

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: June 2, 2015
 TIME: 1 p.m.
 PLACE: Room 114, Wood County Courthouse
 TIME ADJOURNED: 3:22 p.m.
 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Clendenning, Gerald Nelson, Ed Wagner, Bill Leichtnam, Joseph Zurfluh
 OTHERS PRESENT: See attached list.

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

1. Public comments were made at the time individual agenda items were discussed.
2. Moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Wagner, to modify the minutes from last month to reflect \$1,600 for Child Support chairs, not \$1,575. All ayes. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2015, Committee meeting as amended. All ayes.
3. Veteran's court. Judge Wolf explained that the circuit courts in Wood County are looking to make referrals to the La Crosse County Veterans' court those persons eligible for that program with mentoring and services provided here in Wood County. Wood County would not have the volume of veterans that justify establishing our own court. The veteran mentors are volunteers. District Attorney Lambert has been working with Judge Wolf to establish the program. There are no anticipated costs. The committee strongly supports the veterans' court proposal.
4. Executive Committee membership. Supervisor Zurfluh sees a need for all of the standing (main) committee chairs to be on the Executive Committee with the county board chairman and vice chairman, the latter serving as the Executive Committee chair. Supervisor Nelson agreed. Supervisor Clendenning supports a full election of the Executive Committee. Chairman Pliml said he intends upon calling a meeting of the committee chairs to discuss and review the committee structures.
5. After a discussion on what core competencies are and the work that has been done in determining them, it was moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Wagner, to end discussion on this topic. 4 ayes, 1 nay. Clendenning voted no.
6. The Committee reviewed department reports and monthly voucher reports:
Moved by Leichtnam, seconded by Wagner, to approve the reports and payment of vouchers of Branch I and III, Child Support, Clerk of Courts, Register of Deeds, Corporation Counsel, and Victim/Witness. All ayes.

7. Resolutions were reviewed on drafting a groundwater protection ordinance and on creating a centralized accounting system.

After much discussion on groundwater, it was moved by Leichtnam, seconded by Zurfluh, to amend the draft resolution so as to add a representative of the Judicial & Legislative Committee to the work group. All ayes.

Moved by Leichtnam, seconded by, Zurfluh, to approve the resolution to direct the corporation counsel to work with county staff and a committee member to develop a draft groundwater protection ordinance for Wood County. 4 ayes, 1 nay. Wagner does not support the proposal.

A draft resolution on centralized accounting was discussed. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Zurfluh to strike the third whereas provision as to there being past disagreements between the Finance Director and account managers. Much discussion had. 4 ayes, 1 nay. Clendenning voted no.

Representatives of the departments of Human Services, Highway, and Edgewater Haven Nursing Home spoke against the resolution. Mike Martin agrees with both sides of the debate. He wants accurate and timely record keeping and authority but how we get there is up to the others to decide.

Moved by Wagner, seconded by Zurfluh, to amend the resolution to provide that the department account managers shall be responsible directly to the Director of Finance for enforcement of all accounting standards, policies, and procedures and that the Finance Director shall approve all hirings of the persons within the accounting department. All ayes. Consensus of the Committee to bring this back next month.

8. The Committee reviewed correspondence, Chair's report, and legislative issues.
9. No action taken at this time on the county board rules handbook.
10. There were no new notices of injury/claim filed with the County.
11. There were no new animal claims against the County.
12. The next committee meeting will be June 16, 2015, at 9 a.m., and the next regular meeting will be July 22, 2015, at 1 p.m.

13. Agenda items for the July 22, 2015, meeting:
 - Centralized accounting draft resolution.
14. Moved by Nelson, seconded by Zurfluh, to adjourn. All ayes.
Meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Minutes taken by Peter Kastenholz and approved by Ed Wagner.

Ed Wagner
Ed Wagner, Secretary (signed electronically)