

LEGAL/SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES –May 12, 2021

PRESENT: Legislators (Chair) Sauerbrey, Balliet, Standinger, Hollenbeck, Monell, Mullen, Sullivan, Roberts and Weston, County Attorney Peter DeWind, Treasurer Jim McFadden, Stephanie Jerzak, Chief Accountant, Katie Chandler, Deputy Treasurer, Irene Graven, ILS Administrator, George Awad, Public Defender, Bethany O'Rourke, Personnel Officer (and County Attorney Secretary Diane Stephens – Minutes)

Meeting convened by Legislator Monell at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes - On motion of Legislator Mullen, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck and unanimously carried the minutes from the April 13, 2021 were approved.

YTD budget - Financials are on track for this time of year.

New Business:

- **ILS Funding:** Attorney DeWind stated that the Year 3 Hurrell-Harring budget will be brought to them for adoption most likely at the meeting next month. The County's budget was approved by the State and he is waiting for the final paperwork before bringing a resolution to modify our agreement with the State and provide for the additional year three funding. The additional funding is part of the yearly increases and enhancements until year six when the funding will become static. This grant money was not affected by the 20% State cut.

The proposed year three budget includes a new part time position and a salary modification. Resolutions would need to be brought forward to create the proposed position and to fund any salary increases.

A discussion took place regarding the timing of an item in the proposed budget providing a \$5000 increase to the Asst. Public Defender's salary. The increase would make this salary comparable to other counties. This proposed increase was discussed last spring, but since that time the Legislature stated that there would be no increases for CSEA and non-union employees in 2021.

Attorney Awad stated that Mr. Cline has over 30 years' experience and he is being paid far less than a new employee in the District Attorney's office with less than one year experience.

Legislator Monell stated that because the Legislator put a hold on any salary increases in 2021, they can't now go back on that and agree to allow this increase. Personnel Officer Bethany O'Rourke reiterated this in answer to a question from Legislator Monell. She

stated that after the 2021 budgets were adopted, the decision was made by the Legislature that no increases would be given for CSEA and non-union employees.

Legislator Mullen stated that although he doesn't question the merit of the raise, because they decided on no increases, it would be hard to allow this. He stated that it could be addressed at the end of this year for 2022. Legislator Sullivan stated she was fine with the increase going forward since it was covered by State funds, but could go either way with it. Legislator Standinger stated he didn't have a problem with the increase because it is funded by the State. Legislator Sauerbrey stated that even though the increase is funded by the State, the Legislature had decided there would be no increases in salaries, and she can't go back on that and agree to the increase. Legislator Roberts agreed, stating that they need to follow through on what they said. Legislator Weston also agreed stating it would cause problems saying one thing and then doing another.

Legislator Monell asked for a show of hands of those who were not in favor of giving the increase at this time. Seven of the nine Legislators were not in favor of the increase. Attorney DeWind indicated that the item would likely remain in the budget and the issue revisited next year.

Redistricting: Attorney DeWind reported that they will start work on redistricting in a couple of months. He doesn't anticipate any changes. This is done every ten years after the census is completed.

730 Evaluations (Mental Health commitments): Attorney DeWind stated that this is very costly for the County with the County responsible for 100% of the cost. The County really has no control over the process as it is written in the Criminal Procedure Law. Mental Health Director Lori Morgan would like periodic reviews conducted of these commitments so the County knows the status.

Legislator Mullen asked whether a reserve account could be set up to cover this cost. Currently the cost is \$33,000 per month for one person and they have the potential for three more people. Treasurer McFadden stated that it's possible to establish a reserve depending on whether it's a major expenditure. He stated the thing to do may be to look at the Mental Health budget line for this and put money in there to cover this expense knowing that it may or may not be used. Legislator Sullivan agreed that they need to fund Mental Health with more money to cover this expense and they'll revisit this issue at budget time.

MUNIS Contract training: Attorney DeWind reported that the Law Dept. will be holding MUNIS contract management trainings on June 16 and June 22. Diane Stephens put together a presentation for this. The plan is to have the session recorded so that it can be viewed by others in the future.

- **Executive:** None

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.