

Tax & Elections Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.
VCAB, 201 N Vermilion St, 2nd Floor

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Chairman Morse called the meeting to order at 5:00P.M. Upon the call of roll, the following members were present: Tom Morse, Joel Bird, Jerry Hawker, Nancy O’Kane, Bruce Stark and Becky Stark. Absent was Marla Mackiewicz. 6 present, 1 absent. Also attending the meeting were: Larry Baughn – Vermilion County Chairman, Steve Brandy – WDAN, Bill Donahue – Vermilion County Risk Consultant, Barb Bailey – Election Commission, Darren Duncan – Vermilion County Treasurer, Tom Mellen – Election Commission, Sandy Delhaye – Election Commission Director, Thomas O’Shaughnessy – Chief Judge, Robyn Heffern – County Clerk’s Office, Lindsay Light – County Clerk’s Office, Matt Long – Supervisor of Assessments, Mary Ellen Surprenant – County Board Member and Cassy Carter – Financial Administrative Manager.

Agenda Item 2 – Adoption /Amendments to Agenda

Bird moved to adopt the agenda, second was made by Bruce Stark. Motion passed by acclamation.

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Minutes for the Previous Meeting- August 17, 2021

Becky Stark moved to approve the minutes, second was made by O’Kane. Motion passed by acclamation.

Agenda Item 4 - Audience Comments

None

Agenda Item 5 – Budget - Election Commission

Motion made by Bruce Stark, second by Becky Stark to discuss. Judge O’Shaughnessy explained the history of the Election Commission, and clarified that this falls under the responsibility of the Chief Judge to appoint the commissioners. The Judge also stated the Commissioners, the department head and the court has committed to follow the practices of the county. He also stated they are moving forward in the spirit of cooperation. The Judge discussed their budget and noted an overall decrease of 5%. Hawker questioned the expense of canvassing the voters, Judge O’Shaughnessy explained this is the cost to print and send the postcards. Bruce Stark questioned why the City Election Commission no longer assists with the cost of the elections. The Judge assured all that he would look into this. Discussion ensued on the Election Commission budget.

Upon the call of the roll the following members voted yes, to wit: Morse, Bird, O’Kane, Bruce Stark and Becky Stark. 5 yes, 1 no, 1 absent. Budget passed.

Agenda Item 6 – Budget – County Clerk

Motion made by Hawker, second by Bird to discuss. Light presented the budget for the County Clerk’s office. She explained that there were eight employees and this has decreased to six. The salary line will still be short, so there will be a requested budget amendment of around \$2,000 needed. She also explained for 2022 budget there will be two elections. O’Kane questioned the jump in salaries. Light explained this was due to the downsizing of employees and splitting up the duties amongst the remaining employees. This resulted in raises for the employees due to taking on more duties. Discussion ensued on the County Clerk budget.

Upon the call of the roll the following members voted yes, to wit: Morse, Bird, Hawker, O’Kane, Bruce Stark and Becky Stark. 6 yes, 1 absent. Budget passed.

Agenda Item 7 – Budget – Board of Review/Supervisor of Assessments

Motion made by Bruce Stark, second by Becky Stark to discuss. Long presented the budget for the Board of Review. He noted the only change was to the salary lines. They did eliminate one position, and the duties will be absorbed by the current employees. He explained this does also save the county money on benefits

Upon the call of the roll the following members voted yes, to wit: Morse, Bird, Hawker, O’Kane, Bruce Stark and Becky Stark. 6 yes, 1 absent. Budget passed.

Motion made by Hawker, second by Becky Stark to discuss. Long presented the budget for the Supervisor of Assessments. He explained they have decreased their staff by one. For the 2022 budget he has increased his staff pay since they are taking on additional duties. He stated this still saves the county money since he is not allocating the full salary from the employee whom left, as well as saving on employee benefits.

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Upon the call of the roll the following members voted yes, to wit: Morse, Bird, Hawker, O'Kane, Bruce Stark and Becky Stark. 6 yes, 1 absent. Budget passed.

Agenda Item 8 – Executive Session

None required

Agenda Item 9 – Items of Information

Chairman Baughn explained that this was the last budget meeting, so all budgets meetings were completed. He also stated some departments don't have the ability to cut people, so we need to make sure the raises are fair overall. He advised that we are working on a plan for the minimum wage increases. After conversation between the committee members, the meeting adjourned.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

Committee Chairman Morse adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Minutes by: Cassy Carter, Financial Administrative Manager, County Board