

LEGAL COMMITTEE

April 16, 2008

**PRESENT:**

Doug McGivney - Chairman  
Elizabeth Young  
James Keegan  
Tom Dias  
William Hughes  
Reginald Crowley

**ABSENT:**

Lawrence Andrews-notified  
John Musall-notified

**PRESS:**

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**ALSO PRESENT:**

Melissa Noblin-Deputy  
Arlene Levinson  
Sheriff Harrison  
Michael Cozzolino  
Dan Kibler  
Dan Tuczinski

Chairman McGivney called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**SHERIFF - David Harrison:**

Resolution Request authorizing the utilization of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Columbia County Sheriff's Department and any Law Enforcement Agency necessary, during mutual aid incidents. Motion to approve made by E. Young and seconded by W. Hughes, motion carried.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Michael Cozzolino**

Resolution request to fill vacant, budgeted positions of one (1) full-time Assistant District Attorney, at an annual salary of \$61,950 and waiving six month waiting period for health benefits, one (1) part-time Assistant District Attorney at an annual salary of \$46,000, one (1) full-time Clerk Typist at an annual salary of \$27,823 and one (1) part-time Community Liaison at an annual salary of \$36,171. Motion to approve and move to Finance made by T. Dias and seconded by J. Keegan, motion carried.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER - Arlene Levinson:**

Various items were addressed, i.e. monthly report, criminal law books and A. Levinson gave a brief report on the CLE Seminar recently attended.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding Drug Court and it was requested that A. Levinson present additional information and a comparison of pre and post plea sentencing statistics at the next Legal Committee meeting.

Chairman McGivney requested caseloads statistics from the District Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office, for presentation next month.

Chairman McGivney addressed a conference recently attended by G. Keeler-Alternate Conflict Defender, who had not received Committee approval, due to not being aware of policy. He then requested a motion to approve same and also to approve Ira Halifond's attendance. Motion to approve made by E. Young and seconded by W. Hughes, motion carried. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of quarterly reports and attendance of Alternate Conflict Defenders. Chairman McGivney stated that he would request same for the May Legal Committee meeting.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY – Dan Tuczinski:**

Sub-Committee to address interview of potential Assistant County Attorney was discussed and members would be D. McGivney and J. Keegan.

Sub-Committee to address procurement policy was discussed and members would be D. McGivney, J. Keegan and W. Hughes.

Professional Services contracts were briefly addressed and Chairman McGivney stated that he would prefer to address at the May Meeting.

**PROBATION – Mike Benvenuto:**

Annual Report was distributed report was tabled, for review, and readdress at the May Legal Committee Meeting.

Deputy Chairman Williams addressed the Committee and stated that Department Heads had received a request from the Chairman of the Board for their projected Long Term Goals and updated Organizational Charts and a list of vacant positions. He further stated that Probation, County Attorney and District Attorney have not yet complied with said request and he urged them to do so.

Motion to adjourn at 11:17 p.m., made by T. Dias and seconded by W. Hughes, motion carried.

**Legal Committee**

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**Doug McGivney-Chairperson**

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**James Keegan**

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**Lawrence Andrews**

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**Reginald Crowley**

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**Thomas Dias**

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**William Hughes**

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**John Musall**

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**Elizabeth Young**