



COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE
Minutes – July 10, 2018

Call to Order. Chair Podzilni called the meeting of the County Board Staff Committee to order at 4:00 P.M. in Conference Room N-1 on the fifth floor of the Rock County Courthouse-East.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Podzilni, Mawhinney, Bostwick, Brill, Bussie, Peer, Sweeney, Thomas and Yeomans.

Committee Members Excused: None.

Staff Members Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator; Randy Terronez and Nick Osborne, Assistants to the County Administrator; Annette Mikula, Human Resources Director; Richard Greenlee, Corporation Counsel; and Lisa Tollefson, County Clerk.

Others Present: Supervisor Tom Brien.

Approval of Agenda. Supervisor Bostwick moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Thomas. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements. None.

Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2018. Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the minutes of June 26, 2018 as presented, second by Supervisor Bussie. ADOPTED.

Transfers. None.

Review of Payments. The Committee accepted the reports.

Resolution.

Approving Advisory Referendum in Dark Store Tax Loophole

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this ___ day _____, 2018, that the following referendum be placed on the November 2018 election ballot:

Question: Should the state legislature enact proposed legislation that closes the Dark Store loopholes, which currently allow commercial retail properties to significantly reduce the assessed valuation and property tax of such properties, resulting in a substantial shift in taxes levied against other tax paying entities, such as residential home owners, and/or cuts in essential services provided by an affected municipality?;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corporation Counsel prepare a Notice of Referendum to be published by the Rock County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and the referendum shall be filed with the Rock County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the election at which the question will appear on the ballot.”

Supervisor Peer moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Yeomans.

Mr. Greenlee explained and said this would be a YES / NO vote on the ballot.

Supervisor Yeomans said it may be helpful to give information on how much money was shifted from the stores to citizens. Mr. Smith said the tax levy form has an amount called refunded taxes, but this is only a portion of that number, which increases taxes to residential and other property taxes.

Supervisor Bussie added that counties are losing millions of dollars due to internet sales.

ADOPTED.

Updates.

Discussion and Possible Action on Cell Tower Proposal for the Fairgrounds

Supervisor Bussie moved to discuss the proposals for the cell tower at the Fairgrounds, second by Supervisor Sweeney.

Mr. Osborne explained the three options offered by American Tower, the current terms, and the offers from 2014 and 2015.

Mr. Greenlee said the current lease expires in 20 years, but they do have an option to terminate the lease.

Mr. Smith said it does not appear there are other options for a cell tower in that area, American Tower would like a little more security by extending the lease, and the value to the County would be the fees to extend the lease and the addition of any co-locators.

Supervisor Yeomans said he made some calls regarding what others are receiving for leasing to cell tower companies. He said he feels the 3.5% escalator for the next 20 years is more favorable to the County.

Discussion on funds going to the Fairgrounds budget, and the continued need for cell towers.

Supervisor Sweeney move to postpone a vote until Supervisor Yeomans hears back on his inquiries, second by Supervisor Bussie. POSTPONED to a future meeting.

Update, Discussion and Possible Action on Town of Beloit Incorporation. Mr. Smith said he has not heard anything back from Town of Beloit since the last meeting. He added that he did hear that the Town of Beloit did file the application for incorporation on July 3, so this will start the clock ticking.

Supervisor Yeomans moved to postpone this item to the next agenda, second by Supervisor Thomas. POSTPONED to the next agenda.

Semi-Annual Reports The Committee accepted the reports.

Adjournment. Supervisor Sweeney moved adjournment at 4:57 P.M., second by Supervisor Bostwick. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bondehagen
Confidential Administrative Assistant

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