

## MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: May 6, 2016  
 TIME: 9 a.m.  
 PLACE: Room 115, Wood County Courthouse  
 TIME ADJOURNED: 11:08 a.m.  
 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Ed Wagner, Bill Clendenning, Bill Leichtnam, Ken Curry, Dave LaFontaine  
 OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Kastenholz, Cindy Joosten, Mrs. Wagner, Dennis Polach, Joe Zurfluh, Brent Vruwink

At 9 a.m., Chairman Wagner called the meeting to order.

1. Chairman Wagner made a call for nominations for vice-chairperson and for secretary.

Leichtnam nominated Clendenning to act as vice-chairperson. **Moved by Wagner to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for vice-chairperson.** The Committee unanimously elected Clendenning vice-chairperson.

Wagner nominated Curry to act as secretary. **Moved by Clendenning to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for secretary.** The Committee unanimously elected Curry secretary.

2. Public comments. None.
3. **Moved by Clendenning, seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the minutes of the April 1 and 19, 2016, Committee meetings. All ayes.**
4. The Committee reviewed department reports and monthly voucher reports:

**Moved by Clendenning, seconded by LaFontaine, to approve the reports and payment of vouchers 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.**

The chair stated that the Committee will continue to have the departments report to specific Committee members to better enhance the communications between the Committee and departments.

5. Discussion on department head authority under the pay plan. The department heads collectively have suggested granting to them the following authority within the current pay plan:
  - a. Allow departments to hire new employees at up to a step 6 if experience/education warrants that.
  - b. Allow departments to use vacation as a negotiating tool by allowing up to two weeks' vacation for new employees if their experience/education warrants that.
  - c. Allow departments flexibility to move current employees along the steps more quickly if they are stellar or outstanding employees (i.e., skip a step).

Cindy Joosten spoke in favor of the proposal and gave instances in the past where it would have been useful to have it in place. Brent Vruwink also spoke in favor of the proposal. Chairman Wagner discussed the problem in drawing and retaining skilled workers. LaFontaine spoke in favor of giving this authority to department heads.

The Committee supports the first two provisions with the understanding that the department heads can hire new employees up to and at step 6.

With respect to the third proposal, the Committee suggests limiting step increases to existing employees to one skipped step per year and the increase must be incorporated into the budget process in preparing for the subsequent year's budget.

All extraordinary actions under the pay plan must be reported to the oversight committee if pre-authorization is not needed for funding.

6. The Committee reviewed correspondence and legislative issues.
7. Water Protection Subcommittee report. The Committee discussed the need to continue the subcommittee and the membership on it. Moved by Leichtnam, seconded by Clendenning, to continue the current subcommittee with its existing membership until August 1, 2016. 4 ayes, 1 nay. Wagner voted no as he believes the subcommittee should report to the CEED committee.
8. County board rules. Quite a bit of discussion took place on whether two members of a committee should be able to get a topic on the agenda, if the majority should rule and generally what to do, if anything, about setting agendas. The Committee decided to contemplate the issue further and discuss it again next month.
9. There were two new notices of injury/claim filed with the County. The notice of injury/claim of Colleen Angel and Pam Loos/Estate of Eric Casperson were received by the Committee and will be forwarded to the county board.  
Moved by La Fontaine, seconded by Curry, to deny the claim by the Estate of Eric Casperson. All ayes.
10. There were no new animal claims against the County.
11. The next committee meeting will be June 3, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.
12. Agenda items for the June 3, 2016, meeting:
  - Authority to include matters on committee agendas.
  - Communication obligations of staff and department heads to supervisors and county board chairman when serious or public issues arise.

13. Moved by Clendenning, seconded by Curry, to adjourn. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Minutes taken by Peter Kastenholz and approved by Ken Curry.

Ken Curry  
Ken Curry, Secretary (signed electronically)