**LEGAL/SAFETYCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES –February 11, 2020**

PRESENT: Legislators Monell, Sauerbrey, Balliet, Roberts, Standinger, Mullen, Weston, Sullivan and Hollenbeck, County Attorney Peter DeWind, Public Defender George Awad.

Meeting convened at 10:33 a.m.

**Minutes** - On motion of Legislator Sauerbrey, seconded by Legislator Sullivan and unanimously approved the minutes from the January 14, 2020 meeting were approved.

**Budget** – YTD tracking well.

**New Business:**

* Indigent Legal Services – Year 2 funding has been held up due to auditing of the paperwork. Provisional approval has been received. Once final approval is received, the Assigned Counsel/ILS office can move into their new space and the Data Officer can be hired.
* Resolution to hire part-time Assistant Public Defender (Jay Wilbur). Attorney DeWind stated that Mr. Wilbur has extensive experience. He formerly worked for the Broome County Public Defender’s office and is now retired. He will provide CAP Court coverage and will provide other coverage as needed. This position is fully funded by the State.
* Public Defender secretarial expense. Since 2004, the public defenders’ offices have received money for secretarial/office expenses from the County by entering into an agreement each year. The amount paid is to be negotiated between these offices and the County Attorney. The part time public defenders’ offices will continue to receive this money in proportion to the work performed.
* County Attorney’s new office space. The main part of the county attorney’s office has moved to the new space and we are settling in. The safety officer and paralegal space is being worked on and should be ready to be occupied by the end of the month.
* Flood damage Notices of Claims. We’ve received two Notices of Claims for flood damage arising out of the October 2019 storm event. The county has no liability regarding these claims because the locations of both of these claims are on town roads as well as the bridges/culverts that were involved.
* Damage to vehicle by County truck plowing at Public Safety parking lot. NYMIR denied this claim, but Attorney DeWind stated that he feels the County should pick up the cost of repairs for this individual, as it was clearly the fault of the County. Those present agreed. Attorney DeWind will have the party sign a release against any further claims regarding this incident.
* Litigation - 911 and Generic drug. Attorney DeWind stated that it appears that the County doesn’t have much exposure in these areas. However, he wants to make sure the county is covered in case there is a lump sum distribution. The negotiated retainer fee with Napoli Shkolnik is 25% plus expenses. It’s still not too late to join this suit. There’s no expense to the County if nothing is recovered.
* Yearly legal billing – We are tracking this in a way that it can be applied to the budgets for PH, MH, and DSS on a quarterly basis.

Legislator Monell thanked Attorney DeWind for the work he put into the moving of different office spaces.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.