

Columbia County
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 10, 2021

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, Steven Rohrbeck and Kim Manley (via phone)

Also Present: Judge Voigt, Judge Cross, COC Susan Raimer, DA Brenda Yaskal, Corporation Counsel Joseph Ruf III, Julie Kayartz, Selina Hooker, Kelly Hoffmann and Jamie Henriksen

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

- 1) Meeting called to order at 8:15 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 Polzer. Motion carried.*
- 4) *Motion was made by Shimpach to approve the previous meeting minutes from July 13, 2021. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried with Manley abstaining.*
- 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 Miller to approve all of the expenditures. Seconded by Shimpach. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, September 14, 2021 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. The third jury trial, since being back to mostly in-person hearings, is under way currently. Columbia County is significantly running behind with felony cases, but everyone is doing what they can to work on the backlog from COVID-19.
- **Position Replacement Request – Judicial Assistant -** *Motion by Shimpach to approve the position replacement request for a Judicial Assistant due to a resignation as presented. Second by Miller. Motion carried.*
- **Circuit Court Operations 2022 Budget.** Discussion. *Motion was made by Miller to approve the Circuit Court Operations (No. 1212) budget as presented. Seconded by Manley. Motion carried.*
- **Register in Probate 2022 Budget.** Discussion. *Motion was made by Miller to approve the Register in Probate (No. 1216) budget as presented. Seconded by Manley. Motion carried.*
- **Family Court Mediator 2022 Budget.** *Motion was made by Miller to approve the Family Court Mediator (No. 1218) budget as presented. Seconded by Manley. Motion carried.*
- **Court Commissioner 2022 Budget.** Discussion by Ruf that the County will have to pay for Court Reporters in 2022 as the State will no longer provide for their services. *Motion was made by Miller to approve the Court Commissioner (No. 1240) budget as presented. Seconded by Manley. Motion carried.*

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. Raimer said the Facilities Management Staff have been very helpful in preparing for and during jury trials. She continues to hear positive feedback from jury members. Raimer added she has a new employee starting soon to fill the vacancy of her Civil Clerk who retired after 31 years with Columbia County.
- **Clerk of Courts 2022 Budget.** Discussion. *Motion was made by Miller to approve the Clerk of Courts (No. 1220) budget as presented. Seconded by Polzer. Motion carried. Motion was made by Miller to approve Clerk of Courts capital outlay in the amount of \$2,000.00 (No. 1220.844000) as presented. Seconded by Polzer. 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. Columbia County has been selected to receive an additional Assistant District Attorney with the new State budget. Yaskal said she will probably be requesting an additional Legal Secretary position with this additional Attorney position in the near future. Yaskal added she has one part-time Legal Secretary starting on Monday and one hopefully within the next couple of weeks to fill the current vacancies.
- **District Attorney 2022 Budget.** Discussion regarding the significant increase in the District Budget for 2022. The State has cut funding for the Victim Witness Coordinator positions. *Motion was made by Miller to approve the District Attorney (No. 1610) budget as presented. Seconded by Polzer. Motion carried 4-2 with Shimpach and Polzer opposed. Motion was made by Miller to approve District Attorney capital outlay in the amount of -\$710.00 (No. 1610.844000) as presented. Seconded by Polzer. Motion carried 4-2 with Shimpach and Polzer opposed.*
- **Teen Court 2022 Budget.** *Motion was made by Shimpach to approve the Teen Court (No. 1615) budget as presented. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried 5-1 with Polzer opposed.*

V. Corporation Counsel/Child Support Office:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities for Corporation Counsel and Child Support provided by Joseph Ruf III.
- **Position Replacement Request – Paralegal -** *Motion by Polzer to approve the position replacement request for a Paralegal due to a resignation as presented. Second by Shimpach. Motion carried.*
- **2021 Child Support Month Proclamation -** Selina Hooker, Child Support Administrator, presented a certificate as August was proclaimed to be Child Support Awareness Month by Tony Evers, Governor of Wisconsin.
- **Child Support 2022 Budget.** Discussion by Hooker regarding the large reduction in her budget as there was a vacant position in the budget that was cut. *Motion was made by Polzer to approve the Child Support (No. 1645) budget as presented. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.*
- **Corporation Counsel 2022 Budget.** *Motion was made by Miller to approve the Corporation Counsel (No. 1640) budget as presented. Seconded by Rohrbeck. Motion carried. Motion was made by Miller to approve Corporation Counsel capital outlay in the amount of \$0 (No. 1640.844000) as presented. Seconded by Rohrbeck. Motion carried.*

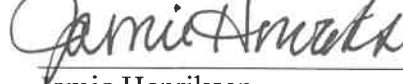
Motion was made by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 a.m. Seconded by Rohrbeck. Motion carried.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Chris Polzer
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary, -



Jamie Henriksen
HR Program Coordinator

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