


**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**

DATE: October 22, 2014

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Paul Bargren, Corporation Counsel 

SUBJECT: Additional Contract Amendment for Legalpeople

It is requested that this contract amendment be referred to the Committee on Finance, Personnel and Audit for passive review. This contract was originally for \$85,000 and was amended to \$99,000 effective August 18, 2014 under departmental authority. It was amended under passive review to \$160,000 in the September meeting cycle. Approximately \$129,000 has been incurred to date. The \$160,000 now authorized will allow work to continue until about November 7, 2014, but additional work will be needed to complete the project described in more detail below. Therefore, at my request, pursuant to §59.52(31)(b)(1), Stats., the County Executive has signed and forwarded an amendment to this contract on October 21, 2014, authorizing an additional sum of \$40,000, for a total contract sum of \$200,000. I expect this to be far in excess of the amount needed to complete the work, and only the amount needed will be spent. However, it is important to pursue the work until finished, rather than stop and wait for additional funding if the work proved more time consuming than expected. The total amount of \$200,000 would allow the work to continue until the December 11, 2014 Finance meeting, if that proved necessary, to avoid any delay due to lack of funding. This contract amendment will take effect unless the Finance Committee takes action to reject or affirm the contract within 14 days of this memo.

On June 7th, 2014 Reserve Judge Neal Nettesheim finalized his order on what are known as the John Doe documents. He directed the District Attorney's Office to return to the County the documents and data it had seized from Milwaukee County employees and computers. The materials had been seized from employees in the office of, or reporting to, former County Executive Walker. Milwaukee County worked closely with the District Attorney's Office in the transfer 500 GB of information. The judge's order further directed Milwaukee County to review the John Doe material to determine the extent to which it may be disclosed under the Wisconsin Public Records law.

County Executive Abele had been brought into Judge Nettesheim's proceedings as the successor custodian of the public records. At County Executive Abele's request, my Office has been handling the public records review. The first materials were received from the District Attorney's office on June 23, 2014, although additional materials have followed. To assist in the review, I hired Legalpeople, an outside legal agency that specializes in large document reviews. With the help of County attorneys and IT staff, four Legalpeople attorneys began working full time on June 30 formatting, sorting, processing and then going through the huge volume of material to delete non-public material like social security

numbers, private employee information, personal medical information and attorney-client communication. On September 2, they were joined by two additional LegalPeople attorneys. The six attorneys have continued working full time on the project, although one attorney is departing October 22 and work will then continue with five attorneys.

The initial 14 gigabytes of material was made available to public records requesters on August 8, 2014. The released information includes primarily "network documents" (word documents, pdfs, spreadsheets, etc.) and "work station data" (other documents saved on individual's computer desktops, like pictures, word documents, etc) from County computers that were originally seized as part of the investigation. The second release, including 7 gigabytes of similar material, was made on September 11, 2014. The third release was made October 21, 2014, and included about 16,000 emails and attachments. One of the purposes of the review is to exclude, consistent with the open records law, material that is purely personal, especially when that material is found in personal email accounts.

Because of the unusual nature of this project, it has been difficult to estimate the time and resources needed.

The funds will be allocated from the 2014 Litigation Reserve Account, Org. Unit 1961.

cc: Kelly Bablitch
Raisa Koltun
Janelle Jensen
Alexis Gassenhuber
Steve Cady