

**MINUTES**  
**LEGISLATIVE & JUDICIAL COMMITTEE**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**Tuesday, July 7, 2020**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**County Board Room**

Chairman Bier called the meeting to order at 6PM.

Present: Barney Bier, Theresa Bockhold, Todd Duesterhaus

Absent: Raquel Piazza, Ryan Hinkamper

Others Present: John Myers, Scott Graham, Gary Farha, Valletta Franks, Lori Geschwandner, Ryan Niekamp

Chairman Bier entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Mrs. Bockhold moved to approve the prior meeting's minutes.

Mr. Duesterhaus seconded the motion.

The Committee approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

The committee reviewed the bills and they all appeared to be in order.

Chairman Bier entertained a motion to approve the Fireworks Permit for Spring Lake Country Club for July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Bockhold made a motion to approved.

Mr. Duesterhaus seconded the motion.

County Clerk, Ryan Niekamp, stated that this was a last-minute permit request which came in at the end June. County Board Chairman, Kent Snider, reviewed the permit and signed the permit so Spring Lake could have their firework festivities.

There were no other questions.

The Committee approved the Firework Permit.

Chairman Bier handed the Committee the draft for the Indigent Burial Policy. The Committee discussed the policy and asked questions. Chairman Bier asked the Coroner's Office why they did not want the language "30-days" in the new policy. The Coroner's Office explained their position for requesting this be omitted from the new policy. Mr. Graham stated that in the past the taxpayers paid about \$30,000 per year for cremations and that this is not fair to the taxpayers of Adams County. The Coroner's Office has been explaining the situation with all the local funeral homes throughout the

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county. Mr. Graham believes that with proper training, funeral homes will understand the County's policy for indigent burials.

Chairman Bier entertained a motion to amend the County Code.

Mrs. Bockhold made a motion to approve the amended version of the Indigent Burial Policy.

Mr. Duesterhaus seconded the motion.

County Clerk, Ryan Niekamp, stated that this policy was passed unanimously by the Public Health & Safety Committee.

The Committee approved the Chapter 31 County Code to be moved to the full County Board for final adoption.

Chairman Bier advised the Committee that the next item on the Agenda is the Resolution to amend the 2020 Adams County Holiday Calendar. The Adams County Executive Committee tabled the discussion. Chairman Bier stated that the County has a few options.

- 1) The County can close the Courthouse down and pay employees for the day off which will cost the County in excess of \$28,000.
- 2) Employees can help the Election Authority work the election if the Department Head approves and the employee is willing to assist.
- 3) The Courthouse can close to the public and keep the offices open.

Chairman Bier asked that the resolution is tabled for one month.

Mr. Farha asked if it would be allowed for his staff to work for the Clerk's Office on Election Day since he is on the ballot. Chairman Bier stated that he did not believe it would be a conflict as long as they were not electioneering.

Mr. Farha noted that the Public Defender's Office has moved into their new office located at the former Sheriff's Office. Additionally, Mr. Farha, noted he and Mr. Nelson received 9.2% a raise from the State of Illinois. Mr. Nelson receives 90% of the State's Attorney's salary.

Circuit Clerk Geschwandner stated that she has a member of her staff retiring on July 31<sup>st</sup> and asked if she is able to hire her replacement.

Mrs. Franks stated that her department is down three staff members and asked if she could hire replacements as well.

Chairman Bier responded that he would need to discuss the personnel issues with the Finance Chair.

With no objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:40PM. The next Meeting is August 4, 2020 at 6PM in the County Board Room.