

Approved 2/22/21
MINUTES
Ways and Means Committee
January 25, 2021
@ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steven Rieker – Chairperson; Jennifer Groves Allison – Vice Chairperson; Eden Blair, James Fennell, Rachel Reliford, Phillip Salzer, William Watkins, Jr.
MEMBERS ABSENT:	
STAFF PRESENT:	Scott Sorrel - County Administrator; Shauna Musselman – Assistant County Administrator; Jennie Cordis Boswell - State's Attorney's Office; Julie Kusturin – Finance; Angela Loftus – County Administration; Rachael Parker, Mike Deluhery – County Clerk; Tom Bride – Election Commission; Dave Ryan – Supervisor of Assessments; Nicole Bjerke – Treasurer; Brian Asbell, Doug Gaa, Chris Watkins – Sheriff's Office
OTHERS PRESENT:	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rieker at 3:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2020 was made by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. Salzer. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously (6-0). Ms. Allison absent for vote.

Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates

County Clerk

➤ **Collections and Transactions Report**

Ms. Parker advised that recording and other related fees have kept pace with revenue projections, even with the COVID-19 interruptions. She also commented that the program related to marriage licenses is being updated to allow for improved interaction via mobile devices.

(Ms. Groves Allison enters meeting.)

Peoria County Election Commission

Mr. Bride advised that preparations have begun on the February 23, 2021 consolidated primary for City of Peoria positions, as well as a Democratic primary for the Peoria Township Supervisor position. He stated that approximately 950 vote by mail ballots have been mailed and have seen approximately 475 early voters for the February 23rd primary. He also remarked that staff has begun work on the April 6, 2021 general consolidated election.

Mr. Bride reported that the write-in option was inadvertently left off several of the February 2021 Peoria mayoral primary ballots. He stated that all voters who voted via vote by mail have been sent a corrected replacement ballot, although he remarked that ballots from early voters will be counted without the write-in option.

Mr. Bride stated that the last primary for the City of Peoria had a 12% turnout, and anticipates an increase for the upcoming election as there are several highly contested City of Peoria races.

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

- **Tax Cycle**

Mr. Ryan advised Board of Review decisions are nearly complete. He advised that many hearings are via phone, adding that a phone hearing was held regarding the Edwards Power Plant last week and he anticipates resolution on that valuation.

Mr. Ryan advised that once hearings are completed the final Abstract will be prepared and sent to the Department of Revenue. He stated that after review and approval by the Department of Revenue, the information will be forwarded to the County Clerk's Office for extension.

Mr. Ryan advised that an update on the Mass Appraisal System will be initiated February 8, 2021.

Mr. Ryan advised that the lame duck session in Springfield did not take up the Senior/Disabled Person/Disabled Veterans exemption renewals. He commented that the Senate passed the legislation but was not taken up in the House. He is hopeful that incoming legislators will take up the request. He noted that timing of the senior freeze exemption information will be dependent on the decision of legislators.

Treasurer

Ms. Bjerke advised that the office is currently finalizing last year's tax cycle. She stated that over \$325 million have been distributed to 150 taxing districts. She advised that external auditors will be making their initial visit to the office soon.

A brief discussion was held on the current role and future options related to Township Tax Collectors and tax collection processes.

Veteran's Assistance Commission

No report. No questions or comments from committee.

Resolutions

- **Monthly Delinquent Taxes**

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Groves Allison and seconded by Ms. Reliford. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously (7-0).

Committee Action

- **Review of Executive Session Minutes**

Ms. Cordis Boswell advised that it is the State's Attorney's Office recommendation that all previously held executive session minutes continue to be held closed as the need for confidentiality still exists, and to destroy executive session audio recordings more than two years old, except those that relate to pending litigation.

A motion to accept the recommendation of the State's Attorney's Office was made by Dr. Blair and seconded by Ms. Groves Allison. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rieker at 3:26 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman