

Legislative Committee

June 5, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Attendees

Committee: Allen Hinkley, Art Merrill, Lisa Driscoll, Eric Wilson, Timothy Kelso, Tina Molé
Staff: Haley Gransbury, Judith Garrison, Maria Kelso, Joe Ermeti, Schuylar Kinneman,
Penny Bishop

Mr. Hinkley called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Assistant District Attorney Schuylar Kinneman said the DA's Office is seeking approval to change the position of Chief Assistant District Attorney from provisional full time to permanent full time. The Chief AD has taken over all the grand jury presentments giving the DA and himself the stability to manage the County Court caseload more efficiently. The DA's office is also requesting that one of the three part-time ADA positions be upgraded to full-time status. In addition, Mr. Kinneman stated that their current secretary position entails duties that are more of a paralegal, and they are seeking to upgrade the classification of that position to reflect those duties.

Ms. Molé added that these upgrades are being requested for 2025, as the requests are just the beginning of the budget process. The requests must be approved by committee before they are given to Personnel for consideration for next year's budget.

Mr. Kinneman spoke about a traffic diversion program that their office is contemplating putting into effect for the entire County. Advent Corporation, which operates out of Kentucky offers an online platform which is currently being used by 20 counties across the state. As Advent has a proven track record in New York, his office would like to have a representative address the committee and give a presentation about the program. Mr. Kinneman stated he has spoken with ADAs in other counties who have said the program has been successful for them. In reply to Mr. Hinkley, Mr. Kinneman explained that currently when a driver gets a traffic ticket in Delaware County, the driver needs to go to a town or village justice. Basically, the driver must put in writing to the DA's office a request for a plea reduction, dismissal or to explain the incident. One of the ADAs reviews all the requests and must mail out responses. Common responses are to have the driver take a class, plea to a lesser charge, or appear in court. The traffic diversion program provides an online alternative for many eligible traffic ticket holders which would help clear up a backlog of cases at their office. Mr. Ermeti shared there would be a big financial benefit to the County with this program. Mr. Kinneman said the County would work with Advent to set the fee schedule. In reply to Mr. Merrill, he stated that currently, towns and villages receive a very small fee for traffic violations compared to the lion's share that goes to the state. Local courts will be considered when fees are established under the diversion program.

Mr. Merrill made a motion to approve all three position upgrades which are to make the Chief ADA position permanent full time, change one part-time ADA position to full time, and reclassify the secretary position to paralegal. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Driscoll and unanimously carried.

Deputy County Clerk Haley Gransbury stated they are looking to hire a clerk to work in the Deposit DMV. She said they received approval from the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to destroy criminal

and civil records that have been digitized and are now available online. Their goal is to digitize all records to make them available online. This also frees up a lot of workspace in their office.

Elections Commissioner Maria Kelso reported they just finished up the school elections. They are finalizing the mail check. They scheduled and mailed notices for their election inspector school. They are gearing up for the June primaries which is only for Democrats in some of the towns. Ms. Garrison shared there was some switching because of redistricting. Ms. Kelso noted they are getting budget quotes to help prepare for budget season. She also indicated they have received some Independent petitions.

Mrs. Bishop distributed Medical Examiner reports for 2023 and 2024 to date. In reply to Mr. Hinkley, she stated there are currently three deputy medical examiners. The County Attorney is working on an agreement with the Broome County Coroner's Office to provide Medical Examiner oversight until we hire a Medical Examiner. She presented the committee with an authorization to fill vacancy for the receptionist position.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Driscoll, the draft minutes of the May 8 committee meetings were unanimously approved.

Mr. Hinkley stated Advent Corporation would present at the August 7 committee meeting.

Upon a motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Legislative Committee
July 3, 2024
11:00 a.m.

Cancelled.