

APPROVED 4/24/19
MINUTES
Ways and Means Committee
March 27, 2019
@ 2:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Allen Mayer – Chairman; Steven Rieker – Vice Chairman; James Fennell, Rachel Reliford, William Watkins, Jr., Sharon Williams
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Phillip Salzer
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, Kate Pastucha, Rob Reneau, Matt Windish– County Board Members; Randy Brunner – Interim Chief Financial Officer; Wade Alig, Julie Ciesla, Nichole Dickey, Kimberly Hudson, Paul Letcher, Jim Smith, June Spencer, Shelby Walenty – Finance; Gretchen Pearsall – Director of Strategic Communications; Jessica Thomas – County Auditor; Nicole Demetreas, Kelly Van Middlesworth – Treasurer; Tom Bride – Election Commission; Elizabeth Crider – Regional Office of Education; Steve Sonnemaker – County Clerk; Dave Ryan – Supervisor of Assessments; Karen Raithe – Sustainability & Resource Conservation; Kathi Urban – Planning & Zoning; Doug Gaa – Sheriff's Office; Rena' Parker, Jennifer Shadid – Courts Administration
OTHERS PRESENT:	Kiersten Sheets – Ruyle Mechanical Services; Deanne Bloomberg, Joyce Blumenshine, Darin Cowser, Seth Cowser, Carol Davis, Caroline Gill, Peter Gill, Robert Janssen, Wayne Peugh, Matt Price, Pam Price, Scott Reader, Kristi Smith, Jacob Streitmatter, Jeff Streitmatter, Carol Van Winkle, Cheryl Walsh, Jacob Wineinger, Josh Wineinger, Nathan Wineinger – Peoria County Citizens

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of February 27, 2019 was made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Mr. Watkins. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mayer's request to move the resolution "Legislative Proposal to Amend the Livestock Management Facilities Act" to the beginning of the agenda was approved via unanimous consent of the committee.

Mr. Mayer's request to yield Chair of the committee to Mr. Rand was approved via unanimous consent of the committee.

Resolutions

- **Legislative Proposal for Livestock Management Facilities**

Peoria County Citizens *Mr. Matt Price, Ms. Carol Davis, Ms. Joyce Blumenshine* addressed the committee and spoke in support of the proposed resolution.

Peoria County Citizens *Mr. Peter Gill, Ms. Kristi Smith, Mr. Scott Reader, Ms. Cheryl Walsh and Mr. Robert Janssen* addressed the committee and spoke in opposition of the proposed resolution.

Peoria County Citizen *Mr. Wayne Peugh* addressed the committee and urged that a final decision on the resolution be made based upon science and fact.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Mayer and seconded by Mr. Fennell.

A motion to amend the resolution was made by Mr. Rieker and seconded by Mr. Mayer. Mr. Rieker explained the recommended language additions, which are highlighted in red as follows in Items #2 and #3 of the resolution:

2. In 510 ILCS 77/11, add a provision that requires the Department to solicit an evaluation of the impacts to ground water supply and quality from the Illinois State Water Survey for new Facilities **greater than 500 animal units**, and directs the Department to establish rules for an acceptable timeframe to notify the Water Survey and for the Water Survey to respond
3. In 510 ILCS 77/12, amend from 1,000 animal units to 250 animal units the threshold for the County Board to conduct a public hearing for the purposes of soliciting critical input from the community about both the positive and negative attributes of the proposed Facility as required in the Section, **and make permissive the County Board's decision to hold a public hearing**

The motion to approve the amendments as proposed carried unanimously.

Mr. Rieker stated that the committee requested and has received additional input from livestock producers to assist in an equitable recommendation without over-regulation.

Ms. Williams asked which municipalities would be subjected to a proposed requirement of a 1.5 mile setback. Mr. Sorrel advised that the municipalities within Peoria County that have both an adopted land use plan and their own zoning code are Peoria, Peoria Heights, West Peoria, Chillicothe, Princeville, Elmwood and Bartonville, although those city councils or village boards would have the ability to waive the 1.5 mile setback. Ms. Williams emphasized that the resolution before the committee is simply a formal request by the governing body of Peoria County to the State of Illinois to consider the proposed amendments to the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

Mr. Windish commented that several recommendations, specifically Amendments #2 and #3 involve proposals that Peoria County should not be involved in and which are attempting to solve non-issues. He also stated that Amendments #1 and #4 should resolve concerns related to Amendments #2 and #3.

Mr. Rosenbohm advised that he could not support the resolution as the recommended amendments add yet another layer of bureaucracy for farmers to cope with.

The motion to approve the resolution as amended carried unanimously.

- **Monthly Delinquent Taxes**

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

Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates

County Auditor

Ms. Thomas advised that in the past month, 1,071 checks have been issued to vendors in an amount totaling \$3,066,686.89. She advised that a contract for janitorial services will be going out for bid within the next several weeks. Mr. Mayer requested an update on the status of the janitorial contract at the April committee meeting.

Ms. Thomas stated that the office is in the process of first quarter contractual audits and preliminary findings indicate significant deficiencies with vendors operating without contracts and

contracts that should be let out for bid. She also noted that departmental pre-payment audits found that the VAC has been overpaying veterans benefits claims and has been addressed by the VAC.

County Clerk

Mr. Sonnemaker advised that 2019 real estate transactions have been down. He stated that the certified qualifier from the Illinois Department of Revenue has been received and tax calculations and extensions began this week.

Peoria County Election Commission

Mr. Bride advised that the Consolidated General Election will be held April 2, 2019. He stated that 1,885 vote-by-mail ballots have been sent out, an increase of 175% from 2017, and there have been 1,230 early voters as today. He noted that 2017 voting turnout stands at 16.7% and stated that turnout this year is on pace to surpass that number. He stated that the Commission will provide up to date election results on social media via Twitter and Facebook.

Finance

Mr. Brunner advised trial balances are due to the auditors by the end of next week. He commented that auditors will arrive at the Courthouse at the end of April.

Regional Office of Education (ROE)

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

- Budget reductions in the ROE have necessitated an emphasis on staff efficiency in the 2018-2019 school year, focusing on staff relocation and revised job descriptions to eliminate duplications.
- The annual Gerald M. Brookhart Arts in Education Spring Celebration begins April 15th. She asked that any committee member interested in sponsoring a stage contact her directly.
- The ROE is partnering with the Peoria Riverfront Museum for International Jazz Day on April 15-2019.
- “Journey Like No Other” a signature event and fundraiser for the Peoria Regional High School will be held March 28, 2019.

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

- Tax Cycle

Mr. Ryan advised that the final Abstract has been received from the Department of Revenue. He advised that for more than 700 disabled veterans received over \$25 million in exemptions in 2018, approximately 5,000 seniors received a senior freeze exemption, and 12,000 received senior exemptions. He advised that 2019 assessments have begun.

Mr. Ryan advised that a 2% overall decrease in assessed values from 2017 to 2018 is anticipated due to a drop in the value of homes, increased exemption amounts, and a decrease in new construction.

- Board of Review

Mr. Ryan advised of a vacancy on the Board of Review and stated that a Board of Review exam will be held on April 25, 2019 in Conference Room 402.

Treasurer

Ms. Demetreas advised that mobile home tax bills have been mailed with a due date of May 1, 2019.

Veteran's Assistance Commission

Mr. Mayer advised that Mr. Brooks has taken over responsibilities for the “Hero of the Day” presentations at Peoria Chiefs games. He advised that Mr. Brooks will meet with the Acting Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs on April 2, 2019 to discuss improved coordination of services between state VA and county VAC. He stated that the Peoria Area Military Retiree Appreciation Day will be held April 13, 2019 at 7:15 a.m. at the Itoo Hall.

Legislative Update

Mr. Sorrel advised that the most current legislative update will be included as part of the weekly County Administrator Update.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

Ms. Raithel advised that the program offers commercial property owners the long-term ability to engage in clean energy. She commented that the program is voluntary and may be specifically structured to individual community needs. She advised that the program provides funding to property owners for clean energy improvements through a voluntary assessment on their property. She stated that Kane and DuPage Counties have begun implementation of the program via a Third Party Administrator.

Ms. Sheets explained that the Illinois Legislature passed a bill several year ago allowing the adoption of Ordinance providing communities the opportunities to finance energy efficiency projects and clean energy projects on their properties through their property tax bill. She advised that the program essentially allows a “loan” for up to 20 years of 90% of the property value to utilize for energy efficiency and clean energy projects. She stated that the program is both a positive economic development tool and assists in spurring commercial entities to implement energy efficiency programs and renewable energy projects.

Ms. Williams asked the process for promotion and education of the program, and Ms. Sheets advised that Kane and DuPage Counties included the facilitation of educational opportunities via community meetings, etc. in their Request for Proposals for a Third-Party Administrator.

Mr. Mayer suggested inviting a representative from the Illinois Finance Authority to speak to the committee regarding bond issuance and partnership opportunities.

Joint Resolution

- **Special Appropriation into the FY 2019 budget for Peoria County Auditor’s Office** *(joint with Budget Committee)*

A motion to approve the resolution recommending an additional appropriation of \$338,000.00 for the Office of the County Auditor was made by Mr. Mayer and seconded by Ms. Williams.

Ms. Thomas addressed the committee to support the appropriation request. She commented that the current budget allocated to the Auditor’s Office does not provide the resources necessary to fulfill the operational and staffing requirements of the office as outlined by union regulations and State Statute.

Mr. Mayer commented that the resolution does not identify a funding source. Mr. Sorrel advised that as the resolution as presented does not propose a transfer from any existing departmental appropriations, the funds would be appropriated from the fund balance of the General Fund. Mr. Sorrel advised that county board policy direction is to ensure that General Fund reserves (required to be 24% of operating expenditures) maintain or exceed the policy through 2023. He commented that revenues are currently growing at 0.5% per year, while expenditures growing at 1% - 1.5% per year, resulting in a structural deficit. He also outlined departments and operations dependent on the General Fund as well as additional stressors impacting the fund.

Mr. Rieker commented that the request for four additional employees seems excessive, particularly without additional clarification on the additional headcount. Ms. Reliford noted that no job descriptions or scope of duties have been provided for the additional positions. Ms. Thomas advised that non-union vs. union responsibilities and segregation of duties are two primary concerns.

The motion to approve the resolution failed (0-6).

A motion to approve the resolution recommending an additional appropriation of \$66,000.00 was made by Mr. Mayer and seconded by Mr. Rieker.

Mr. Mayer acknowledged the concerns raised by Ms. Thomas, including segregation of duties and union issues. He also acknowledged Peoria County's overall financial constraints and significant budget decreases experienced by other County departments and offices.

Mr. Mayer motioned to amend the resolution to add an additional \$2,500.00 for miscellaneous expenses for office supplies (\$500.00), telephone (\$200.00), travel (\$500.00) printing (\$500.00), and annual dues and membership fees (\$800.00), for a total appropriation of \$68,500.00 He also requested a report back to committee on the cost and legal process of publication of legal notices. Ms. Williams seconded the motion to amend. The motion to approve the amendment carried unanimously.

The motion to approve the resolution as amended carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rand at 4:18 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by Jan Kleffman