

Columbia County
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 12, 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, John A. Stevenson, and Jeffrey A. Leckwee
Also Present: Chris Polzer, Denise J. Brusveen, Judge Voigt, Judge Hepler, Susan Raimer, Brenda Yaskal, 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 Carr to approve the previous meeting minutes from the regular Judiciary Committee Meeting on June 14, 2022. Seconded by Stevenson. Motion carried.***
- 5) **Public Input.** none
- 6) **Chairman's Communications.** none
- 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 Leckwee. Motion carried.***
- 8) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, August 9, 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 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. 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. A couple Committee Members would like to see some overall numbers of cases. Judge Voigt said even though these numbers changes daily, the State does have some statistics available that they can provide. The overall number of participants in the OWI and Drug Courts are down due to many factors.

III. Clerk of Courts:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by Clerk of Courts, Susan Raimer. Raimer discussed changes and challenges in the Clerk of Court's Office operations due to COVID-19 with court case numbers continuing to increase and provided a handout with case numbers. Raimer has interviews scheduled 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 talked about different costs that are incurred by her office as far as serving paperwork to out-of-County individuals and travel expenses for witnesses. 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.

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 Office and the Child Support Agency continue to be busy with hearings both in-person and via Zoom.
- **Position Replacement Request** for a Paralegal, due to a resignation, presented by Ruf. Motion by Leckwee to approve the position replacement request for a Paralegal as presented. Seconded by Harvestine. Motion carried.

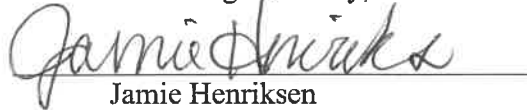
Motion was made by Leckwee to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 a.m. Seconded by Stevenson. Motion carried.

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