



Columbia County Executive Committee Minutes July 6, 2009

Members Present: Harlan Baumgartner, Robert Westby, Debra Wopat

Absent: Richard Boockmeier, Tim O'Neil

Also Present: Susan Moll, Bill Casey, Dennis Richards, Mike Babcock, Darryl Kuhl, Joe Ruf, Lois Schepp, John Hartman, Lyn Jerde (Portage Daily Register)

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

Baumgartner will be acting secretary in Boockmeier's absence.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Westby to approve the agenda as printed. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Baumgartner to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2009 Executive Committee regular meeting and the June 17, 2009 joint committee meeting prior to County Board. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Operational Review – Veterans Service Officer

Motion by Baumgartner to approve payment of the June 2009 expenditures for the Veterans Service office. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Operational Review – County Clerk

Motion by Westby to approve payment of the June 2009 expenditures for the County Clerk's office. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Remaining county clerk items will be taken up at the end of the meeting.

Position for Contract

Bill Casey explained that a new truck driver position was created following the signing of the City of Portage contract. The position was filled by current staff. Three positions remain vacant at this time. Motion by Westby to approve the new truck driver position in the Solid Waste Department. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Request New Jailer Positions

Mike Babcock is requesting six new jailer positions, based on a state inspection report that the county jail is not staffed to meet state guidelines. Darryl Kuhl explained that state regulations and guidelines emphasize hourly checks for staff to conduct one on one discussion with inmates to check on safety. This has recently been enforced to reduce inmate suicides. Current staffing does not allow for hourly checks, and based on the inspection report, approximately 15 additional jailers are needed to meet the requirements. Babcock is requesting 2 jailers per shift, explaining that although it is not the recommended number, it shows that the county is making an attempt to try to meet the required standards. The Human Resources Committee made a motion to forward this item to the Executive Committee without a recommendation. The Judiciary Committee will discuss this on Wednesday. Dennis Richards stated that each jailer position is approximately \$70,000 per year with a timeframe to hire additional staff in 2010.

Motion by Baumgartner to continue discussion of hiring additional jailers during the 2010 budget process. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Countywide Public Radio Upgrade

Babcock gave an update on radio system upgrade. The selection of a consultant has been narrowed down to 2 companies that meet requirements. Babcock is asking for a recommendation from the Executive Committee for the final selection of the consultant.

Motion by Westby to recommend the selection of a consultant is forwarded to the Finance Committee for a final decision. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Broadband Grant

Lois Schepp explained that there is stimulus funding available to expand broadband access, this may be an opportunity to apply for funds that could be used to install a radio tower as part of the public radio upgrade. Lois has inquired about the funding and is waiting for a reply. John Hartman mentioned that a consultant could assist with the grant application process which is due in August.

Computer Issues

John Hartman gave an update on the computer system status. Computers were down last Monday morning and 90% restored by the afternoon. It appears that the damage was caused by lightning. Temporary equipment is being used until the replacement parts are installed. Cost savings in other budgeted items allowed for the purchase of replacement parts.

Position Replacement Request

Joe Ruf, on behalf of the Health and Human Services Department, is requesting for replacement of a full time public health nurse. Motion by Westby to approve Health and Human Services request to replace the full time public health nurse position and subsequent positions created by internal postings until a new hire is requested. Second by Baumgartner . Motion carried.

Increase in Hours

Joe Ruf, on behalf of the Health and Human Services Department, is asking for an increase in hours for current Commission on Aging drivers instead of hiring additional drivers. The increase in pay will be funded by federal dollars in the 2010 budget. Motion by Baumgartner to forward the increased hours request for consideration during the 2010 budget process. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Appointments

Motion by Westby to approve the following county appointments to the Local Library Boards: Julie Moskal (Lodi) and Delores Hausmann (Poynette) for a 3 year term to May 2012. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Board Chair Plaque

Sue Moll explained that outgoing county board chairpersons will have their name included on a perpetual plaque instead of being presented with an individual plaque. Committee members decided that there should be two plaques with the capacity for 60 nameplates each. The nameplate will include the name of the chairperson along their term in continuous/overlapping years. Chairpersons with consecutive terms will be included on one nameplate. The exact wording for the title of the perpetual boards will need to be decided. "Columbia County Board of Supervisors Past Chairs" and include the county logo was suggested.

Operational Review – County Clerk

Moll reported no out of county travel for July. Budget issues for 2010 were addressed. Early voting is being discussed at the state level; this may have an impact on the election budget. Moll will continue to monitor the status and keep the committee informed. The county's postage machine maintenance agreement has expired. A survey of departments will determine the county's future postage needs to aid in determining the most cost effective way to process outgoing mail.

DNR Services

Moll reported that the final state budget did not close all DNR service centers but reduced staff and hours of operation. A decision will need to be made soon if the county clerk's office will offer additional DNR services. The DNR would like a commitment from the county so that training and other arrangements could be made. A decision will also aid in preparing the 2010 budget. Moll is looking into accepting debit/credit cards as an option for customers to pay the fees. Cash payment is only accepted at this time. DNR fees may be too large for cash only payments.

Marriage License Waiver Fee

Moll indicated that the final state budget includes a provision to increase the marriage license waiver fee from \$10 to a maximum of \$25. The maximum limit of a domestic partnership waiver fee is \$10. Baumgartner felt that the waiver fees should be consistent between marriages and domestic partners. The marriage license waiver fee will remain at \$10.

County Clerk Fees

The final state budget mandates the county clerk's office to process domestic partnership registrations and terminations. Per Wis. Statute Chapter 770, fees can be charged for this service. This will require approval to amend the county clerk fees.

Motion by Baumgartner to amend the Columbia County Code of Ordinance, Title 9, Chapter 1, Section 4 of the County Clerk Fees to include Domestic Partnership fees. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Building Space Needs

Wopat gave an update of the Building Space Needs discussion that has taken place during committee meetings.

Chair's Comments

Chair Wopat shared communications from CCEDC regarding an award presentation to Freeland Industries for 100 years of service; Representative Jeff Fitzgerald regarding the state budget; Emergency Management Report; and resolutions from other counties.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Executive Committee has been set for Monday, August 3, 2009 at 9 am. Items to include will be the approval of the 2010 budgets and a resolution to purchase property.

Motion by Westby to adjourn at 11:45 am. Second by Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harlan Baumgartner
Executive Committee Acting Secretary

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