

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: September 19, 2012
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.
 PLACE: Room 115, Wood County Courthouse
 TIME ADJOURNED: 10:20 a.m.
 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Clendenning, Gerald Nelson, Gary Allworden, Ed Wagner, Bill Murphy
 OTHERS PRESENT: John Kruse, Peter Kastenholz, Brent Vruwink, Dennis Polach, Lisa Downs

At 9:30 a.m., Chairman Clendenning called the meeting to order.

1. Public comments. None.
2. Moved by Nelson, seconded by Murphy, to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2012, Committee meeting. All ayes.
3. Legislative issues. Chairman Clendenning commented on a legislative referral that was discussed at county board and the fact that the referral had not come to the Judicial & Legislative Committee. Clendenning feels that all legislative referrals should come through the Judicial & Legislative Committee and he will be asking the County Clerk to make sure that in the future the Committee receives all legislative referrals. There were no objections by the other Committee members.
4. The Committee reviewed department reports and monthly voucher reports:

Family Court Commissioner John Kruse reported to the Committee that the Wood County circuit court judges have no desire to cut services to Marshfield and are agreeable to holding appearances via audiovisual (AV) technology. Kruse suggested the County provide AV at different locations - such as the Family Center in Wisconsin Rapids, Personal Development Center in Marshfield, and perhaps another location in Marshfield.

Chairman Clendenning suggested that a meeting be set up with the Marshfield City Council to discuss this and that the City of Marshfield should help pay for the AV equipment. Clendenning directed Supervisor Nelson, as liaison to the courts, to set up a meeting with the judges and any other people that he feels needs to be included.

Supervisor Wagner pointed out that court services should be available to all Wood County residents.

Corporation Counsel Peter Kastenholz commented on an article in the newspaper on the frac sand issue that attributes a comment to Supervisor Wagner that the fee being charged to the frac sand companies is an unlawful tax because it was not approved by the county board; that it is taxation without representation. Supervisor Wagner stated that although those comments were made, he was not the person who made them.

However, he does feel that it is a tax. Kastenholz said he disagreed with the article because this is not an illegal tax.

Supervisor Murphy pointed out to Supervisor Wagner that according to the article it would appear that the Wood County board did give the authority to the highway commissioner to negotiate agreements with the frac sand companies.

Child Support Director Brent Vruwink informed the committee that a full-time employee will be out of the office on family medical leave through the end of the year. After speaking with the departments of Finance and Human Resources, Vruwink decided to temporarily increase the hours of the receptionist from 25 hours per week to 40 hours per week to help cover the shortfall of the absence of the full-time employee on FMLA.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Allworden, to approve the reports of Branch I, II, and III, Child Support, Clerk of Courts, Register of Deeds, Family Court Commissioner, Corporation Counsel, District Attorney, and Victim/Witness. All ayes.

5. There were two new notices of injury/claim filed with the County. The notices of injury/claim of Diane Kohls and Soraya Tester were reviewed by the Committee and will be forwarded to the County Board.
6. There were no new animal claims against the County.
7. The next Committee meeting will be October 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.
8. Agenda items for the October 17, 2012, meeting:
 - Discussion of court services for the north end of the county.
9. Moved by Murphy, seconded by Nelson, to approve the bills for payment. All ayes.
10. Moved by Allworden, seconded by Wagner, to adjourn. All ayes.
Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Minutes taken by Lisa Downs and approved by Gary Allworden.


Gary Allworden, Secretary