

Columbia County
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 10, 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: Eric J. Shimpach, Tess Carr, Joe Harvestine and Jeffrey A. Leckwee
Absent without Notice: John A. Stevenson
Also Present: Chris Polzer, Judge Voigt, Judge Cross, Judge Hepler, 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 8:30 a.m. by Chair Shimpach.
- 2) Posting compliance was met per Open Meetings Law.
- 3) *Motion was made by Leckwee to approve the agenda. Seconded by Carr. Motion carried.*
- 4) *Motion was made by Shimpach to approve the previous meeting minutes from the regular Judiciary Committee Meeting on March 8, 2022, and minutes from the special Judiciary Committee Meeting on April 19, 2022. Seconded by Carr. Motion carried.*
- 5) **Public Input.** none
- 6) **Chairman's Communications.** Chair Shimpach would like to welcome everyone and is looking forward to working with everyone.
- 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 Leckwee to approve all of the expenditures. Seconded by Harvestine. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the Courthouse basement conference room.

II. Judges:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by Judge Voigt. Judge Voigt gave an overview of the Court staff and their job duties for the new committee. Judge Hepler explained the drug and alcohol treatment Court programs and provided success rate statistics. The Courts continue to work on the backlog from COVID-19 as well as processing new cases.

III. Clerk of Courts:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by Judge Voigt as Clerk of Courts, Susan Raimer, was out of the office. Judge Voigt explained the layout of the staff in the Clerk of Courts Office as well as the Register in Probate Office. He also discussed changes and challenges in the Clerk of Court's Office operations due to COVID-19
- **Position Replacement Request** for a Constitutional Office Deputy, due to a resignation, presented by Judge Voigt. Motion by Leckwee to approve the position replacement request for a Constitutional Office Deputy as presented. Seconded by Carr. 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. She continues to struggle to fill the State-funded Assistant District Attorney ("ADA") positions. She had a new ADA start in February and there will be one new ADA starting this spring. She is happy to have a full County staff.

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 and Child Support Administrator Selina Hooker. The Corporation Counsel Office and the Child Support Agency continue to be busy with hearings both in-person and via Zoom. They provided a breakdown of their office staff and functions of each office for the new committee members.

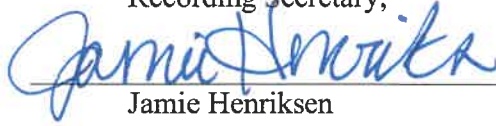
Motion was made by Leckwee to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 a.m. Seconded by Carr. Motion carried.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Tess Carr
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,



Jamie Henriksen
HR Program Coordinator

cc: Judiciary Committee Members
Chair Polzer
1st Vice Chair Brusveen
Internet