

**MINUTES  
LEGISLATIVE & JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
COUNTY BOARD ROOM**

PRESENT: Theresa Bockhold, Marvin Kerkhoff, Todd Duesterhaus, Raquel Piazza (late arrival)

OTHER: Ryan Niekamp, Todd Eyler, Lori Geschwandner, Rich Wagner, Anthony Foster, Todd Nelson

ABSENT: Mark Peter

6:00 pm meeting was convened and reviewed bills

Raquel Piazza arrived at 6:08

Approval of minutes-Tabled

No speakers

No old business

Theresa Bockhold stated there were two fireworks permits that had been signed by Gary. Ryan Niekamp stated, in regards to the permits, the certificate of liability insurance was not attached but he had contacted them and now has that on file in the County Clerk's office. So proper insurance was obtained. Raquel Piazza moved to approve, Todd Duesterhouse seconded the motion.

Theresa Bockhold asked if the committee was okay with the one day liquor license at the Adams County Fairgrounds. Marvin Kerkhoff moved to approve, Todd Duesterhouse seconded the motion.

**Resolution #2021-07-001-014**

Theresa Bockhold addressed the holidays specifically New Years Day as it will fall on a Saturday and it's being suggested that it be observed on the preceding Friday. Ryan Niekamp stated that union contracts read that whenever a holiday falls on a Saturday it is to be observed the preceding Friday. Discussion was made regarding what's been done previously. Ryan stated it's being brought up so early is because employees are wondering what dates they will be off so they can set their vacation schedules. The holiday schedule is typically reviewed in October. This also brings into question if county employees will be off on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday as well. Ryan Niekamp states that as it currently stands, employees would be off Friday and Monday and return to work on Tuesday. Operationally it will not change much in Ryan's opinion, but it may alter vacations. The sheriff mentioned having a buy back holiday days where they "use it or lose it." Rich Wagner's staff was going by what had originally planned on with the exception of New Years Day. Theresa Bockhold stated that Lori Geschwandner had also stated that she had a few employees that had already scheduled time off because those are the first weeks people usually ask off for. Theresa confirmed agreement on only

changing the observation of New Years Day to Saturday. The committee agreed to just revising New Years Day. Motion to approve made by Raquel Piazza and seconded by Todd Duesterhouse.

#### **County Code 4-4-13 (Merit Commission)**

Rich Wagner addresses the committee on changing commission language regarding staff in sheriff's department. This is an ongoing discussion from three years ago with Vonderhaar had previously brought up in meetings. When Vonderhaar had come in he hired a jail administrator and a chief deputy. He wanted to make sure they were protected. It's difficult to find someone that will step up and work in certain positions when there is a risk that any time a new sheriff can come in and get rid of their job. Any new sheriff coming in can pick the administration that they want but what happens to the old administrators is what this language clears up. As an example, Brian Curran was a sergeant now he is a jail administrator. The way the current language reads he could be expendable when a new sheriff comes in. The new language would read that the administrator would be put on appointment so even if a new sheriff comes in and chooses a different administration Brian could go back to his tenured position as sergeant and the new sheriff could put into place the jail administrator of his choosing. And this would be the same for the chief deputies and the jail admins. So even if a new sheriff comes in they still have job security in that they go back to the position they had before joining the administration. Gary Farha has looked over the new language and has approved. The Merritt Commission drafted this language and it is used by other counties. Terry Gibson drafted this particular form to be presented to the board. It's been on back burner while the board has dealt with other issues so Rich has presented it now to get it to go through so these officer's jobs are protected if a new sheriff comes along. Marvin Kerkhoff asks if they are to vote on this tonight. Rich Wagner states he originally took it to the Public Health and Safety Committee and he asked them to get it to the Legislative and Judicial Committee. A lot of the members of that committee have been having health issues so Ryan Niekamp assisted in getting it pushed into Legislative and Judicial committee meeting, but Rich intends to take it to all the committees up to the entire board. He's requesting this committee to look over the language and vet it and give to the county board. According to Ryan Niekamp this is not on the County Board agenda as it was dependent on what was decided in this meeting plus this would require a resolution which is not prepared. Todd Duesterhouse motions to approve and is seconded by Marvin Kerkhoff. Ryan says what will happen is it will be drafted in the way it needs to be presented and be on the legislative and county board agenda for approval next month.

Bills Theresa Bockhold states that one does not match.

Discussion about presentation for guest speaker for the next meeting about how long the presentation shall be ensues and it's decided it should be 15-20 minutes so it allows time for normal business and still be out around the same time.

Theresa Bockhold adjourns meeting at 6:24pm

**End Of Minutes**