWind stated that we would return to prior levels of Public Defender service but

that the State is currently indicating that the program will continue and become permanent in funding levels starting in the sixth year.

- **Auction:** The 2018 In Rem auction was just completed. County Attorney's Office is very involved with the process as Paralegal Humes processes all the paperwork, title searches and service and then processes transactions at the Auction. County Attorney reiterated that they are working to move the 2019 In Rem action forward while working on the all of the closings from the recent auction. There was some discussion on the foreclosure process. Legislator Sullivan would like some history on how deadlines have been handled before the next Legislative Work Session.