

**APPROVED**

TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

## Office of the County Attorney

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### FINANCE, LEGAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 15, 2024

10:30 A.M.

#### ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Treasurer McFadden, Deputy Treasurer Chandler, Safety Officer Holbrook, Personnel Officer Parke, Chief Accountant Schurter, County Administrator Bailey, Assistant County Attorney Pence, ILS Administrator Graven, Coroner Williams

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Legislator Ciotoli asked for a motion to approve the September 12, 2024, minutes. Legislator Standing made the motion seconded by Legislator Brown and was unanimously carried.

- FINANCIAL:

- Legal and Safety: Law's Legal Fees object line is now depleted requiring an influx of funds. There is a resolution to transfer money into this line from the Treasurer's budget. Safety's budget is tracking well and will be purchasing automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment in December to update existing AEDs.

- OLD BUSINESS:

- Litigation: No updates since last month. The Harris trail is still scheduled for November 2024 and will require attendance by District Attorney Martin and Mr. DeWind.
- In Rem:
  - A Waverly family was able to pay their past taxes today and would like the property removed from the foreclosure list. A straw poll was conducted, and this property was approved to be removed from the foreclosure list.
  - An Apalachin family has paid the back taxes on a deceased family member's property. Broome County Adult Protective

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Services will need to make this property an estate before the County can sell this property back to the family. Conservatively the County will need to hold onto the property for 6 months and add it to insurance. A straw poll was conducted, and a decision was made to remove the property from the foreclosure list.

- Mr. DeWind has had meetings with the court to determine valuations of properties. At this point the County will potentially assist with evaluations.
  - NYMIR Risk Management Review: Review was conducted on October 10, 2024. NYMIR did a walkthrough of multiple facilities. There was only one finding with a boiler, but that boiler is in the process of being replaced. The County has a loss ratio of 15%, which is excellent.
  - NYMIR 2025 Insurance Renewal: The application has been submitted and on track for renewal.
- NEW BUSINESS:
    - Fourth Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement & Caseload Reduction Grant: Permission to apply for the funds was granted at a previous session. Discussion today on the County's proposal in advance of the application being submitted to the State. This grant money, seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000 USD) over three years, can only be used for providing defense on Child Protective Neglect and Abuse matters. The proposal is to create a conflict office which could represent clients when the Family Court Public Defender is already handling a different party or is conflicted off of the case. The goal is to reduce the 18b assigned counsel expenditures by having outside counsel on retainer to handle the cases and be involved at earlier stages of a Child Protective Investigation. Discussion on desire to have these attorneys be contract positions rather than part time employees. ILS will also need to fund administrative services for the conflict attorneys and would like to explore the possibility of supplementing the Family Court Public Defender's salary with this grant. Funding is for three years but is expected to be provided for additional rounds. Programs funded by the grant would end if or when the funding were no longer available.
    - Service Animal Training: County does have a policy detailing the circumstances where Service Animals must be provided with access to public buildings. Those who provide training for service animals are

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viewed the same as those who use a service dog. Employees who have or train services animals are allowed to bring animals into County buildings under the same rules.

- PILOT Agreement with New Energy Equity, LLC as Agent for Project Owner Tioga CSG 1, LLC: this PILOT might be brought forward at the next meeting. Presented for information only as the Law Department is currently the point of contact. Question was asked regarding moratoriums in sub-municipalities.
- Coroner/Deputy Coroner: Under County law there can only be four elected coroners. However, a deputy coroner(s) position can be created to offset workloads when the coroners are not available or want assistance.
- Remote Work Employees: Ms. Holbrook is approved for remote work but does not work remotely. Mr. DeWind, Mr. Lanouette, and Mr. Coulson do work remotely as many of the court appearances are virtual.
- Strategic Plan Goals & Progress: Legal and Safety do not have any short-term goals but are included tangentially in long term goals.

- PERSONNEL:

- N/A

- RESOLUTIONS: REQUEST TO TRANSFER FUNDS & MODIFY 2024 BUDGET TREASURER'S OFFICE; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH TARGET CONCERNING CLAIMS RELATED TO THE OPIOID CRISIS; and AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH HENRY SCHEIN CONCERNING CLAIMS RELATED TO THE OPIOID CRISIS were moved into full Legislative Session without further questions.

- PROCLAMATIONS

- N/A

- EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Mr. DeWind requested to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Legislator Mullen made the motion seconded by Legislator Brown at 11:25 A.M. Legislator Monell made the motion to exit Executive Session and was seconded by Legislator Brown at 11:55 A.M.

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- ADJOURNMENT:
  - Legislator Ciotoli adjourned the Legal & Safety Committee at 11:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christine Freyvogel*

Secretary to the County Attorney