

**GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**March 4, 2014**

PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM  
IVES GROVE OFFICE COMPLEX  
14200 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
STURTEVANT, WISCONSIN 53177

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The meeting of the Government Services Committee was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Ron Molnar.

The meeting was attended by Supervisors Snow, Dawson, Clark and Johnson. Also attending were Wendy Christensen, County Clerk and Register of Deeds, Tyson Fettes.

Excused: Supervisor Wisch

Absent: Supervisor Hall was expected late but did not show.

**#1 – Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**#2a – Approval of Minutes 02-04-2014**

**Action:** To approve minutes from the February 4, 2014 meeting as printed.

**Motion passed.** Moved: Supervisor Clark. Seconded: Supervisor Dawson. Vote: All Ayes, No Nays.

**#3ai – Discussion with Racine County Clerk, Wendy Christensen – Outagamie County Resolution No. 76-2013-14**

Outagamie County Resolution No. 76-2013-14 supports legislation to increase the petitioner fee for an election recount from \$5 to \$25 for ward. This resolution was referred to the County Clerk by the Government Services committee. She provided the committee with a written report which states that she agrees with this resolution and also provided documentation from the Wisconsin County Clerks Association in support for the enactment of Assembly Bill 418, fees for election recounts and Assembly Bill 419, counting votes for write-in candidates. This bill is one of many bills in process at this time. Vice Chairman Clark suggested that the committee write a letter to the legislation in support of this bill. The committee agreed and the Chairman and Clerk will draft a letter to forward to the state legislators.

**#3aii – Elections/Voting equipment/changing election laws**

Changes to election laws currently being proposed are: Chief inspectors and on other poll worker should seal bags. Each person should be from opposing parties. There is also discussion on where labeling goes on the ballot when making a duplicate and other procedural changes. Election dates for this year are: April 1, 2014 is the Spring Election with County Board candidates on the ballots, the Partisan Primary is August 12, 2014 and the fall General Election is November 4, 2014.

**#3aiii – Dog licensing/Passports/Marriage License**

There were new procedures in 2013 for dog licenses. Municipalities had to submit quarterly reports with no payments due and were billed after the year-end reports were finalized. Communication is sent electronically to municipalities to save on postage, time and effort. There has been an increase in passports due to contacting the local travel agencies and from post office referrals. Marriage license applications are down. This has been the lowest number in that past five years. Supervisor Snow asked how long is a marriage license valid? A marriage license is valid for 30 days if no request for extension has been made to the clerk. The marriage license must be filed within a year with the Register of Deeds office. If it is not filed within a year, the couple would need a court order to prove the marriage existed.

**#3b - Discussion with Racine County Register of Deeds, Tyson Fettes**

**i. Revenue through transfers fees and recorded documents**

Register of Deeds distributed a hand out to the committee of a 2012 & 2013 comparison chart showing revenue for this department increasing from 2012-2013. Birth, Marriage and Death documents are recorded and create the general revenue in this office as well as Real Estate recording fees. Vital records filings were up in 2013. 80% for transfer fees go to the state and 20% of fees go to the county. Real Estate Fees are \$30= \$15 of this fee is for the county, \$5 for redacting, which will be ending after this year, \$8 for Land Information Officer (LIO) and \$2 to the State of Wisconsin. Supervisor Clark asked are the fees set by the state. Mr. Fettes stated yes, fees for this office are set by the State. The committee would like to know what fees are not set by state. Mr. Fettes will review current fees, compare them and will report on them at his next scheduled meeting with this committee.

**ii. Budget overview**

Through Lean Government the Register of Deeds and Real Estate Description offices have combined. This should reduce the budget by 12%.

**iii. Number of documents, vital records, real estate**

45% of documents are now electronically recorded in this office. There was recently an article published in the Journal Times addressing a deeds scam that was affecting the public. Companies buy and then sell the deeds to the public for an outrageous price. There is currently a bill that would limit how much outside companies would be able to charge the public. Mr. Fettes thanked the reporter from the Journal Times for running the article.

**iv. New technology**

This office is currently using LandShark record system. LandShark is a web based program that gives you online access to the records system. You can sign up to view recorded documents. Optical Character Recognition picks up information when scanned in and puts it into the system. Land Notification is pushing out and creating an account with name and parcel number. The program will send an email notification to the owner if something is recorded to their parcel. You are able to purchase documents through this program at the regular fee of \$5.

**v. Partnership with City of Burlington**

The Register of Deeds office has worked with the City of Burlington for the past 2 years to service Racine County residents that live West of I94 and need services. They are able to obtain real estate documents, birth and marriage certificates and other services. Residents are also able receive services such as marriage license applications, and take payments for the treasure's office. This service seems to be going well for those who live on the West end.

**#4 – Old Business**

There was none

**#5 Correspondence and miscellaneous**

There was none

**#6 – Next meeting date**

The Government Services Committee meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room behind the County Board Chambers at the Ives Grove office complex.

**#7 - Adjournment**

**Action:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. **Motion Passed.** Moved: Supervisor Clark. Seconded: Supervisor Dawson.  
**Vote:** All Ayes, No Nays.