



Columbia County Executive Committee Minutes September 8, 2008

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

Absent: Richard Boockmeier

Also Present: Susan Moll, Donna Chrzas, Erik Pritzl, Deanna, Bob Hamele, Pat Beghin, Kurt Calkins, Nancy Elsing, Lyn Jerde (Portage Daily Register)

Meeting called to order by Chair Wopat at 9:02 am. The meeting was properly noticed as required by the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Westby to approve the agenda as printed. Second by O'Neil. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by O'Neil to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2008 Executive Committee regular meeting. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Operational Review – Veterans Service Officer

Motion by Westby to approve payment of the August 2008 expenditures for the Veterans Service office. Second by O'Neil. Motion carried.

Donna Chrzas will be out of the county for a conference in Waupaca on September 22-26. She will also be attending a board meeting on October 16-17 in Appleton and a regional meeting in Tomah on October 24.

Erik Pritzl introduced Deanna, a graduate student, who will be working until May at the Health and Human Services Department.

Harlan Baumgartner arrived at 9:11 am

Position Replacement Request

Erik Pritzl has requested an economic support specialist position, replacing an employee who is retiring. Pritzl would like to hire the new person while the existing employee is still employed and able to train the new employee. There will be not additional costs to the county as funding will be available through another source. Motion by O'Neil to approve Health and Human Services request to replace the Economic Support Specialist position. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Review/Approve Veteran Grave Payments

Motion by Baumgartner to approve the payment of the veteran graves at the reduced budgeted rate of \$5 per grave. Second by Westby. Motion carried. A letter signed by the chair of the Executive Committee, explaining the reduction of fees, will be included with the payment.

Operational Review – County Clerk

Motion by Baumgartner to approve payment of the August 2008 expenditures for the County Clerk's office. Second by O'Neil. Motion carried.

Staff will be acquiring some compensatory time for hours worked at the upcoming election.

Hazard Mitigation Buyout Program

Pat Beghin, Emergency Management Director, discussed the Hazard Mitigation Buyout Program. Only a couple of people have expressed an interest in the buyout program so far. The deadline for initial paperwork should be filed within the next couple of months; however, homeowners may have up to a year from the disaster declaration to participate.

Beghin also gave a report on the Wisconsin River cleanup. The project is now complete. There were approximately 25 additional sites that were found. The organization has asked for increased funds to cover the additional sites. Columbia County's portion of the total cleanup will be \$3,500 or less.

Discussion was held on the potential of a Baraboo River cleanup. Representatives from the Drainage Board have requested a meeting of farmers, county and state representatives (DOT, DNR) to determine the best approach for the cleanup and future flooding prevention.

Update on Air Quality Issues

Kurt Calkins, Land and Water Conservation Director, explained air quality non-attainment of containment of fine particulate matter and the impact that the non-attainment status could have on Columbia County. It was suggested that Columbia County be part of the clean air coalition along with Alliant Energy.

Tim O'Neil and Nancy Elsing have expressed an interest to be part of any future meetings on this topic. Bob Hamele would like to be included in on correspondence.

Chair's Comments

Wopat shared resolutions received from other counties. A resolution opposing the closing of roads in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest was referred to the Land and Water Conservation Department for discussion. The District Attorney has filed a request with the State for two additional assistant DAs. The Aldo Leopold site is being considered as a National Historic Landmark designation. A letter was received from the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium asking for an increase in support. Doug Richmond will be giving a presentation on Youth in Government at the next county board meeting. Kurt Calkins will also be doing a presentation on groundwater flow. An employer member has been appointed to the Kettle Moraine Park Technical College Board.

Members attending the WCA Conference will meet following the County Board meeting to discuss topic sessions they plan to attend.

Set Next Meeting Date

A next meeting has been set for Monday, October 6th at 9 am.

Motion by Baumgartner to adjourn at 11:02 am. Second by Westby. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Westby
Executive Committee Acting Secretary

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