

MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: July 18, 2012
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.
 PLACE: Room 115, Wood County Courthouse
 TIME ADJOURNED: 11:28 a.m.
 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Clendenning, Gerald Nelson,
 Gary Allworden, Ed Wagner, Bill Murphy
 OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Kastenholz, Cindy Joosten, Brent Vruwink,
 Lance Pliml, Doug Machon, Dennis Polach,
 Lisa Downs

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

1. Public comments. Supervisor Allworden commented that in light of the directive for departments to keep their 2013 budgets to a zero increase, that the county board should do that as well and a place to start would be in not having all Judicial members attend the quarterly legislative meetings in Mosinee.
2. Moved by Nelson, seconded by Murphy, to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2012, and June 20, 2012, Committee meetings. All ayes.
3. At 9:32 a.m., pursuant to Wisconsin Statute section 19.85(1)(g), moved by Wagner, seconded by Nelson, to go into closed session to confer with counsel regarding a settlement offer in the Hudec v. Wood County, et al., case. Roll call taken: Clendenning - yes, Allworden - yes, Nelson - yes, Wagner - yes, Murphy - yes.
4. At 10:12 a.m., moved by Wagner, seconded by Murphy, to return to open session. All ayes. Returned to open session. Closed session minutes are maintained separately.
5. The Committee reviewed correspondence from the 6th District Court Administrator wherein Chief Judge Storck ordered the Wood County Clerk of Court to cease all clerk of court support to the court activities in Marshfield effective July 25, 2012. Moved by Nelson, seconded by Wagner, that the Judicial & Legislative Committee is opposed to the closing of court in Marshfield. 4 ayes, 1 nay. (Clendenning feels that Judge Storck's decision was done for the best interests of all Wood County taxpayers. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Nelson, to ask the County Board Chair to put together the necessary staff to determine the resources needed to have audiovisual use for court appearances from Marshfield. All ayes. Chairman Pliml reported later in the meeting that the judges indicated there was nothing in the law to prohibit audiovisual appearances.
6. Legislative issues. The Committee was pleased with Highway Commissioner Passineau's response to the area legislators who had contacted him about the frac sand issue.

7. The Committee reviewed department reports and monthly voucher reports:

Nelson reported that in speaking with Register in Probate Sherry Masephol in Branch I about space needs in their office, he directed her to talk with Terry Rickaby in Maintenance about remodeling.

Murphy met with Register of Deeds Susan Ginter to learn more about that department. He indicated that there are some equipment needs that they discussed and he directed Ms. Ginter to work with the Systems Department.

Allworden had requested that Victim/Witness provide a report reflecting their statistics and what they handle in Victim/Witness. The Committee was pleased with the report

Child Support Director Brent Vruwink reported that Systems will be replacing some out-of-warranty computers in their office and one of those computers is linked to a scanner. The new computer's software will not work with the current scanner, which is also getting quite old; therefore, a new scanner is needed. Mr. Vruwink said he got a quote from Integrated Imaging and a new scanner would be \$3,650 if purchased before the end of August, otherwise the price would go up to \$4,195. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Nelson, to approve Child Support purchasing a scanner. All ayes.

Clerk of Court Cindy Joosten reported on Divorce Mediation Fees, which is a non-lapsing account in her budget. \$9,000 is budgeted but mediation fees may run closer to \$15,000. Litigants are ordered to pay toward these mediation fees but only \$5,000 - \$6,000 is being received as reimbursement. She indicated she would need \$6,000 from contingency to put in the Divorce Mediation Fees line item to cover this difference. The Committee approved her presenting a resolution to the Executive Committee for the transfer of these funds.

Corporation Counsel Peter Kastenzholz reported that there is a group meeting on July 24 to negotiate contracts with three of the frac sand companies. Mr. Kastenzholz stated that if this matter would go to litigation, the County may need to seek outside counsel.

Moved by Nelson, seconded by Murphy, 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.

8. There were no new notices of injury/claim filed with the County.
9. There were no new animal claims against the County.

10. The next Committee meetings will be August 14, 2012, at 9 a.m. to review department budgets and August 23, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. for the regular monthly meeting.
11. Agenda items for the August 14, 2012, meeting:
 - Departmental budgets
12. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Murphy, to approve the bills for payment. All ayes.
13. Moved by Wagner, seconded by Clendenning, to adjourn. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Minutes taken by Lisa Downs and approved by Gary Allworden.



Gary Allworden, Secretary