



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

JUDICIAL/GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

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

Monday, July 25, 2022

5:30 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: 585 329 266, then press #

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

Or join by entering a meeting ID

Meeting ID: 287 354 280 291

Passcode: YQ2U6s

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.

Email 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 05:30 PM

Members Present in-person: Matt Jacowski, Lionel Weaver, Pat Keller, Andrew Rockman, Suzanne Oehlke

Staff Attending: Justice Programs Director Starr, Veteran Service Director Clements, County Executive Pavelski, County Clerk Davis, Chief Deputy County Clerk Jentz, Register of Deeds Wisinski, Corporation Counsel Ray

Others Attending: County Board Chair Haga, Supervisor Miresse, Supervisor Honl, Supervisor Olson, and members of the public

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.

Al Haga, Ray Reser, Gerry Zastrow, Joan Honl, Vinnie Miresse, Mildred Neville, and Mike Olson regarding agenda item 4, Revision of Portage County Code of Ordinances Sections 3.1.9 and 3.1.16 Resulting in the Transfer of Legislative Oversight for the County Clerk and Corporation Counsel Offices from the Judicial/General Government Committee to the Executive/Operations Committee

Al Haga regarding agenda item 8, Corporation Counsel Office and Budget Update

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 25, 2022 Minutes

A motion was made by Supervisor Rockman, seconded by Supervisor Oehlke, to approve the May 25, 2022 minutes. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

REPORTS

2. Vendor Invoice Lists

Chair Weaver stated that any questions could be asked during the respective Director's report.

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

None

4. Discussion/Possible Action re: Revision of Portage County Code of Ordinances Sections 3.1.9 and 3.1.16 Resulting in the Transfer of Legislative Oversight for the County Clerk and Corporation Counsel Offices from the Judicial/General Government Committee to the Executive/Operations Committee

A motion was made by Supervisor Jacowski, seconded by Supervisor Oehlke, to approve.

The motion to approve failed by the following roll call vote:

1 Yes: Supervisor Jacowski

4 No: Supervisors Oehlke, Keller, Rockman, and Weaver

5. District Attorney
 - a. Office and Budget Update

No report was provided from the District Attorney's office.

6. Veterans Services
 - a. Office and Budget Update

Veterans Services Director Clements provided an office and budget update to the committee.

7. Register of Deeds
 - a. Office and Budget Update

Register of Deeds Wisinski provided the following report:

Wisinski gave a quick update on the current budget and explained tag-less scanning that will begin in the Register of Deeds office on August 1st. Tag-less scanning will electronically place the stamp on a document without the use of separate equipment. Wisinski stated that equipment is breaking and they are having difficulty getting replacements in addition to difficulty getting supplies for the equipment. With many documents currently being electronically filed with the office, this was a natural progression.

8. Corporation Counsel
 - a. Office and Budget Update

Corporation Counsel Ray provided the following report:

Office Budget through June 2022 is 47% expended;

We finished up processing and recording the tax deeds the county took this year on property tax delinquent parcels. The county took ownership of more parcels than usual this year; the Finance Committee made the decision to take ownership of the small remnant parcels that no one has paid taxes on for many years in order to clear up ownership limbo issues for those parcels;

The county is almost done selling the former H2O parcels. Closing on two more parcels is scheduled to happen between now and November 2, 2022;

Our office is working with outside counsel in Madison to help the county form an owners' association for the Portage County Business Park so the county can hand over the duties and responsibilities for running the business park to the owners' association.

9. Justice Programs
 - a. Office and Budget Update

Justice Programs Director Starr provided the following report:

As of the above date, Justice Programs has expended 42% of its allotted budget.

The Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) quarterly report was submitted on July 13th.

The Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) has a new application process. The pre-application is due August 19th.

State of WI, Department of Justice, TAD personal completed a site visit for the Treatment Court program and recommendations were made for Treatment Court to meet the Treatment Court standards (best practices).

The Treatment Court AODA group provider will be ending with Treatment Court this week. Jamie Kiener, from JusticePoint and I will be

running the group until a replacement can be found.

Treatment Court current statistics:

Current Active Participants: 8

Terminated: 4

Administrative Discharged: 1

Pending: 6

Ineligible: 10

6 – Current or prior violent offense

1 – Did not reside in Portage County

3 – Risk Level to Low

Declined Participation: 2

Justice Coalition will meet August 11th, from 8 am – 9 am in Conference Room 1 & 2 and a virtual option will be available.

An OWI 2nd work group is be created to look at including OWI 2nds into the Pretrial Supervision Program. Attorney Anne Renc through the Public Defender's Office is going to chair the work group.

10. Clerk of Courts

a. Office and Budget Update

Clerk of Courts (No appearance– Written Report Submitted)

Budget Update:

Current budget status:

2022 Expenses = 52.1%

Department Update:

Currently the Clerk of Court's department is fully staffed.

Michael D. Zell was appointed by Governor Evers to the Circuit Court Branch I vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Thomas Eagon. Judge Michael Zell was sworn into office on Monday, July 18th and is currently serving a three week mentorship.

Judge Louis Molepske starting on the bench in Circuit Court Branch II on July 18th after completing his three week mentorship. We are now fully staffed with judges and adapting well.

I attended the National Association for Court Manager's conference in Milwaukee the week of July 10th. It was a well attended conference with excellent speakers, classes and technology demonstrations.

11. County Clerk

a. Office and Budget Update

County Clerk Davis provided the following report:

New County Clerk – Start date and transition

Budget Update:

County Board

County Clerk

Elections:

WI Supreme Court Ruling on drop boxes

Upcoming elections:

August 9th, 2022

November 8th, 2022

Implementation of BadgerBooks within the County

Implementation of DS200 within the County

Campaign Finance for Local Candidates

NEXT MEETING DATE

August 22, 2022 at 5:30p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the call of Chair Weaver at 7:00p.m.

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.