

TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Office of the County Attorney

Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building 56 Main Street Owego, NY 13827



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FINANCE, LEGAL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 13, 2022

10:30am

ATTENDANCE:

Legislators: Chair Sauerbrey, Standinger, Mullen, Ciotoli, Monell, and Weston

Staff: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Safety Officer Thorpe, Deputy Treasurer Chandler, Chief Accountant Jerzak, Accountant Schurter, Personnel Officer Parke, Treasurer McFadden, and ED&P Deputy Director Woodburn

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Legislator Monell asked for a motion to approve the August 9, 2022 minutes. Legislator Mullen made the motion, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli and was unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL: Legal and Safety's budgets are tracking well however some of Legal's lines are nearly expended but should hold for the year.

OLD BUSINESS: In Rem Auction closings are almost completed and the 2023 Budget is in process.

NEW BUSINESS: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tioga County Economic Development & Planning (ED&P) and the Tioga County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) was discussed in regards to how the funding for the Workforce Coordinator position will be funded. ED&P will invoice the IDA who will in turn submit a request for reimbursement to the Appalachian Regional Commission. Chief Accountant Jerzak confirmed the MOU is sufficient for auditing purposes and a resolution is not needed. Legislator Mullen stated local school districts will be funding this position after the grant funds are depleted.

The FOIL Officer continues to receive FOIL requests for the Board of Elections, ballot information and requests that the County extend their retention cycle for possible future litigation.

County Attorney DeWind presented Chris Moore's FOIL appeal requesting ballot information stating October 13, 2020 through November 8, 2020. This appeal was denied by all Legislators in attendance due to the ruling of Kosmider v. Whitney, 34 NY 3d 48 which provides that ballot images are not available absent a court order and the law states that they cannot be released until two years have passed.

New financial guidelines and contracting procedures are being examined and updated as needed and a previous possible site for the Motorola Tower Project is potentially available again.

Biweekly safety meetings with DPW are continuing. A variety of topics are discussed which is beneficial for insurance purposes. There were three new workplace violence investigations this month. The investigations have been founded and closed with recommendations proactively put in place by departments. The resolution to purchase an X-ray machine and magnetometer has been pushed to next month to enable more legislators to be present and the water at the Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building has recently been tested.

There are no new litigation claims but there is still a property matter from the last In Rem. There is the possibility to settle and County Attorney DeWind would like Legislative permission to do so. All attending legislators verbally stated their support in settling.

Flood insurance policy renewals are in process however the premiums are not arriving in a consistent manner. A resolution will need to be done to transfer money into the liability fund to pay the 2022/2023 flood insurance premiums.

A notice of claim has been provided to the Broome County Sheriff's for the reimbursement of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in training expenses for a corrections officer they hired away from Tioga County. Broome County has refused to reimburse Tioga County because the corrections officer is no longer working for Broome County.

The Open Meeting Executive law has expired. Video conferencing is no longer allowed but a local law can be adopted to allow virtual meetings however it

does not count towards quorum or voting. The attending Legislators stated if they cannot vote they do not want to adopt a local law to allow video conferencing.

PERSONNEL: None

RESOLUTIONS: AUTHORIZE CONTRACT BETWEEN RIVERSIDE FORENSIC PATHOLOGY, PLLC AND TIOGA COUNTY; CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR SAFETY OFFICER; MEMORANDIUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN TIOGA COUNTY AND TIOGA COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY; these resolutions and MOU were moved into full Legislative session without further questions.

PROCLAMATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Legislator Monell adjourned the Legal and Safety Committee meeting at 11:38am.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Freyvogel

Secretary to the County Attorney