FINANCE, LEGAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE

March 11, 2025

10:30 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Legislators: Chair Sauerbrey, Ciotoli, Monell, Flesher, Roberts, Standinger, Mullen, Brown, and Bunce

Staff: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Treasurer McFadden, Deputy Treasurer Chandler, Safety Officer Holbrook Personnel Officer Parke, Chief Accountant Schurter, County Administrator Bailey, Indigent Legal Services (ILS) Administrator Graven,

Guests: N/A

* APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
* Legislator Monell asked for a motion to approve February 11, 2025, minutes. Legislator Flesher made the motion seconded by Legislator Mullen and was unanimously carried.

* FINANCIAL:
* Legal and Safety: Legal and Safety’s budgets are tracking well at this time. Mr. DeWind is continuing to watch the Legal Fees line. This year has seen an uptick in the use of Spanish translation services by departments and the Town of Owego Court. Mr. DeWind will possibly be attending two out-of-town trials that could increase expenditures.
* OLD BUSINESS:
* Litigation: The Harris case has been moved back again with the Court of Claims proceeding first. Mr. DeWind and District Attorney Martin will coordinate on attending this trial. Another case is moving forward quickly, which Mr. DeWind will need to attend as County representative.
* Annual Policy Review/Attestation and Statement of Financial Disclosure for Schedule A Employees: 114 employees still need to complete this review which is due March 31, 2025.
* NEW BUSINESS:
* Other: Staff are authorized for remote work without set days. This is working well as some court appearances are virtual.
* Defensive Driving Training: Ms. Holbrook has enrolled employees who need to complete this training. Per County policy this training is required every 3 years.
* FY2022 Critical Infrastructure Grant: Ms. Holbrook worked with Emergency Services staff, Bob Williams, to apply for this grant to harden security at 56 Main Street. If awarded these monies will be used for a public address system for 56 Main Street.
* Family Defense Grant Positions: The grant money needs to be used for social work positions and to increase administrative and attorney salaries. The State pushed back with the required suggestions as to how the grant money can be used. A part-time case manager will need to be hired for ILS and Public Defender’s office to ensure caseloads are manageable.
* PERSONNEL:
* 3rd Assistant County Attorney: As of today, only one application has been received for this position which provides the necessary back up for the DSS Office when there are scheduling conflicts. Mr. DeWind noted that all legal work needs to be done under the license of an admitted attorney.
* RESOLUTIONS: RE-APPOINT MEMBER TO BOARD OF ETHICS, RE-APPOINT MEMBER TO BOARD OF ETHICS, AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF YEAR EIGHT FUNDING FROM THE NYS OFFICE OF INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES AND ACCEPT YEAR EIGHT FUNDING FOR HURRELL-HARRING GRANT AND AMEND 2025 BUDGET, AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR A STATE GRANT FROM NEW YORK STATE HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES were moved into full Legislative Session without further questions.
* PROCLAMATIONS
* N/A
* EXECUTIVE SESSION
* N/A
* ADJOURNMENT:
* Legislator Monell adjourned the Legal & Safety Committee at 11:07 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Freyvogel

Paralegal to the County Attorney