

## LEGAL/SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – July 13, 2021

PRESENT: Legislators Sauerbrey, Balliet, Standinger, Hollenbeck, Mullen, Roberts and Sullivan, County Attorney Peter DeWind, Treasurer Jim McFadden, Stephanie Jerzak

ABSENT: Legislator Monell

Meeting convened at 10:30 a.m.

**Minutes** - On motion of Legislator Standinger, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck and unanimously carried the minutes from the June 2021 meeting were approved.

**YTD budget** - Financials are tracking well for both Legal and Safety.

### New Business:

- **FOIL Officer** Presented Resolution naming Kevin Humes as Tioga County FOIL officer. This position handles all FOIL requests besides those which come in directly to the Tioga County Sheriff's Office which has its own FOIL officer.
- **Boards and Meetings** One vacancy on the Board of Ethics. Held MUNIS training session for the Contract Module and recorded a presentation for staff to watch in the future on the Intranet.
- **Litigation** Brief discussion on status of the opioid litigation. Settlement has been announced between the State of NY and four parties including Johnson and Johnson and some end distributors. A Lock Box bill was signed by Governor Cuomo on June 29 which limits the application of settlement funds to addressing opioid issues. The suit which Tioga joined is still proceeding. Expecting more detail on the settlement and the payouts which will depend on how many Plaintiffs sign on to the deal.
- **Staffing Coverage** Legal is short a key position with the County Attorney's secretary retiring. Duties which this position handled are being covered internally for the time being. Some of those duties could be given to other positions which are a more natural fit such as putting risk and claims matters with the Safety Officer. County Attorney will ask to consider making the position full time for future years with some additional duties and some enhanced including potentially some code enforcement back up.
- **Code Enforcement** Tioga does not have centralized code enforcement. There is a Tioga County Code Officer through DPW. Should any Towns or Villages decide to opt out of doing their own code enforcement by local law the responsibility would fall to the next higher entity e.g. Village turns enforcement over to the Town and the Town turns it over to the County. Tioga does not currently have the capacity to provide code enforcement to municipalities should this occur. As the County does its own code enforcement it may not be able to opt out of providing the service to municipalities without ending its own code enforcement and turning it over to the State Office of Direct Enforcement.