

Approved 2/26/20
MINUTES
Ways and Means Committee
January 29, 2020
@ 2:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steven Rieker – Chairman; Jennifer Groves Allison, James Fennell, Phillip Salzer, Rachel Reliford (<i>via teleconference</i>), William Watkins, Jr., Sharon Williams
MEMBERS ABSENT:	
STAFF PRESENT:	Scott Sorrel - County Administrator; Shauna Musselman – Assistant County Administrator; Larry Evans - State's Attorney's Office; Andrew Rand – County Board Chairman; James Dillon – County Board Member; Randy Brunner –Chief Financial Officer; Julie Ciesla, Paul Letcher, Kimberly Hudson – Finance; Angela Loftus – Asst. Director of Human Resources; Jessica Thomas, Margie Kowalski – County Auditor; Rachael Parker, Mike Deluhery – County Clerk; Thomas Bride – Election Commission; Beth Crider – Regional Office of Education; Dave Ryan – Supervisor of Assessments; Nicole Bjerke, Kelly Van Middlesworth - Treasurer; Karen Raithel – Sustainability & Resource Conservation; Brian Asbell, Doug Gaa, Chris Watkins, James Middlemas – Sheriff's Office
OTHERS PRESENT:	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rieker at 2:00 p.m.

A motion to approve the participation of Ms. Reliford via teleconference was made by Mr. Rand and seconded by Mr. Fennell. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2019 was made by Mr. Salzer and seconded by Ms. Groves Allison. The motion carried unanimously.

Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program Update

Ms. Raithel advised that bid submittals for a Commercial PACE Program Administrator were due yesterday, with two bids being received. She noted that both vendors are Illinois based. She commented that the vendor will not only be the program administrator, but will also assist in creating and defining the program. She stated that after staff has had an opportunity to review the proposals in depth and identify a vendor, she will have a better sense of a timeline for the entire process. She anticipates bringing a recommendation for a Program Administrator to committee by April or May.

County Auditor

Ms. Thomas directed committee members to the report included in the packet and stood for any questions. There were no questions or comments from committee.

County Clerk

Ms. Parker directed committee members to the submitted report and stood for any questions. There were no questions or comments from committee.

Peoria County Election Commission

Mr. Bride advised that approximately 25 overseas and military ballots will be sent out tomorrow for the March 17, 2020 General Primary, and vote-by-mail and early voting begins next week. He stated that approximately 300-400 vote-by-mail ballots will be distributed. He noted that the deadline for vote-by-mail ballot requests is noon on the Thursday before the election, and he added that vote-by-mail ballots must be requested for each election.

Finance

Mr. Brunner advised that external auditors were at the courthouse the week of January 13, 2020 for preliminary fieldwork and will return on April 6, 2020.

Regional Office of Education (ROE)

Ms. Crider provided an update on the activities of the Regional Office of Education:

- A Career Fair will be held at Peoria Regional Learning Center on Thursday, January 29th.
- The Regional Office of Education is coordinating with Peoria Public Schools as part of two grants related to professional learning. The ROE is coordinating with several schools to provide trauma informed practices and support for climate and culture. The Office has been written into the "Lights On, Peoria" grant which is an effort to keep Manual Academy and Peoria High School open on weekends. The Office has also been written into the Sandy Hook Foundation's "Start with Hello" grant.
- A high school student from each Peoria County high school will be honored at the Lincoln Dinner which will be held on February 20th. Former Peoria County State's Attorney Jerry Brady will also be honored with the Lincoln Community Award.
- Peoria High School is in need of adoptions for their "Little Free Pantries" program, and suggested county departmental or county board participation in donating food or other staples for families in need.
- Peoria Public School's Horizons Club, an educational tool for middle school students to learn about various job opportunities in diverse industries, is in continuing need of mentor speakers.

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

- Tax Cycle

Mr. Ryan advised that approximately 13,000 Senior Freeze Exemptions have been mailed out. He stated that individuals meeting the household income level of \$65,000.00 or below are eligible.

Mr. Ryan advised that the Board of Review has completed hearings. He stated that of 1,000 hearings, approximately 48% of individuals received a redemption after their hearing.

Mr. Ryan stated that the final Abstract is ready to be sent to the Department of Revenue and after approval of final equalization factor, the information will be forwarded to the County Clerk who will complete rates and levies and transfer that information to the Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Ryan advised that the office has been receiving inquiries regarding the Pension Fee which was sent to homeowners by the City of Peoria.

Treasurer

Ms. Bjerke advised that the external auditors have visited the office, and staff is preparing the appropriate paperwork for their return visit. She also stated that staff has begun receiving and inputting mobile home information to ensure accurate records.

Veteran's Assistance Commission

No report. No questions or comments from committee.

Resolutions

- **Monthly Delinquent Taxes**

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Fennell and seconded by Ms. Williams. The motion carried.

- **FY 2020 Legislative Initiatives**

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Salzer and seconded by Mr. Watkins. Mr. Sorrel commented that the Legislative Agenda is presented jointly by the County Board, City Council and Board of Health. He presented an overview of City, County, Health Department, and Joint Legislative Requests for Direct Sponsorship, Requests for Position Support, and Capital Projects.

Mr. Sorrel advised that the Legislative Agenda has been updated to include an additional Capital Project request that is a part of the original submitted Legislative Agenda. He stated that the Capital Project is a City Request added at the request of Members Daley and Pastucha in their roles as members of the Springdale Cemetery Association, and as a result of their participation in a Springdale Cemetery Strategic Planning session. He advised that the request is to support funding in the amount of \$5 million for improvements to the road network within Springdale Cemetery.

After discussion, a motion to amend the Legislative Agenda by revising a Joint City/County Request of Position Support to Broaden the Sales Tax base to a City Request, was made by Mr. Fennell and seconded by Ms. Williams. The motion to amend carried unanimously, with Ms. Reliford voting aye via teleconference.

The motion to approve the resolution as amended carried unanimously, with Ms. Reliford voting aye via teleconference.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Rand inquired as to who the responsibility of reviewing and assessing fees, fines, and charges related to Courts and JDC falls to. Mr. Sorrel stated that the task falls under the purview of the Public Safety & Justice Committee and potentially the Budget Committee. He commented that many filing fees and fines, particularly on the criminal side, have been set by statute, which has significantly reduced previously afforded flexibility.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rieker at 3:02 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman