



FINANCE, LEGAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 10, 2023

10:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Treasurer McFadden, Deputy Treasurer Chandler, Safety Officer Holbrook, Personnel Officer Parke

• APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Legislator Ciotoli asked for a motion to approve the September 12, 2023, minutes. Legislator Monell made the motion seconded by Legislator Mullen and was unanimously carried.

• FINANCIAL:

- Legal and Safety's budgets are tracking well, however the Liability Fund could potentially need monies transferred into it for the payment of insurance expenses for newly purchased vehicles.

• OLD BUSINESS:

- Litigation: Currently there is nothing new to report; current cases are continuing and there have been no new claims.
- In Rem Closings and Appraisals have been completed for the last cycle. Legal is exploring bringing appraisals in house or using a contract services. Mr. DeWind has received several claims for previous years In Rems from a Utica law firm with some of these claims beyond the two-year cut off. The 2023 In Rem profits are being held in a trust fund while waiting for guidance from New York State. A list of sold properties, back taxes, and profits made are being compiled and it may be possible that the County will be able to claim fees under the new process.

• NEW BUSINESS:

- CDL Drug and Alcohol Screening Contract: The current contract expires at the end of this year. The County is in a consortium with local municipalities for this service and Safety Officer Holbrook is researching

best value to determine who would be the best fit for the Consortium. Ms. Holbrook will be presenting a resolution next month for the 2024 contract for legislative approval.

- Personnel Legal Services Contract: This contract is set to expire at the end of this year. The County is currently paying a flat fee and Roemer has offered to renew for three years. In prior negotiations Roemer indicated it does not offer an hourly rate, but the County receives value due to arbitration negotiations included in the flat monthly rate. Legislators would like a Request For Proposals (RFP) submitted to relevant firms and would like the opportunity to sit in on any interviews in conjunction with Personnel and the County Attorney's Office.
- JUUL Settlement Agreement: NYS Attorney General's Office recently updated counties on the ongoing social media suits and the JUUL lawsuit settlement. This lawsuit was brought on account of how products were marketed to children. The total payout is two hundred and sixty-two million dollars (\$262,000,000 USD) nationwide with one hundred twelve million dollars (\$112,000,000 USD) coming to New York State over eight years and Fifty-Six Million dollars (\$56,000,000 USD) being disbursed to counties and New York City. More information will be forthcoming about the local share, how it may be used, and reporting procedures. Public Health is aware of the settlement with information coming through NYSACHO.
- New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) recently awarded Tioga County the 2023 Risk Management Award for the successful mitigation of risks and claims. Chair Sauerbrey praised Ms. Holbrook for tightening security at the Ronald E. Dougherty Building and Legislator Mullen noted his thanks for the addition of an Automated External Deliberator (AED) machine at the Board of Elections.

- PERSONNEL:

- A late file resolution has been submitted for the hiring of a paralegal for the Department of Social Services Law Department. This will create an open position for the Secretary to the First Assistant County Attorney.

- RESOLUTIONS:

- RECOGNIZE STEPHANIE CARRIGG'S THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO TIOGA COUNTY; ESTABLISH A NEW BUDGET LINE, MODIFY 2023 BUDGET AND TRANSFER FUNDS PUBLIC DEFENDER; and APPOINT PARALEGAL LAW DEPARTMENT were moved into full Legislative Session without further questions.

- PROCLAMATIONS

- N/A

- EXECUTIVE SESSION

- N/A

- ADJOURNMENT:

- Legislator Ciotoli adjourned the Legal & Safety Committee at 10:57 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christine Freyvogel*

Secretary to the County Attorney