

Chair Sig Hjemvick called to order the meeting of the Legislative & Judicial Committee at 9:02 a.m., Tuesday, July 12, 2011, in Conference Room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Public meeting notice was given to the public more than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

Legislative & Judicial Committee Members Present: Chair Sig Hjemvick, James Behling, Ron De Bruyne, Gene Ciszek and Steve Favorite.

Others Present: Scott Jensen, Joy Schmitz, Martha Milanowski, Judge Neal Nielsen and recording secretary Beth Carter.

Motion by S. Favorite, seconded by G. Ciszek to approve the agenda to be discussed in any order of the Chair. All voting aye, carried.

Motion by S. Favorite, seconded by G. Ciszek to approve the June 13, 2011, minutes. All voting aye, carried.

Veterans Service Office Matters: Veterans Service Officer Scott Jensen submitted and reviewed the expenditure guideline and vouchers for the Veterans Service Office. Committee members signed vouchers as presented.

Mr. Jensen reported the following: Mr. Jensen informed the committee that he would like to consider having the Cannon and 8th Wisconsin Artillery back again next year for Memorial Day. He would like to establish a separate line item in the Veteran Service office budget to cover expenses such as advertising and promotion. Committee recommends Mr. Jensen consider funds specific for these types of expenses at the time the budget process begins this fall.

In reference to Veteran Service Commission, Mr. Jensen reported that recently Ray Johnson, a member of the Veteran Service Commission, recently passed away. He is currently looking for a replacement and is in the process of soliciting applications. A letter was sent to service organizations in Vilas County (American Legion and VFW). An employment ad will also be put in the paper. Mr. Jensen will present the applications to County Board Chair Favorite for his review. S. Favorite indicated he will go over the applications with Mr. Jensen and come up with a recommendation to submit to County Board for ratification of the appointment.

Out of County Travel: Mr. Jensen is requesting approval to attend the Northeast CVSO Association monthly meeting at Winnecone, Wisconsin on July 20, 2011. Motion by G. Ciszek, seconded by S. Favorite that Scott Jensen has approval to attend the Northeast CVSO Association monthly meeting at Winnecone, Wisconsin on July 20, 2011. All voting aye, carried.

Judicial Update:

Judge Nielsen reported the following: Part of the new budget bill has a change to Small Claims legislation which raises the Small Claims limit from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for some Small Claim actions. It will create a significant amount of confusion because Clerks and Deputy Clerks are prohibited by law from giving legal advice to litigants. The Courts will begin working through this by sorting out what cases remain at \$5,000.00 and what cases are going to be \$10,000.00. Most of the large claim civil actions that the court sees are well in excess of \$10,000.00. Therefore, Judge Nielsen doesn't expect any significant change. Judge explained that there is talk about authorization in the budget to adjust some of the state monies that are now coming to court as part of an established plan of reimbursement court support services which is generated by a formula. The Court will have to see what the effect those numbers have on Vilas County. It is too soon to know, which puts

the Clerk of Court in a difficult spot when preparing next year's budget. Judge Nielsen will continue to keep the committee advised.

Family Court Commissioner Calvin Burton will be retiring at the end of the year. He would like to seek guidance informally as to how to appropriately budget for the Family Court Commissioner. The salary of the Court Commissioner is \$12,000.00 and there is an additional line item for training and continuing educational responsibilities. He further explained the role of the Family Court Commissioner to the committee. Judge Nielsen will look into possibility of contracting, sharing the position with other counties or hire for this position. J. Behling recommends the Judge to prepare the Court Commissioner Budget, based on market value, and submit to the Finance Committee which will start the discussions to get this position financed. Chair S. Hjemvick recommends a recognition resolution from County Board for Mr. Burton. Judge Nielsen will continue to keep the committee advised.

Child Support Matters: Child Support Director Joy Schmitz submitted and reviewed the expenditure guideline and vouchers for the Child Support office. Committee signed vouchers as presented.

Ms. Schmitz reported the following: Joy Schmitz reported back on the safety issue brought before this committee at the June meeting. Spoke with Chief Joe Fath, Social Service Director Kate Gardner and Maintenance Supervisor Gary Kuckenbrod. G. Kuckenbrod suggested to Ms. Schmitz that she obtain a quote and forwarding to Public Property. Samuels Group will meet with Ms. Schmitz for ideas and perhaps have an estimate. Ms. Schmitz will report back to the committee next month once she meets with Samuels Group. Discussion. No action taken.

State and Federal Child Support incentive funding for 2012/2013 will result in reduction of approximately 34%. It will not be a straight across the board reduction. The Department of Children and Families must submit to Joint Finance a plan no later than August 31, 2011, regarding the method which will be used to distribute the funds.

Ms. Schmitz was contacted by Shawano County regarding inter-county financial Child Support Services Contract. The Financial Clerk would do Financial Services for Shawano County at the rate of \$30.15 per hour (Vilas County wages & benefits). It is approximately 25 hours per month. Corporation Counsel Martha Milanowski reviewed the agreement and felt it was sufficient. Committee reviewed a copy of what the contract would look like. This would be a one (1) year contract. If it would exceed 72 hours a month a new contract would be drawn up. Ms. Schmitz believes the Accounts Clerk in her department has the time to do this work for Shawano County. If there was an area where the Vilas County Child Support Department would have to decrease their budget, the hours for Accounts Clerk would be decreased. Supervisor Behling believes the Accounts Clerk in Child Support could possibly utilize skills by sharing time with another department in the Courthouse. That way there is a more efficient use of staff and time which is cost effectiveness for Vilas County. Corporation Counsel reminded the committee that the Accounts Clerk position is currently under a labor contract until 12/31/2011. Discussion. Motion by S. Favorite, seconded by Ron DeBruyne to approve an agreement with Shawano County and that the agreement expires on December 31, 2011. All voting aye except J. Behling, motion carried.

Corporation Counsel Report: Corporation Counsel Martha Milanowski submitted and reviewed the expenditure guideline, vouchers for the Corporation Counsel's office and monthly reports showing the written requests and new cases for June.

Ms. Milanowski reported the following: Ms. Milanowski shared with the committee various activities of the office. Ms. Milanowski is unavailable to attend the County Board meeting in August. Assistant Corporation Counsel Tara Alfonso may attend the board meeting in her absence.

Ms. Milanowski explained to the committee that the fax machine in the office is in need of repair or replacement. Checked into the cost of repair and the cost to replace and it appears that the repairs could exceed the cost of a new fax machine. Motion by R. DeBruyne, seconded by S. Hjemvick to present three (3) estimates to Public Property for a new fax machine for the Corporation Counsel office. All voting aye, carried.

Legislative Update: No discussion.

Standing Rules: Structure of Committee Meetings Supervisor Favorite indicates this topic will be ongoing and hopes to work towards the 2012 re-organization of the standing rules. Schenck comprehensive study has already made contact with all the department heads. The Schenck findings will be submitted to the Finance Committee in October/November. Guidance from Schenck's comprehensive study will aid in future discussions of consolidation, restructuring of committees and rules. Supervisor Behling believes the County needs to look at committee structure and committee functionality within the Courthouse and asks the question: Are the committees doing what the County needs the committees to do? Discussion. No action taken.

Number of County Board Meetings Chair Hjemvick believes increasing the number of County Board meetings could better inform the Supervisors of what's going on in a timely manner. And, more often things can't wait for a meeting every other month. Discussion. No action taken.

Approval of Bills: Motion by S. Favorite, seconded by G. Cizek to approve and signed the Veteran Service, Child Support and Corporation Counsel vouchers, as presented. All voting aye, carried.

Steve Favorite left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Letters and Communications: No discussion.

Next Meeting Date: August 9, 2011.

Chairman Hjemvick announced there is no further business on the agenda. This meeting stands adjourn at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.

Submitted by: Beth Carter