

Columbia County
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 13, 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, Judge Voigt, Judge Cross, Judge Hepler, Susan Raimer, Brenda Yaskal, Julie Kayartz, Selina Hooker, 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 Leckwee to approve the agenda. Seconded by Carr. DA Brenda Yaskal asked to present first as she had a trial to attend. Motion carried.*
- 4) *Motion was made by Leckwee to approve the previous meeting minutes from the regular Judiciary Committee Meeting on August 9, 2022. Seconded by Carr. 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 Carr to approve all of the expenditures. Seconded by Leckwee. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Supervisor Harvestine** joined the meeting at 8:36 a.m. and Supervisor Stevenson joined at 8:37 a.m.
- 9) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the Courthouse basement conference room.

II. 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 providing evidence to attorneys. She is going to be implementing ways to save the County money and also save time that her staff spent preparing for trials, utilizing different electronic features. This will bring some relief to her staff. She had a staff member resign from the 18.75 hour per week position, but Yaskal wants to see what the County Board will do with her 2023 budget requests before she requests to fill this position.

III. Judges:

- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by Judge Voigt. 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. The increased number of jury trials has led to some potential jurors being summoned multiple times a month. The Judges talked about their concerns with some necessary elevator maintenance upcoming. This will put an extra burden on Court Security to ensure everyone gets to where they need to be. Judge Hepler is still looking for a Court Reporter.

IV. 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. She said there was one day in the last month where a jury trial was not scheduled. This increase continues to create an enormous amount of work for her 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 and Child Support Administrator, Selina Hooker. The Corporation Counsel Office and the Child Support Agency continue to be busy with hearings.
- **Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding** – discussion. Motion made by Harvestine to deny the resolution as presented, seconded by Leckwee. Roll call vote was unanimous to deny the resolution.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Carr to enter into closed session pursuant to WI State Statute Section 19.85 (1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility [Compensation Review – Paralegals; Compensation Review – Legal Secretary; Compensation Review – Financial Clerk]. Seconded by Leckwee. Committee roll call to go into closed session was unanimous. Committee went into closed session at 10:25 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

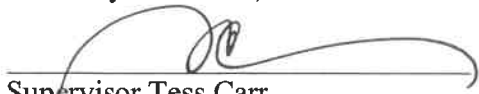
Motion by Leckwee to return to open session. Seconded by Carr. The Committee returned to open session at 10:43 a.m.

Action on Closed Session Items:

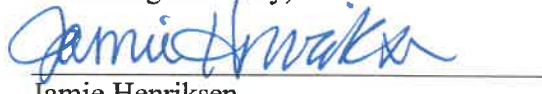
- Motion by Leckwee to adopt the compensation that was discussed and presented in closed session regarding the Child Support Paralegals, Legal Secretary and Financial Clerk, seconded by Carr. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Carr to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Seconded by Leckwee. 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