

Approved 1/24/22
MINUTES
Ways and Means Committee
January 3, 2022
@ 3:30 P.M.

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| MEMBERS PRESENT: | Steven Rieker – Chairperson; Jennifer Groves Allison – Vice Chairperson; Eden Blair, James Fennell, Rachel Reliford, Phillip Salzer, William Watkins, Jr. |
| MEMBERS ABSENT: | |
| STAFF PRESENT: | Shauna Musselman – Assistant County Administrator; Jennie Cordis Boswell - State's Attorney's Office; Jack Walton – County Administration; Rachael Parker – County Clerk; Tom Bride – Election Commission; Dave Ryan – Supervisor of Assessments; Board of Review – Greg Fletcher; Nicole Bjerke – Treasurer |
| OTHERS PRESENT: | |

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rieker at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of November 29, 2021 was made by Ms. Groves Allison and seconded by Dr. Blair. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates

County Clerk

➤ **Collections and Transactions Report**

Ms. Parker directed committee members to the submitted report and stood for any questions. There were no questions or comments from committee.

Peoria County Election Commission

Mr. Bride advised that the Commission is in the process of redrawing city and county precincts. He noted that the size of precincts has changed to up to 1,200 registered voters per precinct, which is being taken into account.

Mr. Bride advised that legislation regarding election judge pay and language clean up on vote by mail has a possibility of moving forward in the General Assembly's spring session.

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

• **Tax Cycle**

Mr. Ryan advised that approximately 5,700 Senior Freeze Exemptions were renewed for 2021, over 1,000 Disabled Veterans Exemptions were processed in 2021, and 14,000 Senior Exemptions were processed in 2021.

• **Board of Review**

Mr. Ryan advised that the Board of Review hearings will be completed by January. He stated that 451 Board of Review complaints were heard, of which 253 were commercial complaints.

Treasurer

Ms. Bjerke advised that the final tax distribution and interest distribution have been made. She stated that the office is currently preparing for the external audit.

Veteran's Assistance Commission

Mr. Rieker advised that Mr. Brooks provided an end of the year report for the State of Illinois for the Veteran's Assistance to committee members via email. He also noted that last week, WMBD-TV broadcast a report on work being done by the Veteran's Assistance Commission.

Joint Resolution

- **Election Commission Budget Amendment** (*joint with Finance Audit and Legislative Affairs Committee*)

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Fennell and seconded by Ms. Reliford. Mr. Bride stated that the current voting system is outdated and operating systems are no longer supported. He advised that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued and received two responses. He stated that after review and evaluation of the responses by a bipartisan review committee, as well as vendor demonstrations, the evaluation committee unanimously selected Hart InterCivic as the recommended vendor. He advised that the Board of Election Commissioners approved the selection in November.

Mr. Bride advised that the Commission requests a budget amendment to the Peoria County Election Commission FY2022 budget in the amount of \$918,104.00 for the purchase of a new voting system. Additionally, he stated that the new voting system will enable an upgrade to existing VR Systems electronic pollbooks to allow for ballot printing on demand. He advised that the Commission requests a budget amendment in the amount of \$326,734.00 to incorporate the upgrade. He remarked that the total FY2022 budget amendment request totals \$1,244,838.00.

Ms. Musselman explained that a new voting system was included as part of the capital plan, however, the funds were not appropriated at the time the budget was adopted, with the intent to come to committee with a budget amendment when the exact cost of the new system was known.

The motion to approve carried unanimously (7-0).

Resolution

- **Monthly Delinquent Taxes**

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. Salzer. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Committee Action

- **Review of Executive Session Minutes**

Ms. Cordis Boswell advised that it is the State's Attorney's Office recommendation that all previously held executive session minutes continue to be held closed as the need for confidentiality still exists, and to destroy executive session audio recordings more than two years old, except those that relate to pending litigation. A motion to accept the recommendation of the State's Attorney's Office was made by Mr. Fennell and seconded by Dr. Blair. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rieker at 4:12 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman