

Legal/Safety Committee Meeting

January 11, 2022

PRESENT: Legislators Chair Sauerbrey, Monell, Balliet, Standinger, Hollenbeck, Mullen, Roberts, Ciotoli, and Brown, Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Safety Officer Thorpe, Treasurer McFadden, Deputy Treasurer Chandler, (and County Attorney Secretary Freyvogel - minutes)

ABSENT: Legislator Weston

Meeting was convened by Legislator Monell at 10:45 A.M.

Minutes: On motion of Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Standinger and unanimously carried the minutes from December 14, 2021 were approved.

YEAR END BUDGET 2021: Law and Safety tracked on budget for the fiscal year. The year-end budget report for Law does not reflect some of the revenue streams that will be coming after the submission of time sheets to DSS and Mental Hygiene for 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

MASKING: NYSDOH has extended masking guidance until February 1, 2022. The County's current masking guidance and signage appear to be working well. There have been ongoing discussions with Public Health regarding the distribution of at home test kits, validation of the results, and informing the Health Department of test results.

AUCTION: The eviction moratorium is set to expire January 15, 2022 however County Attorney DeWind believes the moratorium will be extended. If the eviction moratorium is extended this will impact the 2019 and 2020 auction. The county is not proceeding with foreclosures, at this time, due to the habitation of some of the dwellings which would make the county landlords and responsible as such.

ETHICS BOARD: The Ethics Board met December 27, 2021. Chair Barb Crannell tendered her resignation, verbally, effective December 31, 2021. Vice Chair Joan Case was elected Chair and Charles Davis was elected Vice Chair for 2022. The Ethics Board reviewed Annual Financial Disclosures and Annual Policy Attestations for 2021 with letters mailed out to delinquent filers. Reverend Stevens stated he will not be seeking a second term when his first term expires March 31, 2022. The Ethics Board will have their next meeting, in person, June 2022.

RESOLUTIONS: Chair Sauerbrey has nominated Cliff Balliet Jr. and Jenny Ceccherelli to the Ethics Board. County Attorney DeWind asked the Legislators if

they would like to re-discuss the Redistricting local law to which all legislators denied they would. The County is on track for the new districts to be up and running before November elections. Many local counties are in the preliminary stages of redistricting whereas Tioga is ready to implement the changes thanks to the hard work of the Redistricting Committee.

COUNTY INSURANCE RENEWAL POLICY: The official 2022 invoice, from Smith Brothers, arrived at a cost of four hundred and sixty thousand one hundred seventeen dollars and fifteen cents (\$460,117.15). This is an approximate increase of six percent (6%). The largest premium increases were for Law Enforcement, a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) increase, and a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) increase for flood insurance for 56 Main Street. Law Enforcement premiums have increased exponentially across the country due to an uptick in claims. County Attorney DeWind is researching the increase of flood insurance for 56 Main Street. Legislator Ciotoli asked if anything had changed to cause the increase. County Attorney DeWind replied NYMIR had increased the policy by twenty five percent (25%) over a four (4) year period but that period had past.

CLAIMS AND LITIGATION: The Perdue Pharma Opiate jury had returned a verdict in favor of Suffolk and New York State Counties. It is too early to know if or what the payout to Tioga County will be. It is possible the state will disburse these funds through grants to the counties. The Federal case is still proceeding.

MEETING AND TRAININGS: County Attorney DeWind has participated in the following meetings: Youth Assessment Team, Executive Policy, Child Advocacy Center, Leaders, Public Health, Redistricting, and Radio Tower Project. The Radio Tower Project is proceeding with work being completed on the proposed contract and grant funding.

SAFETY: County Attorney DeWind introduced Safety Officer Thorpe to the new legislators and spoke about the projects and better management of events Safety Officer Thorpe is able to handle now that she is full time. Safety Officer Thorpe has been working with the departments to address and ensure safety policies are being followed to mitigate liability for the county. There have been no new workplace violence claims to report. Safety Officer Thorpe has started revamping policy in regards to ADA, Language Line, Title VI, and driver training. NYMIR offers a one (1) hour, free, driver safety course which is being considered as an option to replace the costly six (6) hour course the county currently pays for. Legislator Ciotoli asked if the county receives a reduction in their premium for having employees take this course. County Attorney DeWind stated the county does not receive a discount however the employee does receive a discount with their personal auto insurance. Another reason to consider the change to NYMIR's course is employees are currently unable to mitigate personal traffic violations due to already completing the six (6) hour driver

training course for the county. County Attorney DeWind asked if there were any other questions.

Legislator Mullen adjourned the meeting at 11:03am.