

**Columbia County
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 12, 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

Also Present: James Foley, Judge Voigt, Judge Cross, COC Susan Raimer, DA Brenda Yaskal, Corporation Counsel Joseph Ruf, III and Jamie Henriksen

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

- 1) Meeting called to order at 8:15 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 Manley to approve the previous meeting minutes from September 14, 2021. Seconded by Rohrbeck. Motion carried 5-0 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 Miller to approve all of the expenditures. Seconded by Manley. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Next meeting date** will be Tuesday, November 9, 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 Courts continue to work on the backlog from COVID-19 as well as processing new cases. Judge Voigt provided updates about the OWI and Drug Courts with a 5-year grant renewal process coming up. We are competing with other Courts in the State. Judge Voigt added that he had a new Judicial Assistant start about three weeks ago and that is going well. He was really appreciative of all the staff that stepped up and helped out during the hiring process and now with the training period.

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 continues to struggle to recruit Jurors. There have been some issues with providing lunch to jurors but Raimer continues to work with Accounting to rectify these issues. She is also having an increased need for interpreters for court cases. The State will reimburse most of the costs associated with the interpreters as long as we utilize certified interpreters. Youth Government Day is coming up on Wednesday, October 27th. Norm Bednarik from the American Legion will be in contact with COC Raimer with additional details. Raimer attended the Annual Clerk of Courts Conference last week in Stevens Point, that provided helpful and useful information.

IV. District Attorney:

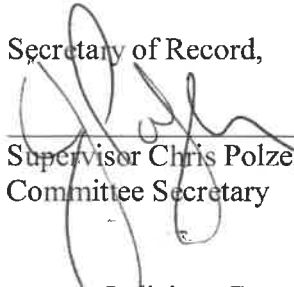
- **General Review of Department Activities.** General discussion of monthly activities provided by DA Brenda Yaskal. Yaskal discussed changes and challenges in the DA's Office operations due to COVID-19. Yaskal said she has lost one of her Assistant District Attorneys ("ADAs") last week in addition to the new ADA position the State created, so she is actively recruiting. She is still down a Legal Secretary, as well, but interviews are scheduled.
- **Position Replacement Request – Legal Secretary -** *Motion by Rohrbeck to approve the position replacement request for a Legal Secretary due to a resignation as presented. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.*
- **Teen Court Update** – Yaskal stated that CESA 5 presented at the Finance Committee. Polzer added that he was impressed by this presentation and has asked CESA 5 to please provide quarterly updates and statistics. Yaskal said she has been in contact with CESA 5 and they will send her the updates quarterly to present to the Judiciary Committee.

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 continues to be busy with hearings both in-person and via Zoom. The Child Support Agency has a new Legal Secretary starting next month. The Annual Child Support Conference is next week.

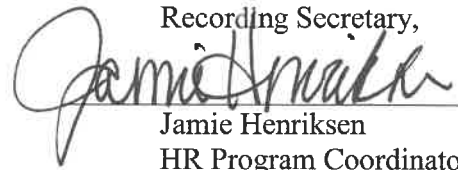
Motion was made by Rohrbeck to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m. Seconded by Polzer. Motion carried.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Chris Polzer
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,



Jamie Henriksen
HR Program Coordinator

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