

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: October 22, 2014
 TIME: 1 p.m.
 PLACE: Room 115, Wood County Courthouse
 TIME ADJOURNED: 3 p.m.
 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Clendenning, Ed Wagner, Bill Leichtnam, Joseph Zurfluh
 MEMBERS EXCUSED: Gerald Nelson
 OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Kastenholz, Lisa Downs, Bruce Dimick, Dennis Polach, Brent Vruwink, Lance Pliml, Mike Martin

At 1:03 p.m., Chairman Clendenning called the meeting to order.

1. Public comments. None.
2. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014, Committee meeting. All ayes.

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

Brief discussion on: Further clarification being needed from Register of Deeds on an increase in copy fees, and a witness fee line item overage in the District Attorney's budget, which the Finance Department has been made aware of.

Brent Vruwink spoke about the Child Support 2015 budget inaccuracies due to improper information being provided to the department on indirect costs and an increase in the tax levy of \$26,523 would be needed to cover it. Moved by Wagner, Seconded by Leichtnam, to amend the Child Support 2015 budget to cover the indirect costs shortfall. All ayes.

Finance Director Mike Martin was called in and discussed the processes involved in modifying the 2015 budget. The Committee felt that the shortfall was not large enough to need to address at this time, but requested the Child Support Director continue to monitor it and keep them apprised. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Leichtnam, to rescind the immediate past motion. All ayes.

Moved by Leichtnam, seconded by Zurfluh, 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.

4. The Committee reviewed correspondence and legislative issues and referrals. The Chair encouraged the departments to bring legislative matters to the Committee's attention to assist in accomplishing the departments' goals.

5. Abstaining on voting. Discussion had on the abstention process which is set forth in county board rule 13 E. The Committee made clear that not having a preference on a motion is not a reason to abstain but that an elected official cannot be forced to vote on a matter.
6. Terms of office of county board supervisors was discussed. Pliml explained the WCA has tried to educate county supervisors that they could via self-organization set the term of office at four years instead of two years and to stagger the terms. The Committee is open to supervisors' comments on the topic.
7. County board rules - appointment of committee chairs. County Board Chair Pliml explained how things are done, how in the past we have had some elected committees that selected their own chair, but Wood County being a self-organized county can establish the methodology it wants for designating committee chairs. The Committee did not indicate a desire to change the current practice of the county board chair appointing committee chairs.
8. Committee membership - having non-elected members on committees. Kastenholz explained how various statutes mandate citizen membership on certain committees. Pliml explained how the county board needs to approve all budgets which limits the potential for any abuses by non-elected officials on committees.
9. Performance evaluations to be done by the committees. The Committee expressed interest in learning more about the evaluation process. Committee members were encouraged to contact Human Resources Director Janowski to utilize her expertise on the topic.
10. Discussion on continued county participation in the fair. Wagner wondered if it is worthwhile to continue the Fair Commission in its current form with its level of authority. Pliml explained the need to keep the fair going and has had communications with the mayor of Marshfield on problems associated with the fair. **Moved by Leichtnam, seconded by Zurfluh, to refer discussion of the level of the County's participation in the fair to the Executive Committee. All ayes.**
11. There were no new notices of injury/claim filed with the County.
12. There were no new animal claims against the County.
13. The next committee meeting will be November 19, 2014, at 1 p.m.
14. Agenda items for the November 19, 2014, meeting:
 - General review of County Board Supervisors' Handbook.
 - Performance Evaluations of non-elected department heads.

15. Moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Wagner, to adjourn. All ayes.
Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Minutes taken by Peter Kastenholz and approved by Ed Wagner.

Ed Wager
Ed Wagner, Secretary