



Columbia County Executive Committee Minutes March 7, 2011

Members Present: Kenneth W. Hutler, Andy Ross, Fred C. Teitgen, Robert R. Westby, Debra L. Healy Wopat

Also In Attendance: Susan Moll, Donna Chrzas, Pat Beghin, Mike Babcock, Joe Ruf, Kathleen Haas, Karen Nelson, Dick Pederson, Lyn Jerde (Portage Daily Register)

Meeting called to order by Chair Westby at 9:00 am. The meeting was properly noticed as required by the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Hutler to approve the agenda as published. Second by Teitgen. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Wopat to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2011 Executive Committee meeting. Second by Teitgen. Motion carried.

Operational Review – Veterans Service Officer

Motion by Ross to approve the January and February, 2011 expenditure report for the Veterans Service office. Second by Teitgen. Motion carried.

Donna Chrzas reported out of county travel for the month of April in Madison and May in LaCrosse.

Motion by Teitgen to approve the 2010 annual report for the Veteran Services office. Second by Wopat. Motion carried.

NOAA River Gauge Agreement

Pat Beghin reported on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service river gauge that will be placed on the Hwy. 33 bridge in Portage. The County is responsible for the costs associated with purchasing the equipment. Beghin has applied for a grant that will cover 87.5% of the total costs. River gauges may also be installed on the Fox River and Crawfish River if the grant is received. Data collected from the river gauge is used by the National Weather Service to determine flood warnings.

Mitigation Planning Grant

Beghin gave an update on the mitigation planning grant. If the County were to consider a buyout of flood prone housing, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would cover 75% of the buyout costs for eligible property with the local municipality covering the remaining funding match. Committee members indicated that the County is not in a position at this time to do a funding match.

Post Employment Health Plan for Sheriff's Office Non-Represented Management Staff

Chief Deputy Babcock gave a brief overview of the Post Employee Health Plan for the Sheriff's Office non-represented management staff. The plan was originally negotiated by sworn employees to be an employee funded plan to help pay for health insurance at retirement until Medicare kicks in. Due to IRS regulations, the plan became employer funded in 2007. At that time, employee contributions ended for the non-represented management staff, while employer funding continued only for sworn staff. Past practice has been that managerial and other non-represented staff receive the same fringe benefits that sworn staff receive. Employer funding for non-represented management staff from 2007 through 2010 would be approximately \$22,540, employer funding for 2011 would be approximately \$6,370. The Finance and Judiciary Committees will also need to review this. A final decision to approve employer funding to the Post Employment Health Plan for the Sheriff's Office non-represented management staff will be determined by the Human Resources Committee. Babcock indicated that remaining funds from the 2010 Sheriff's budget could be used towards the 2007-2010 employer contributions.

Motion by Wopat to recommend that the County contribute to the Post Employment Health Plan for the Sheriff's Office non-represented management staff with the funding decisions determined by the Finance and Judiciary Committees; and that the Human Resources Committee change the policy wording so that any future employer contributions to this plan will be determined on a case by case basis. Second by Teitgen. Motion carried.

F.L.A.G. Resolution

Karen Nelson and Kathleen Haas presented a resolution on behalf of the Future Leaders Active in Government (F.L.A.G.) students. The resolution is for continued support of the F.L.A.G. Youth Leadership Program in Columbia County. Teitgen suggested that "intrigued" on line 22 be replaced with "delighted" and insert "will" after Committee on line 30.

Motion by Teitgen to approve the resolution to continue support of the Future Leaders Active in Government Youth Leadership Program in Columbia County with the suggested changes. Second by Ross. Motion carried.

Dick Pederson, UW-Extension Director, was also in attendance and introduced to the Executive Committee.

Moll reported that WCA has expressed an interest in writing about the F.L.A.G. program for their newsletter, recognizing National County Government Month in April. Moll will contact the WCA editor to let her know that the F.L.A.G. students are planning a trip to the Capitol and meeting with WCA staff.

Replacement Request Process Resolution

Joe Ruf gave an update on a resolution approved by the Human Resources Committee, amending the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual Section 7.05 clarifying that replacement requests to fill a vacant position must receive approval from the governing committee, Human Resources Committee, Executive Committee and Finance Committee, in that order. No action needs to be taken by this committee on the resolution. The resolution will be on the March County Board agenda for consideration. Teitgen requested that a copy of the resolution be sent to committee chairs.

Operational Review – County Clerk

Motion by Teitgen to approve the January and February, 2011 expenditure report for the County Clerk's office. Second by Ross. Motion carried.

Moll updated the committee on possible changes to the election process, including voter ID, change in election dates, and the possibility of recall elections this Spring/Summer. There is no out of county travel scheduled for this month.

Motion by Wopat to approve the 2010 annual report for the County Clerk's office. Second by Hutler. Motion carried.

Chair's Comments

Chair Westby shared correspondence he received from the Town of West Point on zoning code revisions; Miller Brussell Ebben & Glaeske on available property west of the courthouse; and Moraine Park Technical College on district board appointments.

Westby stated that redistricting numbers may be released this week. Ross announced that redistricting meetings are scheduled for April 7th in Portage and April 14th in Columbus.

Wage Changes for Union and Non-Represented County Employees in Response to 2009-2010 Union Contract Interest Arbitration Awards & Wage and Benefit Changes for Union and Non-Represented County Employees in Response to State Budget Repair Bill

Motion by Wopat to go into closed session to discuss wage changes for union and non-represented county employees in response to 2009-2010 union contract interest arbitration awards and wage and benefit changes for union and non-represented county employees in response to state budget repair bill, pursuant to WI State Statute Section 19.85 (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; (g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Second by Teitgen. Roll call vote was unanimous. The committee went into closed session at 11:12 am.

Motion by Teitgen to return to open session. Second by Ross. Motion carried. The committee returned to open session at 11:58 am.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Monday, April 11, 2011, beginning at 9 am.

Motion by Ross to adjourn at 11:59 am. Second by Teitgen. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth W. Hutler
Executive Committee Secretary

These minutes were recorded by Susan M. Moll, Columbia County Clerk.