

## MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: April 15, 2015  
 TIME: 1 p.m.  
 PLACE: Room 115, Wood County Courthouse  
 TIME ADJOURNED: 3:25 p.m.  
 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Clendenning, Gerald Nelson, Ed Wagner, Bill Leichtnam, Joseph Zurfluh  
 OTHERS PRESENT: Cindy Cepress, Mike Martin, Dennis Polach, Peter Hendler, Connie Janowski, and Peter Kastenholz

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

1. Public comments. None.
2. Establishment of a central accounting office. At the committee's request Finance Director Mike Martin explained how all departmental accountants and financial staff throughout the county deal with the same general ledger but that there have been differences in how receivables are being reported. As a result of these differences the Wipfli accounting firm has been retained to reconcile the receivables and related accounts and conduct an assessment of the Human Services fiscal division operation and develop recommendations on how to proceed. Wipfli's report is expected later this month and will be delivered to a joint meeting of the Health and Human Services and Executive Committees. There is consideration being given to having the accountants from the Human Services Department, Highway Department, and Edgewater Haven Nursing Home report directly to the county's finance director to assist in avoiding these accounting problems in the future. The plan would not have the three accountants or any of their support staff change their physical locations, instead who they report to in their position descriptions would be changed but the rest of their responsibilities to the departments they serve would remain the same. The committee chair was aware of these discussions and wanted the Judicial and Legislative Committee members to be updated as well.

Motion by Wagner and seconded by Leichtnam that this committee go on record as supporting having a centralized accounting office and would like to see a proposal along the lines set forth in the discussion above prepared. The committee will place the matter on the May agenda to back such a plan. All ayes.

3. County board supervisor compensation and county board rules were discussed:

Per diems of the county board supervisors for the next term of office were discussed. The county clerk pointed out that compensation doesn't seem to be an important factor to those expressing an interest in serving as a county board supervisor. It was recognized that it has been many years since the compensation of county board supervisors has been changed.

Motion by Zurfluh and seconded by Leichtnam that effective April 2016 the monthly salary for county board supervisors be set at \$150 and the per diem for monthly meetings irrespective of their length be set at \$50. All other aspects of the current compensation program would remain the same. 4 ayes; Nelson voted no as there were some objections to the entire plan as proposed.

Discussion of committee organizational chart. Concern was expressed that the responsibilities of the CEED, Executive, and Health and Human Services were greater than appropriate. Some thought realignments of existing committees was in order and others thought one or more new committees should be created. The committee expressed an understanding that the county board chair planned on meeting with the chairs of all the main committees to discuss the committee structure and improvements that could be made or tried and decided to await the results of such meeting before further consideration of restructuring. The discussion then turned to the level of authority exercised by the Executive Committee and the need for all committees to be represented on that committee. The concept was presented to change the membership of the Executive Committee effective April 2016 so as to consist of all chairs of the main standing committees as well as the county board chair and the first vice chair, who would serve as the chair of the Executive Committee. General consensus existed for this concept but no formal action will be taken at this time.

Discussion had on the meal allowances.

Motion by Zurfluh and seconded by Clendenning to modify the meal allowances for county board supervisors and all staff that effective the commencement of the next term of office, the maximum reimbursement under rule #16 shall be \$8 for breakfast, \$12 for lunch and \$18 for dinner, with all pre-existing limitations applying. 4 ayes; Nelson voted no out of concern for the budget.

Supervisor Zurfluh was excused from the rest of the meeting.

Discussion had with respect to Rule #28. The rule currently provides: "A majority vote of County Board members present is required to authorize the creation of any new positions in County employment."

Motion by Wagner and seconded by Clendenning to add to the rule: "The county board must approve by resolution (separate from the annual budget resolution) any change in pay grade to a position in County employment." All (4) ayes.

Other rules were briefly discussed and other than some scrivener's errors, no further changes are being recommended by the committee at this time.

4. Moved by Nelson, seconded by Wagner, to adjourn. All ayes.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Peter Kastenholz and approved by Ed Wagner.

Ed Wagner

Ed Wagner, Secretary (electronically signed)