

Columbia County
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 8, 2022

Notice: These minutes have not been approved by the Judiciary Committee and are subject to additions and/or corrections. They will be approved at next month's regularly scheduled committee meeting.

Present: Robert McClyman, Eric J. Shimpach, Liz Miller, Steven Rohrbeck and Kim Manley
Excused Absence: Chris Polzer
Also Present: Judge Voigt, Judge Cross, Judge Hepler, Susan Raimer, Brenda Yaskal, Julie Kayartz, Selina Hooker, Joseph Ruf III and Jamie Henriksen

I. Call to Order. Posting Compliance. Approve Agenda. Approve Minutes. Expenditure Reports.

- 1) Meeting called to order at 8:16 a.m. by Chair McClyman.
- 2) Posting compliance was met per Open Meetings Law.
- 3) ***Motion was made by Miller to approve the agenda. Seconded by Manley. Motion carried.***
- 4) ***Motion was made by Manley to approve the previous meeting minutes from January 11, 2022. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.***
- 5) **Public Input.** none
- 6) **Chairman's Communications.** Chair McClyman would like a copy of the letter that the Courthouse staff submitted last month.
- 7) **Expenditure Reports.** After a review of the expenditure reports for the Judges, Clerk of Courts, District Attorney's Office, Corporation Counsel Office, and Child Support Office, ***a motion was made by Shimpach to approve all of the expenditures. Seconded by Rohrbeck. Motion carried.***
- 8) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 8:15 a.m. in the Courthouse basement conference room.

II. Judges:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by Judge Voigt. The Courts continue to work on the backlog from COVID-19 as well as processing new cases. The Judges have an upcoming District Meeting to discuss the backlog. Judge Hepler added that he is more optimistic as most jury trial cases are settling before the case comes to trial. This provides the Judges additional time to work on the backlog. Judge Cross added that they are doing the best they can as they were pretty much out of commission for eighteen months from COVID.
- **Register in Probate 2021 Annual Report.** Discussion. Motion was made by Miller to approve the Register in Probate 2021 Annual Report. Seconded by Shimpach. Motion carried.

III. Clerk of Courts:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by COC Susan Raimer. Raimer discussed the changes and challenges in COC operations that have occurred due to COVID-19. Overall Court case filing numbers are up from last year. Raimer reported that her Chief Deputy of many years is retiring.
- **Position Replacement Request** for two (2) Constitutional Office Deputies presented by Raimer. Motion by Shimpach to approve both of the position replacement requests for Constitutional Office Deputies as presented. Seconded by Manley. Motion carried.
- **Clerk of Courts 2021 Annual Report.** Discussion. Motion was made by Manley to approve the Clerk of Courts 2021 Annual Report. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

IV. District Attorney:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by DA Brenda Yaskal. Yaskal discussed changes and challenges in the DA's Office operations due to COVID-19. Yaskal said she had a new ADA start in February and there will be two new ADAs starting this spring. She is happy to have a full staff, but she will be busy training the new staff.
- **Position Replacement Request** for a Legal Secretary presented by DA Yaskal. Motion by Manley to approve the replacement request for a part time Legal Secretary. Seconded by Shimpach. Motion carried.
- **District Attorney 2021 Annual Report.** Discussion. Motion was made by Rohrbeck to approve the District Attorney 2021 Annual Report with the listed changes. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried

V. **Corporation Counsel/Child Support Office:**

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities for Corporation Counsel and Child Support provided by Corporation Counsel Joseph Ruf, III. The Corporation Counsel and the Child Support Offices continue to be busy with hearings both in-person and via Zoom.
- **Position Replacement Request** for two (2) Paralegals presented by Selina Hooker, Child Support Administrator. Motion by Rohrbeck to approve both replacement requests for Paralegals. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- **Corporation Counsel 2021 Annual Report.** Discussion. Motion was made by Miller to approve the Corporation Counsel 2021 Annual Report. Seconded by Shimpach. Motion carried.
- **Child Support 2021 Annual Report.** Discussion. Motion was made by Miller to approve the Child Support 2021 Annual Report. Seconded by Shimpach. Motion carried.
- **Resolution – Transfer of Funds to Cover 2021 Overdrawn Account.** Discussion. Motion was made by Miller to approve the Resolution – Transfer of Funds to Cover 2021 Overdrawn Account. Seconded by Manley. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 a.m. Seconded by Rohrbeck. Motion carried.

Secretary of Record,

Supervisor Chris Polzer
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,

Jamie Henriksen
HR Program Coordinator

cc: Judiciary Committee Members
Chair Gove
1st Vice Chair Foley
Internet