



BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OCTOBER 11, 2022

DATE APPROVED: OCTOBER 18, 2022

Christine Husom	District 1
Darek Vetsch	District 2
Mark Daleiden	District 3
Mary Wetter	District 4
Michael Kaczmarek	District 5

Members Present:	Christine Husom, Darek Vetsch, Mark Daleiden, Mary Wetter, Mike Kaczmarek
Others Present:	Lee Kelly, Matthew Fomby, Marc Mattice, Clay Wilfahrt, Greg Kryzer, Tamara Anderson, Tony Rasmuson

(Remote) Barry Rhineberger, Jessi Miller, Steve Jobe, Steven Bot, Lindsey Meyer, Lori Pawelk, Schawn Johnson, John Holler, Elizabeth Karels

I. Schedule Meetings as Needed

County Administrator Lee Kelly reminded the board that in February the Tuesday, November 22 meeting was cancelled due to there being five Tuesdays in November. He said Tuesday, December 6 is the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) annual conference. Commissioner Christine Husom said she was planning to attend. Kelly said he was as well and asked about the workshop that is scheduled at the same time. Commissioner Mark Daleiden asked if it was necessary to hold the workshop as there were three board meetings scheduled during the month of December. The consensus was the workshop was not needed. Kelly said the workshop scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday, December 6 would be cancelled. Commissioner Mary Wetter asked about the AMC District 5 meeting. Kelly said that it was scheduled for Monday, October 24 in Meeker County.

RECOMMENDATION: *Cancel the Tuesday, December 6 County Board Workshop.*

II. Assessor Contracts for Next Assessment

County Assessor Tony Rasmuson said there needs to be a contract in place for the 2024-2025 assessment. The 2024 assessment will begin on Monday, January 2, 2023. His recommendation for the new contracts fee schedule is to maintain the 2023 assessment fee of \$15 per parcel. He provided rates for nine other counties showing that Wright County charges more than most other counties. The board discussed the merits of charging for assessment services, how much assessments cost the county and what the merits of not charging for assessments would be. Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek asked what the charge would need to be for the county to break even for each property assessment. Rasmuson said the rate would need to be about \$40 per parcel. Commissioner Darek Vetsch, Husom, and Rasmuson discussed some of the pros and cons of working with private assessors. Vetsch said in the future the county would be performing all property assessments rather than local municipalities.

Kaczmarek wanted it noted that townships were not specifically told this contract was being discussed at this workshop. He said a reminder needed to go out to let the townships know the contract was being discussed. Rasmuson said this is what the agenda is for, and the townships do not have to sign the contract if they deem it unfair or unnecessary. Vetsch said the consensus was to leave the rates as they were.

RECOMMENDATION: *Approve the fee schedule for the 2024-2025 Assessors contract at \$15 per parcel.*

III. Board Meeting Schedules

Assistant County Administrator Clay Wilfahrt summed up discussions held over the summer regarding board meeting schedules, packet release times and packet due dates. Changes had been made and were continuing to be made to these processes. The board asked Administration to investigate changing board meetings to twice a month. Wilfahrt said nine other county boards only met two times monthly. Given the board schedule it seemed to make sense to have the second Tuesday of every month be a board workshop while the first and third Tuesday be board meetings. The county leadership believes this change will be feasible and the board should be able to get all county business done in the two meetings.

Vetsch suggested moving committee recommendations to either the beginning or the end of the committee minutes going forward. He said the recommendations could be condensed into bullet points.

RECOMMENDATION: Consensus was to move forward with the suggestion for two meetings and one workshop per month, and to consolidate recommendations into bullet points at either the beginning or the end of minutes that include recommendations.

IV. Legislative Items

Kelly said in past years there were good discussions with the legislators. He suggested a meeting the last week in November to meet with legislators to show them the new Government Center and discuss what issues are affecting the residents of Wright County. Daleiden said it would also be good for the new elected commissioners. The board discussed what issues would be best to present to the legislators for discussion. The board reached a consensus of Monday, November 28 or Monday, December 12. Kelly said Administration would provide a list of issues prior to the November workshop to be discussed.

RECOMMENDATION: Invite legislators to meet either at 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Monday, November 28, or December 12 to discuss issues affecting Wright County residents.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

County Board Workshop Minutes submitted by Philip Hodges, Administration Specialist