

**Columbia County**  
**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**September 8, 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:** Judge Voigt, Judge Hepler, Judge Cross, James Foley, Susan Raimer, Brenda Yaskal, Joseph Ruf III, Jamie Henriksen and Chris Boettcher

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

- 1) Meeting called to order at 8:16 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 Miller to approve the previous meeting minutes from August 11, 2020 with the updated name of the correct Secretary. Seconded by McClyman. Motion carried 4-1 with Shimpach 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 Polzer to approve all of the expenditures. Seconded by Rohrbeck. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, October 13, 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 and holding jury trials. The Columbia County Circuit Court re-open plan was approved by the District 5 Chief Judge and went into effect today, September 8, 2020. Masks or face coverings are now mandatory and court ordered in the Courthouse at all times with the exception of staff being out of public view and consuming a meal. Judge Hepler told the Committee that Columbia County, among other Counties, is short on Court Reporters. The State is trying to assist with the shortage. State employees told Columbia County the State plans to purchase the audio equipment for our 4<sup>th</sup> Courtroom, as long as Columbia County has the proper wiring set up to accommodate the new system. Judge Voigt thinks most of the State of Wisconsin court system is around 18-24 months behind, especially with criminal cases.

**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 is looking into purchasing two voice transmitting headsets for interpreters to use in the Courtrooms to ensure proper social distancing without disruption. Raimer has been asked to participate in a re-organized subcommittee made up of Court staff to discuss in-person jury trials. This Committee is set to meet in October of 2020.

**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. Yaskal has been working with MIS to reduce the foot traffic into the office by adding more options to handle issues via email and phone contact, if possible.
- **Chris Boettcher, Coordinator from CESA 5,** presented the functions of Teen Court in Columbia County. Boettcher also handed out brochures that are provided to parents of Teen Court participating children. Committee thanked her for coming and for the helpful information.

**V. Corporation Counsel/Child Support Office:**

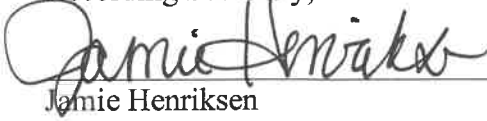
- **General Review of Department Activities.** Corporation Counsel/HR Director Joseph Ruf, III reported that the Corporation Counsel's Office has had an increase in the number of Mental and Guardianship cases. The Child Support Agency is still seeking a replacement Legal Secretary.

*Motion was made by Shimpach to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 a.m. Seconded by Polzer. 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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