



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

JUDICIAL/GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

PORTAGE COUNTY ANNEX
CONFERENCE ROOM 5
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

4:45 PM

REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-608-338-1399, after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 337 583 665, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Due to COVID-19 and the potential risk to members of the public who attend meetings in-person, any person who plans to attend the meeting remotely, but wishes to comment on an agenda item can send their comments via email to jentzl@co.portage.wi.us. The deadline for sending comments by email is 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Emailed comments will be delivered to committee members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Remote comment by the public during the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

The Judicial/General Government Committee meeting was called to order at 04:45 PM by Vice Chair Raabe.

Members Present: Vinnie Miresse, Dennis Raabe, Stan Potocki, Dave Medin

Attending In-Person: Dennis Raabe, Stan Potocki, Dave Medin

Attending Online: Vinnie Miresse

Members Excused: Matt Jacowski

Staff Attending In-Person: County Clerk Filen, Justice Programs Director Behnke, Chief Deputy County Clerk Jentz

Others Attending In-Person: John Pavelski

Staff Attending Online: Clerk of Courts Roth, Register of Deeds Wisinski, Corporation Counsel Ray

PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 22, 2022 Minutes

A motion was made by Stan Potocki, seconded by Dave Medin, to approve the February 22, 2022 minutes. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

REPORTS

2. Vendor Invoice Lists February 2022

Vice Chair Raabe asked if there were any questions. There were none. The reports were accepted.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

3. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding Special Meeting Attendance (Portage County Ordinance 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)
 - Request for special meeting attendance
 - Approval of attendance of special meetings
 - Special meeting attendance reports

4. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Revision of Portage County Code of Ordinances Sections 3.1.9, 3.1.16, 3.1.22 and 3.1.62 Resulting in the Dissolution of the Judicial/General Government Committee and the Transfer of its Duties and Responsibilities to the Executive/Operations Committee

A motion was made by Stan Potocki, seconded by Vinnie Miresse, to approve. Motion to approve failed by voice vote, with no votes in the affirmative. Motion failed.

5. Clerk of Courts
 - a. Office and Budget Update

Clerk of Courts Roth provided the following report:

Budget Update:

Current budget status:

2022 Expenses = 21.6%

Department Update:

Judge Eagon advised of his retirement will occur at beginning of July, 2022. This will be a situation where the Governor appoints one successful candidate from a pool of applicants to finish out the remainder of the term which ends 08/01/2024.

Judge Shannon who is not running for re-election has announced his last day on the bench will be April 8th. His term would actually end July 31st. I anticipate the district office will be assigning reserve judges to handle his established calendar until the newly elected judge is sworn in to take office.

6. Veterans Services
 - a. Office and Budget Update

A written report was provided in the agenda packet.

7. Corporation Counsel
 - a. Office and Budget Update

Corporation Counsel Ray provided the following report:

- Tax Deed Properties—Listed on Wisconsin Surplus Auctions site during March 2022.
 - Former H2O parcels available for sale in the Village of Plover—Finalizing road right of way issues for the first closing in 2022 on a parcel that is under contract.
 - Attorneys in the office are on vacation most of this week.
 - Continue working with Purchasing Director and Space and Properties Committee on a contract for the county to hire an owner's representative for the county's multiple building issues that are under review—Sheriff's Office/Jail, courtrooms and court system facilities, municipal offices, etc.
 - Reviewing and responding to multiple inquiries from staff, county board supervisors and the public about the upcoming April 5 election.
8. Justice Programs
 - a. Office and Budget Update

Justice Programs Director Behnke provided the following report:

- In 2022, Justice Programs has expended 14% of its allotted budget
- Director Behnke is addressing the following topics to be addressed at the next Treatment Court Oversight Committee meeting:
 - Working with UW-Extension Nutritionist to work with participants on healthy eating in early recovery.
 - Changing Phase 5 requirements to assist participants with the transition out of Treatment Court.
 - Working with the Victim Witness Coordinator on Victim Rights Law
 - Due Process language
 - Developing policy on Termination Hearings
- The Treatment Court day will be changed starting the week of June 6th. Treatment Court will be held on Tuesdays at the same time 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. If the courts are closed for any holiday that falls on a Monday, Treatment Court will be held on Wednesday from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- The Treatment Court AODA provider who is also the Portage House AODA provider is retiring. A treatment provider has been found for Treatment Court and she will start April 4th. The same treatment provider is interested in working with Portage House; however, details of the contract still need to be discussed.
- Treatment Court current statistics:

- Current Active Participants: 9
- Terminated: 1
- Administrative Discharged: 1
- Pending: 7
- Ineligible: 6
 - 4 – Current or prior violent offense
 - 1 – Did not reside in Portage County
 - 1 – Risk Level to Low
- Declined Participation: 1
- As the Director of Justice Programs and co-chair of the AODA coalition, Director Behnke is looking into places that may be interested in having Naloxone boxes that would have free Narcan that anyone can access. Director Behnke will be going through the committee process to see if the Day Report center can distribute Narcan to its participants.

b. Office Update on 2022 Contracts Less Than \$25,000 with The Centre for Well-Being for Treatment Court.

10. County Clerk

a. Office and Budget Update

County Clerk Filen provided the following report:

- 2022 Budget is on track
- The Office is preparing for:
 - April 5th Spring Election
 - Reorganizational Meeting
 - County Clerk vacancy
- Portage County will be hosting a Chief Inspector training next week to train new inspectors for the upcoming election.
- Tax deed on-site visits are scheduled for mid-April to view the potential acquisitions for the County.
- The discussion on how to fill the County Clerk vacancy will be on the agenda for the April 7th Executive/Operations Committee meeting.
- Update on ballot dropboxes and delivery method for absentee ballots effective for the April election.

9. District Attorney

a. Office and Budget Update

District Attorney Molepske provided an office and budget update to the committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tentatively scheduled for May 24th, dependent on the availability of the new appointed committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Potocki, seconded by Supervisor Miresse, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.
Meeting adjourned at 05:38 PM

Notice: Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact the Facilities Office at 715-346-1598 as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, or any committee thereof, may be present at this meeting.