

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: September 16, 2015
 TIME: 1 p.m.
 PLACE: Room 115, Wood County Courthouse
 TIME ADJOURNED: 2:20 p.m.
 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Clendenning, Gerald Nelson, Ed Wagner, Bill Leichtnam, Joseph Zurfluh
 OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Kastenholz, Dennis Polach, Lance Pliml, Brent Vruwink, Chris Hanten, Jonathan Anderson

At 1 p.m., Chairman Clendenning called the meeting to order.

1. Public comments. None.
2. Moved by Nelson, seconded by Zurfluh, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 18, and 19, 2015, Committee meetings. All ayes.

3. The Committee reviewed department reports and monthly voucher reports:

Moved by Nelson, seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the reports and payment of vouchers of Branch I, II, and III, Child Support, Clerk of Courts, Register of Deeds, Family Court Commissioner, Corporation Counsel, District Attorney, and Victim/Witness. All ayes.

Vruwink updated the Committee on the status of reclassifications within the Child Support department. The Committee expressed concern over having reclassifications performed by Carlson/Dettman or any other outside entity, which is the current policy. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Zurfluh, that the policy on position reclassifications be modified such that the reviews can be done in-house. All ayes.

Committee approved the draft memorandum "Authority of Indian Tribes" for submittal to the county board.

4. The Committee reviewed correspondence, Chair's report, and legislative issues.

Draft resolution to support implementation of the ABLE Act was shared with the Committee and will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. County board agenda items. A brief discussion was had on the votes at the recent county board meeting.

6. Reviewed resolution to amend the Public Records Law to define "employee." Moved by Wagner, seconded by Leichtnam, to support the resolution and to submit it to the county board. 4 Ayes. Nelson opposed as he wants more transparency for public employees.

7. Biron debt to Wood County. Nothing new to report.

8. Centralized accounting. The accounting group has been meeting and working on a policy and it will likely be finalized after the budgets are completed.
9. Space needs. Branch I remodeling will be proceeding.
10. Groundwater ordinance. The Committee will be continuing to watch this issue.
11. Co-sponsoring resolutions with Health & Human Services Committee. Chris Hanten of Human Services explained a legislative bill that would add penalty enhancers to persons involved in causing harm to social workers just like exists for law enforcement and fire fighters when the assault takes place during the scope of employment. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Nelson, to co-sponsor a resolution supporting the legislation. All ayes.

Zurfluh would like to buttress the protection by providing the same protection for off-duty social workers resulting from retribution for on-duty activities by the social worker. The Committee determined to refer this suggestion on to the Health & Human Services Committee.

12. Brief discussion on 2016 budgets.
13. Drug court seminar at Hotel Mead October 14-16. One of the committee members plans to attend.
14. County board rules. Held over until next month.
15. There were three notices of injury/claim filed with the County. The notices of injury/claims of Daniel Damrow, Diane Knuth, Chester Schultz were reviewed and will be submitted to the county board.
16. There were no new animal claims against the County.
17. The next committee meeting will be October 21, 2015, at 1 p.m.
18. Agenda items for the October 21, 2015, meeting:
 - Register of Deeds to discuss property fraud alerts.
 - County board rules.
 - Discuss implementation of the ABLE Act (SSI updates).
 - Update on law with respect to treating 17 year olds as minors vs. adults.
19. Moved by Nelson, seconded by Leichtnam, to adjourn. All ayes.
Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Minutes taken by Peter Kastenholz and approved by Ed Wagner.

Ed Wagner
Ed Wagner, Secretary (signed electronically)