



Columbia County Executive Committee Minutes March 8, 2010

Members Present: Harlan Baumgartner, Richard Boockmeier, Tim O'Neil, Robert Westby, Debra Wopat

Also Present: Susan Moll, Donna Chrzas, Lyn Jerde (Portage Daily Register), Kris Anderson, Lisa Walker, Erik Pritzl, Lois Schepp

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion by O'Neil to approve the revised agenda with the addition of the Recovery Zone resolution as published. Second by Boockmeier. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Baumgartner to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2010 Executive Committee regular meeting. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Operational Review – Veterans Service Officer

Motion by Boockmeier to approve payment of the January & February, 2010 expenditures for the Veterans Service office. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Donna Chrzas reported out of county travel for March and April.

Motion by Boockmeier to approve the 2009 Veteran Service Annual Report as presented by Donna Chrzas. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Proposed Senate Bill 270

Kris Anderson, Land Information Director, and Lisa Walker, Register of Deeds, gave an overview of Senate Bill 270. The proposed bill would remove the ability of the general public to search online records by owner name. The impact of removing the owner name from the online search would increase the number of open record requests to the Land Information office, which is not staffed for the additional workload. Anderson stated that owners currently have the ability to "opt out" and not have their name searchable from the internet. If the bill is passed, Anderson would ask for a policy clarifying how the public can contact her office requesting information, such as parcel numbers. She would also ask that internal staff continue to have the ability to search records by name. Anderson and Walker are not in favor of supporting this bill.

Redistricting

Moll announced that the 2010 Census will be mailed to residents soon. The Census was promoted in the 4-H and HCE newsletters and information can be found on the County's website. The County Clerk has been designated as the main contact for the redistricting project. The Land Information office will be the contact for mapping and data files. Erik Pritzl will ask staff, that have contact in the Amish community, to encourage the Amish to complete and return the census information.

Joint Resolution on Marsh Country Health Alliance

Erik Pritzl, Health and Human Services Director, gave an overview of the resolution authorizing the county to become a member of the Marsh Country Health Alliance Commission. As a member, Columbia County would be able to retain and place patients with Clearview Long Term Care and Rehabilitation in Dodge County. Initial enrollment will cost \$5,000, plus additional fees, up to \$75,000 a year, based on previous placements. Several counties have agreed to join the commission at this time. The Finance & Health and Human Services committees will take action on this resolution at their meetings.

Motion by Baumgartner to approve the resolution authorizing Columbia County to become a member of the Marsh Country Health Alliance Commission and execute an intergovernmental cooperation agreement. Second by O'Neil. Motion carried.

Operational Review – County Clerk

Motion by Baumgartner to approve payment of the January & February, 2010 expenditures for the County Clerk's office. Second by Boockmeier. Motion carried.

Motion by Westby to approve the 2009 County Clerk Annual Report as presented by Sue Moll. Second by O'Neil. Motion carried.

Committee Appointments

Motion by Boockmeier to approve the list of Emergency Fire Wardens to serve Columbia County for 2010 as selected by the Department of Natural Resources. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Moll will check with the DNR to see what the procedure is if someone on the list has recently passed away (Clifford Robson).

Department Head Performance Planning Guide Feedback

The frequency of conducting the performance reviews has been a concern of supervisors. Wopat indicated that the reviews may be reduced to include an initial review in May, a follow-up review in January, and a final review.

Joint Resolution on County Property Tax Rate Limits

Wopat explained that support of the resolution repealing county tax rate limits would sunset the mill rate freeze set in 1992 and only have one state-imposed levy limit. Columbia County has been most impacted with the two different limits currently imposed by the state. The Finance committee will review the proposed resolution and include additional information on how this will impact Columbia County. A joint meeting will be held prior to county board to take action on the final resolution.

Joint Resolution to Support Senate Bill 399/Assembly Bill 605

Lois Schepp, Comptroller, gave a brief overview of this resolution which would create a joint powers authority to assist local governments in issuing tax exempt bonds at a reduced rate with the intent to increase local economic activity. The WCA has asked counties to support this resolution. Wopat will contact a representative from the WCA for an explanation on this resolution.

Joint Resolution Designating a Recovery Zone

The WCA has encouraged the county to consider adopting this resolution designating the county as a recovery zone. Wopat will ask for an explanation from a WCA representative on this resolution.

The Committee recessed for a 5 minute break.

Resolution to Reduce County Board Seats

An informal survey conducted by another county was distributed listing other counties that reduced or are considering reduction of their board seats. If the current board is considering reduction, the time to do so would be in conjunction with the 2010 census and redistricting. Concerns with a possible reduction in board seats would mean more committee appointments for the remaining members; Increasing district size could mean less rural representation; Hard for full time residents to commit time as a member; Reduction in board seats would not be a reduction in expenses. Motion by Westby to approve the resolution decreasing the county board size from 31 to 28 with the fiscal note stating "None". Second by O'Neil. Motion carried.

Resolutions for Outgoing County Board Members

Motion by Boockmeier to approve the resolutions honoring outgoing supervisors Andler, Curtis, Nelson and Sanderson. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Chair's Comments

Wopat announced resolutions received from other counties. Westby shared proposed changes to the Standing Rules. Copies of the proposed changes will be distributed to all board members.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Executive Committee has been set for Monday, April 12, 2010 at 9 am. To be included on the agenda will be negotiations on the Masonic Temple property.

Motion by Westby to adjourn at 11:53 am. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard C. Boockmeier
Executive Committee Secretary

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