

Approved 4/7/20
MINUTES
Ways and Means Committee
February 26, 2020
@ 2:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steven Rieker – Chairman; Jennifer Groves Allison, James Fennell, Rachel Reliford, Phillip Salzer, 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; Randy Brunner –Chief Financial Officer; Julie Ciesla, Paul Letcher, Kimberly Hudson – Finance; 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; Doug Gaa – Sheriff's Office
OTHERS PRESENT:	

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of January 29, 2020 was made by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Ms. Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates

County Auditor

Mr. Rieker 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 the General Primary will be held March 17, 2020. He stated that in-office early voting has been ongoing for several weeks, and remarked that early voting will begin at outside locations on Monday, March 2nd. He stated that a sample ballot will be published in the Journal Star on March 9, 2020.

Mr. Bride advised that vote by mail ballots are up 80% as compared to the 2016 presidential primary, with returns up 167%. He stated that 508 ballots from a total of 1400 have been returned. He did note that vote by mail ballots have been increasing consistently for several years. He stated that early voting is up by 84%. He stated that 74% of vote by mail/early voting ballots have been Democratic and 24% Republican. He added there are very few contested Republican contests, while the Democratic races have several.

Finance

Mr. Brunner advised staff is in the process of completing 2019 Financials. He stated that the outside auditors have completed preliminary fieldwork and will return to the courthouse on April 6, 2020.

Mr. Sorrel advised that this Friday is the last day that expenses can be charged to FY 2019.

Regional Office of Education (ROE)

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

- State's Attorney Jodi Hoos spoke at the Lincoln Event which honored former State's Attorney Jerry Brady. Ms. Crider thanked the State's Attorney's Office, the Treasurer, the County Clerk and others who attended the event.
- Ms. Crider will be speaking at the Peoria Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership School.
- Ms. Crider is the sponsor of the Bradley Brain Summit and will be speaking on Mindfulness.
- The national trainers for Shawn Achor, the author of "The Happiness Advantage", will travel to Peoria to work with 75 educators in March to deliver *Orange Frog* training. The workshop teaches a social/emotional path to positive psychology.
- 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.
- The Arts in Education Spring Celebration begins April 15, 2020 and runs through May 15, 2020. The ROE is again partnering with the Peoria Riverfront Museum, and April 15th will be Junior High Jazz Day at the museum. Several schools are in need of a sponsor, and Ms. Crider commented that any level of sponsor support is appreciated.

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

- Tax Cycle

Mr. Ryan advised that the final abstract has been delivered to the Department of Revenue, with approval anticipated in 3-4 weeks. He stated that as a member of the Legislative Committee of the County Assessors Association, he is closely following pertinent legislation.

Mr. Ryan advised that preliminary EAV figures for 2020, payable in 2021, are similar to 2019 EAV figures.

Treasurer

Ms. Bjerke advised that she has begun working with the vendor chosen to print and mail tax bills to ensure an efficient process. She advised that tax bills for mobile homes will be mailed on Friday, February 28th and will be due within 60 days.

Veteran's Assistance Commission

No report. No questions or comments from committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rieker at 2:17 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman