**LEGAL/SAFETYCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – October 13, 2020**

PRESENT: Legislators Sauerbrey, Balliet, Roberts, Standinger, Weston, Hollenbeck, Monell, Mullen and Sullivan and County Attorney Peter DeWind, Treasurer Jim McFadden, Stephanie Jerzak, Chief Accountant, Bethany O’Rourke, Personnel Officer (and County Attorney Secretary Diane Stephens – Minutes)

Meeting convened at 10:35 a.m.

**Minutes** - On motion of Legislator Standinger, seconded by Legislator Mullen unanimously carried the minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting were approved.

**YTD budget** - Relatively the same as last month other than legal fees due to an after-hours arraignment of a juvenile. The attorney who has covered these is leaving her current employment, so someone is needed to replace her.

**New Business:**

* **Personnel:**

The Safety Officer vacancy has been posted on line. The current salary is $28,000. The Safety Officer works under the County’s risk manager (County Attorney). Consideration could be given to breaking up some of the non-risk related duties of this position to other departments and this position eliminated. Legislator Roberts stated he felt there would be no cost savings to eliminating this position because those taking up the duties in other departments would ask for more money to do so. Legislator Mullen stated he felt all of the duties fell under “risk”. Legislator Monell stated he understood that it was a hard position to fill since it is a part time position.

JD prosecutions: After-hours arraignment of a juvenile and ensuing discussions, meetings and Court appearances resulted in approximately 18 hours of work in one week dedicated to one juvenile case. In the past, the position of Asst. County Attorney covered JD matters, which freed up the County Attorney to attend to all other County matters.

* **Resolution:** Airbnb hotel/motel tax agreement. This agreement allows for the reporting and collecting of hotel/motel tax from on line rentals and remittance to Tioga County of the tax collected.
* **Litigation:**
* COVID executive orders go through October 23. These most likely will be pushed further out.
* DMV orders currently go to November 3
* The stay on evictions is extended until 2021.
* In Rem foreclosure proceedings are still on hold. It’s been hard to find out any solid information on this. There is a sale coming up out of bankruptcy proceeding. It may be necessary to hire outside counsel to do a motion in this matter.
* Opioid litigation hasn’t started. The County isn’t in the primary group of litigants. A trial was scheduled for October 17, but this has been delayed.
* **Tax Cap:**  A special county-wide taxing district would affect the 2% tax cap threshold. Any taxes assessed under a special taxing district would count towards the 2% tax cap.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.