



FINANCE, LEGAL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 11, 2022

10:30am

ATTENDANCE:

Legislators: Chair Sauerbrey, Standinger, Roberts, Mullen, Ciotoli, Monell, Brown, and Weston

STAFF: Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, Treasurer McFadden, Chief Accountant Jerzak, Personnel Officer Parke

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Legislator Monell asked for a motion to approve the September 13, 2022 minutes. Legislator Mullen made the motion, seconded by Legislator Brown and was unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL: Legal and Safety's budgets are tracking well however some of the budget lines for Legal and Safety have had money transferred between objects to cover unanticipated expenses.

OLD BUSINESS:

Litigation: An audit letter detailing pending or threatened litigation, claims and assessments and unasserted claims and assessments has been submitted Insero & Co., and a current litigation involving a former employee has a motion to dismiss and should go to the Judge in November.

We are working toward resolving a conflict from the In Rem which should be concluded soon due to court deadlines. The plan is to reopen a default judgement which will open leaving the liens intact. This is the same procedure we are hoping to use in the future for redemptions after the County takes title. A redemption policy will be created and submitted to the Legislators spring of 2023 and will include that the individual must pay all owed taxes not just the current year taxes. Legislator Mullen sated he would like the redemption policy to include language limiting redemptions to onetime only per individual.

Office of the County Attorney

Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building 56 Main Street Owego, NY 13827

Peter J. DeWind County Attorney ☎ 607 687 8253 📠 607 223 7003 🌐 www.TiogaCountyNY.com



NEW BUSINESS:

ILS/New Office Space: County Attorney DeWind, ILS Coordinator Graven and Broome County Administrator Eric Gartenman toured 178 Main Street as a possible site for ILS. Broome County ILS is interested in a joint partnership with Tioga County ILS and has agreed to split expenses equally. Right now ILS is meeting with clients at the Court House common room and Dunkin Donuts. This property would provide a professional space for ILS to conduct business and meet with clients in a private setting.

Department of Public Works Commissioner Hammond has toured the space to build out however DPW does not have time or manpower to fully renovate the space but perhaps would be able to assist with minor repairs. DPW would need a charge back for snow removal, mowing and minor repair expenses. The County has the option to purchase this property however it would be more cost effective to lease. ILS is anticipating a move in date of spring 2023 if Legislators approve the ILS budget to be submitted next month. This property, including renovations and equipment, will be paid entirely from grant funds at a zero based cost to the County.

Taxes: Local law 79 allows for the payment of demolition costs/taxes to villages and towns. Sub-municipal (towns) decide what a tax is however this does not apply to villages. Many New York counties have built their local law to limit demo costs however this is not legal. Tioga County could withdraw the local law or do a private contractual arrangement with villages to reimburse up to a certain amount contingent on open discussions between the County and village regarding the condition of the property and anticipated cost of demolition. County Attorney DeWind will draw up a letter to the villages requesting to discuss capping demolition costs for Chair Sauerbrey to sign.

Safety Trainings and Investigations: Information Technology and Communication Services has installed fobs on the exterior doors of the Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building (56 Main Street) and is moving forward with security updates. Workplace violence investigations have decreased and the quarterly Loss Control meeting was just completed. Safety Officer Thorpe is working with departments to address situational awareness to deter future incidents

2022 Insurance Renewal: Legal is currently working on the renewal policy for the County's 2022-2023 insurance. Cyber insurance continues to be an issue however Information Technology and Communication Services is working on Multi-Factor Authentication which should be cost beneficial. Flood insurance premiums have arrived and some of the buildings had premium decreases due to FEMA assumptions however some of the buildings have had slight increases.

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Projects and Policies: Legal and Safety are currently working on updating the Title VI policy.

ADA Building Compliance: Safety Officer Thorpe is currently working to ensure all County buildings are ADA compliant.

PERSONNEL:

N/A

RESOLUTIONS: AUTHORIZE THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF PROPERTIES FROM TIOGA COUNTY TO THE TIOGA COUNTY PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; this resolution was moved into full Legislative session without further questions.

PROCLAMATIONS:

N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Legislator Monell asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a possible litigation matter. Legislator Mullen made the motion and was seconded by Legislator Ciotoli at 11:41am. Legislator Mullen made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Legislator Brown at 11:51am. Chair Sauerbrey, Legislators: Ciotoli, Roberts, Standinger, Weston, Mullen, Brown, and Monell and County Attorney DeWind and Legislative Clerk Haskell were in attendance with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Legislator Monell adjourned the meeting at 11:52am.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Freyvogel

Secretary to the County Attorney