

**Approved 5/29/19**  
**MINUTES**  
**Ways and Means Committee**  
**April 24, 2019**  
**@ 2:00 P.M.**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Allen Mayer</b> – Chairman; <b>Steven Rieker</b> – Vice Chairman; <b>Jennifer Grove Allison, James Fennell, Rachel Reliford, Phillip Salzer, William Watkins, Jr., Sharon Williams</b>
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	<b>Scott Sorrel</b> - County Administrator; <b>Shauna Musselman</b> – Assistant County Administrator; <b>Larry Evans</b> - State's Attorney's Office; <b>Randy Brunner</b> – Interim Chief Financial Officer; <b>Julie Ciesla, Kimberly Hudson, Paul Letcher, Shelby Walenty</b> – Finance; <b>Angela Loftus</b> – Asst. Director of Human Resources; <b>Gretchen Pearsall</b> – Director of Strategic Communications; <b>Jessica Thomas</b> – County Auditor; <b>Nicole Demetreas, Kelly Van Middlesworth</b> – Treasurer; <b>Tom Bride</b> – Election Commission; <b>Elizabeth Crider</b> – Regional Office of Education; <b>Michael Brooks</b> – VAC; <b>Mike Deluhery</b> – County Clerk; <b>Dave Ryan</b> – Supervisor of Assessments; <b>Karen Raithe</b> – Sustainability & Resource Conservation; <b>Brian Asbell, Doug Gaa</b> – Sheriff's Office
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Joyce Blumenshine</b> – Heart of Illinois Sierra Club; <b>Kiersten Sheets</b> – Ruyle Mechanical

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mayer at 2:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates**

**County Auditor**

Ms. Thomas advised 1,141 checks have been issued to vendors in an amount totaling \$2,797,190.01 in the past month. She stated that she has worked with departments on resolving pre-payment audit discrepancies, and advised that she has also reached out to departments in an effort to become more familiar with policies and procedures within individual departments. She commented that the janitorial contract was let out for bid several weeks ago.

Ms. Thomas advised that she will be participating in a Town Hall focusing on the duties of the County Auditor on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Alpha Park Library.

**County Clerk**

Mr. Deluhery directed committee members to the report included in the packet, and stood for questions. There were no questions or comments from the committee.

**Peoria County Election Commission**

Mr. Bride advised that the Consolidated General Election held April 2, 2019 saw 18,181 voters (15.2%), down nearly 2,000 voters compared to 2017. He commented that numbers were down overall primarily due to the lack of contested races in large portions of the county. He stated that vote by mail percentage increased from 4.75% in 2017 to 8%, and early voting increased from 9% in 2017 to 16%. He added that 25% of voters voted early in this election as opposed to 14% in 2017.

Mr. Bride advised that approximately 200 provisional and late arriving ballots have been received.

### Finance

Mr. Brunner advised that external auditors began field work today.

### Regional Office of Education (ROE)

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

- The Gerald M. Brookhart Arts in Education Spring Celebration has begun, and Ms. Crider thanked those who have agreed to act as sponsor to the schools.
- The Super Brain Summit will be held Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, focusing on the impact of trauma on both growing and adult brains
- The ROE will host a workshop in June on how to contend with digital threats
- Partnering with Alignment Peoria on tactics for summer reading. A launch date is scheduled for June 1, 2019 at Lakeview Library Complex.

### Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

- Tax Cycle

Mr. Ryan advised that increases in rates in several jurisdictions will increase tax bills even though assessments may have decreased or been frozen, and stressed that although Senior Freeze Exemptions freeze the assessment, taxes are not frozen. He stated that 2019 is a reassessment year, and notices will be sent to all property owners.

- Board of Review

Mr. Ryan advised of an upcoming 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 a new vendor has been retained to print 82,714 tax bills. She stated that of those tax bills, only 61,403 envelopes will be mailed as the vendor is allowing the office to combine and group bills going to the same name and/or address, which will significantly reduce postage costs. She advised that tax bills will be mailed by May 1, 2019 and due dates for are June 4, 2019 for the first installment and September 4, 2019 for the second installment. She also noted that pre-paid payments will be reflected on the tax bill.

### Veteran's Assistance Commission

Mr. Brooks advised that there are currently 432 active VA claims, and stated that \$5.6 million in VA compensation has been brought in through March 2019. He stated that a survey monkey created by the Administrative Assistant indicates that 88% of veterans who have replied thus far are "very satisfied" with service.

Mr. Brooks advised that, in his role as President of the Illinois Association of Counties VAC, he met with the Acting Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs to discuss improved coordination between the organizations, and a more collaborative working relationship.

Mr. Brooks advised that the VAC has outgrown its conference room and the space will be repurposed as a training room. He stated that he will begin teaching classes focusing Basic VA Claims, Agent Orange, Camp LeJeune Water Contamination Issues, and Gulf War Veterans.

### Legislative Update

Mr. Sorrel advised that the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of bills is set for May 24, 2019, with adjournment planned for May 31, 2019. He stated that the majority of the County's legislative input this session has been defensive in nature.

Mr. Sorrel advised that at the invitation of Senator Koehler, County Engineer Amy McLaren represented Peoria County at a recent Senate Transportation Committee hearing, with testimony focused on the economic impact a Capital Bill would have on the local economy. He stated that County Board Members Steven Rieker, Phil Salzer and Sharon Williams also attended the hearing.

Mr. Sorrel advised that he would provide a transcript of Ms. McLaren's testimony, as well as a comprehensive list of Peoria County legislative initiatives as part of the weekly County Administrator Update.

- **Monthly Delinquent Taxes**

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Fennell and seconded by Mr. Salzer. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mayer at 2:36 p.m.

*Recorded and Transcribed by Jan Kleffman*