

Columbia County
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 11, 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, and John A. Stevenson
Excused Absence: Jeffrey A Leckwee
Unexcused Absence: Joe Harvestine
Also Present: Chris Polzer, Judge Voigt, Judge Cross, Judge Hepler, Susan Raimer, Brenda Yaskal, Julie Kayartz, 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 Carr to approve the agenda. Seconded by Stevenson. Motion carried.*
- 4) *Motion was made by Carr to approve the previous meeting minutes from the regular Judiciary Committee Meeting on September 13, 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 Carr. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, November 8, 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. The Courts continue to work on the backlog from COVID-19 as well as processing new cases. The Judges expressed concern with the Finance Committee's recent decision to cut the 2023 funding for the OWI and Drug Treatment Courts. No decision is final until voted on by the full County Board in November. Judge Hepler found a Court Reporter, which happens to be the former OWI Treatment Coordinator starting her new role in November. The elevator in the Courthouse is undergoing repairs currently and is non-operational. They are hoping to have this up and running soon.

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. This increase continues to create an enormous amount of work for her staff. Columbia County will be hosting some local students on October 26th for Youth Government Day. Norm Bednarik from the American Legion is working with Raimer on an agenda for the day. Chair Polzer will encourage all interested County Board Members to participate in the activities that day. Raimer will be attending her final Clerk of Courts Conference as the Clerk of Courts this week.

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 providing evidence to attorneys. Her office is continuing the process of implementing electronic discovery 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. DA Yaskal had an interview recently for an Assistant District Attorney candidate to hopefully fill her last vacancy.
- **Position Replacement Request – Legal Secretary 18.75 Hours per Week** – discussion. Motion made by Carr to approve the position replacement request for a Legal Secretary – 18.75 hours per week as presented, seconded by Stevenson. Motion carried.

V. Corporation Counsel/Child Support Office:

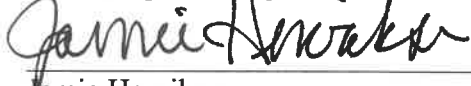
- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities for Corporation Counsel and Child Support provided by Corporation Counsel Joseph Ruf, III. The Corporation Counsel Office and the Child Support Agency continue to be busy with hearings.

Motion was made by Stevenson to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 a.m. Seconded by Carr. Motion carried.

Secretary of Record,

 For Sup. Carr
Chair
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