

APPROVED 5/23/22
MINUTES
Ways and Means Committee
April 25, 2022
@ 3:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steven Rieker – Chairperson; Jennifer Groves Allison – Vice Chairperson; Eden Blair, James Fennell, Rachel Reliford, Phillip Salzer, William Watkins, Jr., Matt Windish
MEMBERS ABSENT:	
STAFF PRESENT:	Scott Sorrel – County Administrator; Jennie Cordis Boswell - State's Attorney's Office; Heather McCord – Chief Financial Officer; Gretchen Pearsall, Jack Walton – County Administration; Rachael Parker – County Clerk; Tom Bride – Election Commission; Dave Ryan – Supervisor of Assessments; Nicole Bjerke, Shawn Crabel – Treasurer; Michael Brooks - VAC
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 January 24, 2022 was made by Ms. Groves Allison and seconded by Mr. Watkins. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates

County Clerk

- **Collections and Transactions Report**
- **Property Tax Rate Adjustment Report**

Ms. Parker directed committee members to the submitted reports. Mr. Sorrel provided a brief explanation of the information provided in the “2021 Property Tax Rate Adjustment Report”. He noted that for more than a decade the County Board has been consistent in keeping the rate at a low level (82.41¢), with the sole increase from 80.5¢ to 82.41¢ coming when voters approved a non-binding referendum in the 2016 election cycle related to the Veterans Assistance Commission and the Care & Treatment Board.

Peoria County Election Commission

Mr. Bride advised that the new voting system and new electronic poll books are in the process of being implemented. He commented that as part of the implementation an internal mock election will take place on Thursday, with staff running through an entire election cycle utilizing the new voting system in order to detect glitches and evaluate any process issues. He stated that a press event will be held this Friday at 11:00 a.m. to preview the new voting system.

Mr. Bride advised that Election Judge training begins next week. He stated that in-house early voting for the General Primary starts May 19, 2022, and domestic vote by mail ballots will be mailed on the same day.

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

- **Tax Cycle**

Mr. Ryan advised the office is preparing 2022 valuations. He noted that 2022 valuations will be a three-year average and reflect sales from 2020 and 2021. He added that increases in individual assessments are anticipated, particularly for residential properties. He also remarked that 2023 will be a total reassessment year and could see some significant increases in assessed value.

Mr. Ryan advised that Radnor Township has been unable to procure an assessor, and has requested to contract with Peoria County for those services.

Treasurer

Ms. Bjerke introduced Shawn Crabel, the newly hired Chief Deputy. She stated that mobile home tax bills are due May 3, 2022. She commented that staff continues their training on the new finance system.

Ms. Bjerke advised that property tax bills are anticipated to be mailed by Friday of this week. She stated that the Treasurer's Office has entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peoria regarding tax collection for Peoria Township. She explained that the City of Peoria will no longer collect taxes for Peoria Township, with the County taking over that responsibility. She noted that this consolidation of services will eliminate duplication of services and ultimately be a cost savings to taxpayers.

Veteran's Assistance Commission

Mr. Brooks advised that three lump sum payments to veteran's have been issued in 2022, totaling \$445,000.00, \$153,000.00, and \$110,000.00.

Mr. Brooks advised that although digital signatures are now accepted, participation in Walk-in Wednesday continues to do well, and the Commission has received 147 new claims.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rieker at 3:50 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman