

Columbia County
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 14, 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 John A. Stevenson
Absent with Notice: Jeffrey A. Leckwee
Also Present: Chris Polzer, Denise J. Brusveen, Judge Voigt, Judge Cross, Judge Hepler, Susan Raimer, Brenda Yaskal, 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 Stevenson to approve the agenda. Seconded by Harvestine. Motion carried.*
- 4) *Motion was made by Stevenson to approve the previous meeting minutes from the regular Judiciary Committee Meeting on May 10, 2022. Seconded by Harvestine. Motion carried.*
- 5) **Public Input.** none
- 6) **Chairman's Communications.** none
Supervisor Carr joined meeting at 8:36 a.m.
- 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 Stevenson to approve all of the expenditures. Seconded by Harvestine. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the Administration Building, room 115.

II. Judges:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by Judge Voigt. Judge Voigt stressed the importance of Court security, especially with the recent tragedy in Juneau County. The Judges have been in contact with the Sheriff's Office staff to have some formal training for all of the Courthouse staff. County Board Chair Polzer added that he has been communicating with the Sheriff as well as the safety of everyone is his main priority. The Courts continue to work on the backlog from COVID-19 as well as processing new cases. Judge Hepler talked about the increased number of Jury trials that are taking place, sometimes multiple trials being held in a week, and the lack of ample space for the Jury.

III. Clerk of Courts:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by Clerk of Courts, Susan Raimer. Raimer explained the organization of the staff in the Clerk of Courts Office. She also discussed changes and challenges in the Clerk of Court's Office operations due to COVID-19 with court case numbers continuing to increase. Raimer is recruiting for a Constitutional Office Deputy as her request was approved at the recent Human Resources Committee Meeting.

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 had another ADA start this week. She is happy to have a full County staff.
- **2023 Request - Increase Legal Secretary Hours from 18.75 Hours to 40.0 Hours per Week**
- **2023 Request - Increase Legal Secretary Hours from 30.0 Hours to 40.0 Hours per Week**
- **2023 Request - Increase Legal Secretary Hours from 37.5 Hours to 40.0 Hours per Week** Discussion. *Motion by Carr to approve all of the requests to increase the three (3) Legal Secretary positions that are currently under 40.0 hours per week, in the DA's Office, to 40.0 hours per week as presented. Second by Harvestine. Motion passes 2-1 with Shimpach opposed (Stevenson had stepped out of the room).*
- **2023 Request to Increase Victim Witness Coordinators (2) Hours from 37.5 to 40 per week** – Discussion. *Motion by Carr to approve the requests to increase both of the Victim Witness Coordinator positions currently at 37.5 hours per week, in the DA's Office, to 40 hours per week as presented. Second by Harvestine. Motion passes 2-1 with Shimpach opposed (Stevenson had stepped out of the room).*

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..
- **Position Replacement Request** for a Legal Secretary, due to a retirement, presented by Selina Hooker. Motion by Carr to approve the position replacement request for a Legal Secretary as presented. Seconded by Stevenson. Motion carried 4-0.

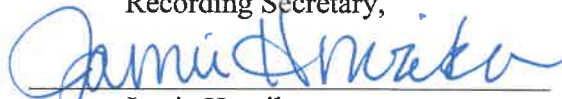
Motion was made by Stevenson to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m. Seconded by Carr. Motion carried.

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
2nd Vice Chair M. Rohrbeck
Internet