



MINUTES

AD HOC LEGAL SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE

Monday, December 15, 2025

3:45 PM

Village Hall – 21 East Church Street, Lake Orion, MI 48362

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

1. Call to Order

The December 15, 2025, Ad Hoc Legal Services Review Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:45 PM by Village Manager McClary.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

PRESENT

Council Member Alex Comparoni Jr

Council Member George Dandalides (arrived at 3:49 PM)

Council Member Eric Papacek

Village Manager Darwin McClary

Police Chief Mark Amundson

STAFF PRESENT

Clerk/Treasurer Sonja Stout

3. Minute Approval

A. Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2025 Meeting of the Legal Services Review Committee

MOTION made by Comparoni Jr, Seconded by Chief Amundson, to approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2025 Ad Hoc Legal Services Review Committee Meeting, as presented.

VOTING YEA: Comparoni Jr, Papacek, McClary, Amundson

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Dandalides

MOTION: Carried

4. Call to the Public

None.

5. Other Items

Before the interviews commenced, the Committee reviewed the interview procedure and confirmed it would follow the same process used in prior interviews. The Committee agreed that Village Manager McClary would begin each interview by outlining the process. He would ask all questions, and there would be no back-and-forth questioning. No additional procedural concerns were raised.

The Ad Hoc Legal Services Review Committee prepared fourteen interview questions, which were used consistently for all firms.

Council Member Dandalides arrived at 3:49 PM.

A. Beier Howlett 4:00 PM

At 4:03 PM, the Ad Hoc Legal Services Review Committee began the interview with Beier Howlett.

The interview ended at 4:52 PM.

The Committee expressed strong overall approval of the Beier Howlett interview. Committee members noted that the Village's existing relationship with Beier Howlett would be a strong benchmark compared to other firms, and that the firm's familiarity with the Village's current issues could help offset costs.

Police Chief Amundson stated that the firm is proactive in nature and demonstrates strong ethics. He also described the firm's pre-trial process and noted that Beier Howlett implemented a new cost recovery process within the past year, which resulted in increased revenue.

Other Committee members commented that the firm's experience and institutional knowledge could result in lower costs over the long term.

The Ad Hoc Legal Services Review Committee recessed at 5:18 p.m. and reconvened at 5:50 p.m.

B. Sherman & Sherman 6:00 PM

At 5:51 PM, the Ad Hoc Legal Services Review Committee began the interview with Sherman & Sherman.

The interview ended at 7:24 PM.

The Committee stated that Sherman, & Sherman demonstrated strong communication from all members of the firm and noted their extensive experience. However, the Committee also observed that the firm's experience did not fully align with the specific needs of the Village. The firm provided numerous examples of its work and discussed its prosecution experience.

C. Recommendation on Selection of Legal Services Firm

MOTION made by Council Member Comparoni, Jr, Seconded by Chief Amundson to recommend to the Village Council that the law firm of Beier Howlett of Troy, Michigan, be selected to provide general, prosecution, litigation, and other legal services for the Village of Lake Orion subject to the Committee's negotiation of an acceptable services contract with the firm and subsequent approval of the contract by the Village Council.

VOTING YEA: Comparoni Jr,
VOTING NAY: Dandalides, Papacek, McClary, Amundson
ABSENT: None
MOTION: Failed

Chief Amundson stated that the decision would likely come down to Beier Howlett and Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton. He noted that he was initially not in favor of a change; however, after hearing the interview with Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, he was impressed by the firm's willingness to negotiate pricing, including offering the first fifteen minutes at no charge. He did express some concern regarding the time needed to bring the firm up to speed but stated that the interview was compelling.

The Committee expressed concern about the potential loss of institutional knowledge and the benefit of the current firm's familiarity with Village issues through Beier Howlett. However, the Committee agreed that Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton conducted a very strong interview.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Papacek to recommend to the Village Council that the law firm of Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton of Troy, Michigan, be selected to provide general, prosecution, litigation, and other legal services for the Village of Lake Orion subject to the Committee's negotiation of an acceptable services contract with the firm and subsequent approval of the contract by the Village Council.

VOTING YEA: Dandalides, Papacek, McClary, Amundson
VOTING NAY: Comparoni Jr
ABSENT: None
MOTION: Carried

Chief Amundson stated that this decision was difficult due to the Village's established relationship with the current firm, Beier Howlett.

6. Adjournment

MOTION made by Chief Amundson, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to adjourn the December 15, 2025, Ad Hoc Legal Services Review Committee Meeting.

VOTING YEA: Comparoni Jr, Dandalides, Papacek, McClary, Amundson
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION: Carried

The December 15, 2025, Ad Hoc Legal Services Review Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Darwin McClary
Chairperson

Sonja Stout
Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: