

FINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE
July 18, 2022

Present: Tom Osborne, Chair; Phil Hathway, Vice-Chair; Jeffrey Nellenback; and Josh Leviker.

Others present: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Lisa Virkler, Andrea Moroughan, and Ian Gilbert; County Manager Ryan Piche; County Attorney Joan McNichol; Treasurer Eric Virkler; Human Resource Director Caitlyn Smith, and Information Technology Director Conner Biolsi.

Committee Chair Tom Osborne called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Legislator Osborne made a motion to approve the June 21st and July 5th, 2022 committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

Lewis County Jefferson County Community College Education Center update – Meghan Staddler, JCC

Meghan Staddle, Vice-President of Strategic Initiatives at JCC and is in charge of oversight at the Lewis County JCC Education Center. She expressed the colleges gratitude for the Lewis County JCC Education Center and how it is such a wonderful building. Many local employers have reached out to use the space such as Neenah Paper, Kraft Heinz, Rez America, and V.S. Virkler and Son. The County has utilized the building as well for the ice distribution event, Covid test distribution, Excel workshop that 26 employees took, and various departments using it for a total of 114 meetings. There have been 1,653 sign-ins since September of 2021.

The classes that are offered at this location are some of the basic classes, but also several classes designed to address needs in the area. There was a course on In-Home Childcare, CDL-A course with 5 county scholarships, Phlebotomy course, ServSafe Training for food and beverage businesses, Notary Public course, Emergency Trends in Agriculture workshops for adults and youth, Food Venture program which partnered with the Small Business Development Center along with Naturally Lewis. The Small Business Development Center is open one day a week with one advisor to meet with clients. There were 30 new SBDC clients, 86 college students, 9 Engineering and Design Program students, and 19 Heavy Equipment students.

This fall there is work being done with BOCES for programming courses. They have an HVAC course starting August 22nd; CDL-A course starting September 20th, Pre-Apprenticeship Construction starting October 31st, and continued support for Small Businesses and Aspiring Entrepreneurs.

Legislator Hathway questioned how often the childcare program is given, Meghan responded that it is given once a year. She then went on to explain that through the completion of the first course, there were 8 new openings for kids who needed childcare. Ryan Piche reminded the committee that the contract with JCC is up at the end of this year and the County will need to look at renewing it.

Legislator Osborne asked how people can find out more about the courses that are being offered, Meghan responded that they can look at Newzjunky, Facebook, naturally Lewis website, or the college website. Ryan Piche thought it would be beneficial to list just the courses and programs that are offered at the Lewis County JCC Education Center on our county website.

Eric Virkler commented on the one-page sheet that he handed out regarding fund balances. Both Contingency and Special Contingency have been mostly used up with a balance of \$1,000 and he would like to present a resolution next month to replenish both accounts using General Fund balance.

Re-districting Recommendation

Legislator Dolhof explained that the county is required to re-district because due to the new census numbers, it is out of line with the requirements. He showed the current map with the current districts and a new map with what changes are recommended in order to stay with 10 districts. If the board decides to move forward with 10 districts and the new changes then it can be as simple as just adopting a resolution. If the board decides to reduce the number of districts to 9 or 7 then it would require a referendum, which would be needed by August in order for it to be put on the ballot for this fall.

There have been 10 districts since 2004, before that there was only 9. Whatever the board decides it will be good until the next census is completed. There was further discussion on the minor changes to each district. Legislator Gilbert stated that the more people on the board, the more ideas, viewpoints, and sometimes chaos but Lewis County conducts business well. Legislator Dolhof stated that Russ Brownell was the one who worked the most on the maps and making sure the numbers conformed to the 2.5%+/- the average population of 2,659. It used to be 5%+/- but this year the guidelines changes which made it even more difficult. The consensus of the group was to stick with 10 districts with the new minor changes recommended by the committee.

Legislator Hathway made a motion to continue with 10 districts based on the new mapping, seconded by Nellenback and carried.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Setting the second public hearing for LMI broadband connections CDBG project# 636CVPF9-21 on September 6, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

AYE 4 NAY 0

2. Authorizing sale of 12.41 acres of county owned property located at 36080 State Route 26, Champion, New York.

AYE 4 NAY 0

3. Setting the 2023 Workers' Compensation apportionment for the Lewis County Self-Insurance Plan using claims experience, payroll, and full property valuation.

AYE 4 NAY 0

The following motions were made:

Legislator Osborne made a motion to authorize C&S Companies to create and send out an RFP for the Construction Phase of the DMV/Board of Elections Addition/Renovation Project, seconded by Legislator Leviker and carried.

At 4:04 p.m. Legislator Nellenback made a motion to enter an attorney client privilege session for foreclosure issues, seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

At 4:15 p.m. Legislator Osborne made a motion to enter into regular session and with no other business before the committee to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Legislator Nellenback and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board