

Approved 4/26/21
MINUTES
Ways and Means Committee
March 22, 2021
@ 3:00 P.M.

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rieker at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of February 22, 2021 was made by Mr. Fennell and seconded by Ms. Groves Allison. The motion carried unanimously (6-0; Dr. Blair absent).

Chairman Rieker recognized the Supervisor of Assessments, Dave Ryan, on his 25 year service anniversary, and presented him with a 25-year service pin.

Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates

County Clerk

➤ **Collections and Transactions Report**

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 provided statistics for the February 23rd primary for the City of Peoria. He advised the Commission saw a 16.69% turnout, up nearly 6% from the 2017 and 2019 Consolidated Primaries. He commented that 41.54% of voters voted prior to election day, with 24% voting early and nearly 18% voting by mail. He remarked that the early voting trend will most likely continue to increase, and commented that numbers are up 145% in vote by mail ballots mailed out from two years ago and nearly 300% from four years ago.

Mr. Bride noted legislation which was passed allowing drop boxes specifically for the November 2020 election and advised that just over 40% of voters returning vote by mail ballots utilized the drop box located at the Election Commission. He stated that legislation to continue the use of drop boxes was introduced in the Veto Session and passed the Senate but ran out of time in the House, and a similar bill has passed the House more recently and is awaiting action in the Senate. He remarked that if legislation does ultimately pass for long term usage of drop boxes, a discussion will be necessary regarding placement and security of drop boxes throughout Peoria County.

Mr. Watkins brought up a recent recount and inquired as to the charge of a recount. Mr. Bride advised that that the individual requesting a recount is charged \$10.00 per precinct and may request up to 25% of the precincts involved. He noted that two staff members spent one work day specifically on the recount and 16-20 hours preparing for the recount.

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

- Tax Cycle

Mr. Ryan advised that 2020 valuations are complete, and the office is moving forward with 2021 valuations. He stated that he continues to follow the any legislative bills, particularly those impacting property tax.

Treasurer

Ms. Bjerke advised that 1,087 mobile home bills were distributed on March 1, 2021, equating to \$97,566.00 in mobile home tax. She stated that the garbage fee file has been received from the City of Peoria containing just under 39,000 parcels; after review by the Treasurer and County Clerk's Offices, the file has been returned to the City for corrections. She advised that there are no municipal liens on the bills as the City did not file liens last year.

Ms. Bjerke advised that staff continues to prepare for the external auditors. She introduced Ryan Sanders, the newly hired Chief Deputy for the Treasurer's Office.

Ms. Bjerke commented on the delayed payment process for property taxes in 2020, an action taken to provide relief to taxpayers affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. She stated that the 2021 tax collection process will proceed with the standard timetable, adding that only one county in Illinois is considering a delayed 2021 schedule and there have been no requests from either the public or business establishments on delaying payments or waiving penalty in 2021.

Veteran's Assistance Commission

Mr. Brooks advised that the Commission currently has 374 active VA claims and 174 appeals awaiting decision. He stated that over \$1.6 million in new money has been brought in, with \$9.7 million via VA compensation brought in through March.

Mr. Brooks advised that Caleb Mitchell has been promoted to Veteran Service Representative. He stated that Mr. Mitchell has completed and passed online accreditation to become a Veteran Service Officer. He stated that a Support Representative has been hired to replace the position previously held by Mr. Mitchell.

Resolutions

- Monthly Delinquent Taxes

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Reliford and seconded by Mr. Watkins. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0; Dr. Blair absent).

- Intergovernmental Agreement with West Peoria for Assessment Services

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Salzer and seconded by Mr. Fennell. Mr. Ryan advised that the County of Peoria has contracted with West Peoria Township for Assessment Services via an Intergovernmental Agreement since 2003. He stated that West Peoria Township is dissolving and the contract is being updated to contract for the same services with the City of West Peoria.

The motion was approved unanimously (6-0: Dr. Blair absent)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rieker at 3:18 p.m.