

APPROVED 5/22/23
MINUTES
Ways and Means Committee
April 24, 2023
@ 3:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Betty Duncan – Chairperson; Matt Windish -Vice Chairperson; Terry Ruhland, Sharon Williams
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Daniel Kelch
STAFF PRESENT:	Scott Sorrel – County Administrator; Sauna Musselman – Assistant County Administrator; Jennie Cordis Boswell - State's Attorney's Office; Gretchen Pearsall – County Administration; Jessily Joseph – Election Commission; Rachael Parker – County Clerk; Dave Ryan – Supervisor of Assessments; Nicole Bjerke – Treasurer; Mike Brooks - VAC
OTHERS PRESENT:	

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2023 was made by Mr. Windish and seconded by Mr. Ruhland. The motion carried (4-0).

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.

Ms. Parker presented a report on the essential services provided by the County Clerk’s Office.

Peoria County Election Commission

Ms. Joseph advised that the 2023 Consolidated General Election saw a 16% turnout, with vote-by-mail ballots (8,250) slightly outperforming election day voting (8,200). She stated that the 2024 Primary Election will be held March 8, 2024.

Mr. Ruhland noted the continued need for election judges, and Ms. Joseph advised that the Commission will focus recruitment efforts on local schools and businesses over the next several months.

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

• **Tax Cycle**

Mr. Ryan advised that staff will be available to answer citizen questions and concerns related to the 2022 assessment year, as well as the City of Peoria garbage fee placed on the tax bill.

Mr. Ryan advised that the Office will be working with Township Assessors to complete valuations for all Peoria County properties, and anticipates an increased value in assessments. He added that as a result of the anticipated increase in value, Board of Review complaints will also increase.

Treasurer

Ms. Bjerke advised that mobile home tax bills were sent out in March and are due May 1, 2023. She stated that 82,262 property tax bills will be mailed, and also available online, this Friday, with due dates of June 6, 2023 and September 6, 2023. She added that the tax sale will be held on November 6, 2023.

Ms. Bjerke advised that staff is working through audit requests from the Finance Department and external auditors.

Veteran's Assistance Commission

Mr. Brooks advised that the Commission saw 372 walk-in veterans in March. He advised that the VA is currently serving 1,568 active disability claims awaiting decision, and just over \$3 million in new benefits for veterans and \$22.2 million in total benefits have been secured in 2023 to date. He also stated that a lump sum payment in the amount of \$140,000.00 was awarded to a veteran.

Mr. Brooks advised he will be visiting all Peoria County veterans posts to explain the PACT Act and changes brought about the implementation of the Act.

Public Comment

Chairperson Duncan called for any public comment. There were no public comments.

Miscellaneous

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Duncan at 3:55 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman