

## **LAW & LEGAL**

### **December 12, 2022**

The Law & Legal Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, Courtroom 201. Committee Members present included Committee Chair Joe Erlandson, Vice Chair Ken Durkin, Eric Chapman, Michael Kirby, Terra Litchfield, Letha Clark and Eric Blakeley. Committee Member Travis Hiel was absent. Other persons in attendance were Patrick Stout, Dave Schaab, Chief Deputy Adam Cremer, Public Defender Stephanie Hilton, Judge Heidi Benson, County Chair Scott Schwerer, and Committee Secretary Stacey Alexander.

Chair Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Review & Approve November 7, 2022 Minutes**

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Litchfield to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

#### **Waste Management Update**

Dave Schaab gave the report.

#### **Tri-County Recycling**

No report.

#### **Veteran's Assistance and Van Report**

Report received and filed. Ten Veterans were given assistance in November. Total assistance amounted to \$2,526.57.

#### **Sheriff's Report**

Chief Deputy Adam Cremer gave the report.

#### **Assessor's Office Update**

Report received and filed.

#### **CO2 Pipeline Discussion**

Chair Erlandson updated the Committee that the Motion to Dismiss was filed by a Fulton County Land Owner. County Chair Schwerer let the Committee know that that the ICC website is open to the Public. Vice Chair Durkin asked if there was any information on when the Judge would make rules on filing Moratoriums. Chair Erlandson stated that he has not seen anything on this.

### **Assistant Public Defender**

Judge Heidi Benson and Public Defender Stephanie Hilton informed the Committee that one of the Assistant Public Defenders was leaving the office. Public Defender Hilton has advertised for the position and did not have any applicants. Hilton also informed the Committee that the Attorney who had been handling Sexual Offenses for the County has chosen to exit the current contract. Hilton and Benson proposed to the Committee that budgeted funds for the Assistant Public Defender opening be used to contract with an outside law firm to help take appointed cases for the Public Defender's Office. Judge Benson also informed the Committee that she does a lot of Grant writing for our Court System.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Durkin with a second by Member Clark to allow Judge Benson to Contract with an Attorney's firm for appointed Public Defender's cases and to stay within budgeted fund. Motion carried on a voice vote.

### **Claims Review and Approval**

Member Chapman moved with a second by Member Clark to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

### **Other**

None.

### **Executive Session**

None

### **Public Comment**

Bill Jacobs who lives across from the area where the proposed CO2 Pipeline would go, spoke about the ICC website and thanked the County Board and Committee for standing up for the residents of McDonough County, Steve Hess also thanked them. Hess also informed the Committee that none of the McDonough County land owners along the proposed CO2 Pipeline have signed any contracts. Hess would like to see the County do an Ordinance for CO2 Pipelines.

### **County Board Chair Comments**

County Chair Schwerer informed the Committee that the Courthouse Christmas Party is Friday, December 16, 2022 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. He also stated that Judge Benson is really good about applying for Grants for our Court System.

### **Adjourn**

Member Litchfield moved with a second by Member Chapman to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.