

Minutes

Joint Meeting - Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement | Committee on Finance and Budget
Wednesday, August 26, 2020 – 3:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Members Present: Melissa Janssen, Sandra McKinney, Zoe Roberts, Connie Russell, Gerald Wilkie, Jim Dunning, Robin Leary, and Stella Pagonis.

Members Absent: Steve Chilson

Ex-Officio Members Present: Nick Smiar

Others Present: Kathryn Schauf, Norb Kirk, Amy Weiss, Erika Gullerud, Jean Gay, Tiana Glenna, Susan Schaffer, Danielle Powers, Gary King, Ryan Patterson, and Eric Huse.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairpersons Wilkie and Pagonis at 3:00 PM.

Call of the Roll

The Clerk called the roll. Attendance was noted above.

Confirmation of Public Meeting Notice

The Clerk confirmed this meeting was properly noticed to the public.

Public Comment

There was no public comment made.

2021 Department Budget Presentations

• **Clerk of Courts**

- Clerk of Court Susan Schaffer presented the 2021 budget request for the Clerk of Courts Office. Schaffer discussed the current staffing situation; the Department is realizing 2020 savings due to vacant positions that have not been filled. Debt that was on hold due to COVID-19 has now been sent to State Debt Collection. Debt collection is down approximately \$300,000 from this time last year due to collections stopping for a few months. However, collections in general are still strong. Court operations in Small Claims and Mediation have seen a positive change using Zoom video conferencing. The Department budget request reflects a 5% tax levy decrease as mandated in the budget directions. The Committees inquired about the Department's listed outputs and expected trends in light of COVID-19.
- Supervisor McKinney, of the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement, moved to support the budget proposal as presented. **Approved** by the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement 5-0 via voice vote.

• **Circuit Court**

- Clerk of Court Susan Schaffer presented the 2021 budget request for the Circuit Court. Schaffer gave a general update of court operations in light of COVID-19. The Courts are seeing cost savings by having interpreters appear by Zoom rather than traveling to the courthouse to appear. This is a the Court will look to continue employing. The Committees requested that "Outcomes" be added to the performance metrics section in the future. The Department's budget request reflects a 5% tax levy decrease as mandated in budget directions.
- Supervisor Russell, of the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement, moved to support the budget proposal as presented. **Approved** by the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement 5-0 via voice vote.

- **Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court**
 - Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Jean Gay presented the 2021 budget request for the Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court department. Recent changes to State law regarding Juvenile guardianships has created additional work for Department staff. Gay discussed 2020-specific changes to operations and revenue.
 - Supervisor Janssen, of the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement, moved to support the budget proposal as presented. **Approved** by the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement 5-0 via voice vote.

- **Criminal Justice Collaborating Council**
 - Criminal Justice Director Tiana Glenna presented the 2020 budget request for the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC). Glenna described the addition of the pre-trial assessment program and grant fund opportunity that will support the program through a .37 LTE position. Glenna discussed the other programs that CJCC are involved in both within the County and across the State. The CJCC budget request reflects a 1% tax levy decrease. Glenna discussed that it was not really feasible to decrease the tax levy request by the 5% as mandated in the budget directions.
 - Supervisor Russell, of the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement, moved to support the budget proposal as presented. **Approved** by the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement 5-0 via voice vote.

Future Meeting Date

A second joint meeting of the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement and the Committee on Finance and Budget was scheduled for Wednesday, September 02, 2020 at 3:00 PM.

Future Agenda Items

- 2020 Department Budget Review
 - District Attorney
 - Sheriff's Office
 - TRY Mediation

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chairpersons Wilkie and Pagonis at 4:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Eric Huse
Committee Clerk
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement