

Columbia County
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 9, 2019

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: Matthew L. Rohrbeck, Craig Robson, Mark Sleger, Susanna R. Bradley, Bob Koch
Also Present: Judge Hepler, Judge Voigt, Judge Cross, COC Raimer, DA Brenda Yaskal, Corporation Counsel Joseph Ruf, Jamie Henriksen

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

- 1) Meeting called to order at 8:17 a.m. by Chair Rohrbeck.
- 2) Posting compliance was met per Open Meetings Law.
- 3) *Motion was made by Bradley to approve the agenda. Seconded by Koch. Motion carried.*
- 4) *Motion was made by Sleger to approve the previous meeting minutes from June 11, 2019.*

Seconded by Bradley. Motion carried.

- 5) **Public Input.** No public input.
- 6) **Chairman's Communications.** Chair Rohrbeck wanted everyone to take a treat as it was his birthday.
- 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 Koch to approve all of the expenditures. Seconded by Robson. Motion carried.
- 8) Next meeting date set for Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 8:15 a.m. at the Courthouse in the Branch II Jury Room.

II. Judges:

1) **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by Judge Voigt and Judge Hepler. Discussion by Judge Hepler regarding changes to the Court calendar that started in July of 2019. Discussion by Judge Hepler regarding the need for an in-house Drug Treatment Counselor who would perform substance abuse assessments. Supervisor Bradley will bring this issue to the HHS Committee. Discussion by Judge Voigt and Judge Hepler regarding working with Sheriff Brandner to coordinate with Jail staff to perform UAs in the future.

III. Clerk of Courts:

1) **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by COC Raimer. Discussion by COC Raimer regarding the scheduling changes with the Judges' calendars that started July 1st. There are some issues to be worked out as expected. Discussion by COC Raimer regarding State-driven increases in the budget for court-appointed GALs and Public Defenders.

IV. District Attorney:

1) **General Review of Department Activities.** Discussion by District Attorney Brenda Yaskal regarding the daily processes in the DA's Office. She is impressed with her staff as they all seem very dedicated. Governor Tony Evers has approved adding almost 65 Assistant District Attorney positions in the State of Wisconsin. DA Yaskal is hopeful that Columbia County will receive the requested 1.25 ADAs (one of the existing ADAs is ¾ time so this position could be increased to full time). Existing ADAs will also receive an increase in wages.

2) **2020 Request to Increase Legal Assistant Hours from 30 to 40 per Week – Discussion.** This issue was tabled at last month's Judiciary Committee Meeting. Discussion by Ruf and DA Yaskal. If a Managing Attorney position is approved in the 2020 budget, there will be no need for a Legal Assistant. This

position could then be reclassified as a Legal Secretary that would be needed at 40 hours per week. If a Managing Attorney position is not approved, the Legal Assistant position could be left at 30 hours per week. Motion by Bradley to increase Legal Assistant hours from 30 to 40 hours per week in the 2020 budget, second by Robson. Motion passed 4-1 with Koch opposed.

V. Corporation Counsel/Child Support Office:

1) **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities for Corporation Counsel and Child Support Agency provided by Corporation Counsel Ruf. Corporation Counsel and Child Support are fully staffed and very busy.


Motion was made by Koch to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m. Seconded by Sleger. Motion carried.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Mark Sleger
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,



Jamie Henriksen
HR Program Coordinator

cc: Judiciary Committee Members
Chair Gove
1st Vice Chair Drew
2nd Vice Chair Foley
Internet