

**Columbia County**  
**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**July 14, 2020**

*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, Chris Polzer, Liz Miller and Steven Rohrbeck  
**Also Present:** Vern Gove, Judge Voigt, Judge Hepler, Judge Cross, Susan Raimer, Brenda Yaskal, Selina Hooker, Betty Meeusen, Joseph Ruf III and Jamie Henriksen

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

- 1) Meeting called to order at 8:17 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 Shimpach. Motion carried.*
- 4) *Motion was made by Shimpach to approve the previous meeting minutes from June 9, 2020. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.*
- 5) **Public Input.** Betty Meeusen expressed frustration with the miscommunication regarding her and her husband not being able to attend a court hearing in person. Their son was also not able to appear from the Oshkosh Correctional Institution via video but only by audio. She would like to see a solution from the Judiciary Committee.
- 6) **Chairman's Communications.** Chair McClyman apologized for not attending the Judiciary Committee Meeting last month. Committee materials will be mailed to him in the future.
- 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 Miller to approve all of the expenditures. Seconded by Shimpach. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, August 11, 2020 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. He also discussed the challenges the Courts are experiencing with COVID-19. Judge Hepler added the difficulty with the Drug Court Program as participants have a higher success rate with in-person meetings. The Columbia County Circuit Court proposed re-open plan was approved by the District 5 Chief Judge. Judge Voigt expressed how important it will be to have a Janitor hired to clean the Courtrooms and other common areas in between Court sessions.

**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. The office is currently fully staffed.

IV. District Attorney:

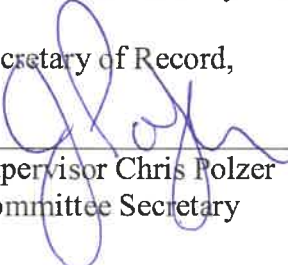
- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by DA Brenda Yaskal. Yaskal also discussed changes and challenges in the DA's Office operations due to COVID-19.
- **2021 Request - Increase Legal Secretary Hours from 18.75 Hours to 40 Hours per Week**
- **2021 Request to Increase Legal Secretary Hours from 37.5 to 40 per Week**
- **2020 Request to Increase Victim Witness Coordinators (2) Hours from 37.5 to 40 per week** – Discussion. DA Yaskal presented numbers for overtime paid out in 2019 and 2018. *Motion by Miller to approve all of the requests as presented. Motion fails as no second to motion.*

V. Corporation Counsel/Child Support Office:

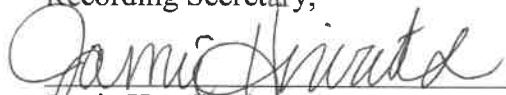
- **General Review of Department Activities.** Corporation Counsel/HR Director Joseph Ruf III reported that the Corporation Counsel's Office and Child Support Agency remained open during the COVID-19 Safer at Home Order. The department is fielding more and more inquires due to COVID-19 exposure.
- **Position Replacement Request – Legal Secretary:** Discussion. *Motion was made by Shimpach to approve the Position Replacement Request – Legal Secretary. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.*

*Motion was made by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 a.m. Seconded by Shimpach. Motion carried.*

Secretary of Record,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Chris Polzer  
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Henriksen  
HR Program Coordinator

cc: Judiciary Committee Members  
Chair Gove  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Foley  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Koch  
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