

MINUTES

SCOTT COUNTY CONFERENCE BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING OF COUNTY ASSESSOR BUDGET

MONDAY FEBRUARY 25TH, 2019 - 4:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM – FIRST FLOOR

SCOTT COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

600 W. 4TH ST. DAVENPORT, IA 52801

A meeting of the Scott County Conference Board was held on Monday February 25th, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room on the first floor of the Scott County Administrative Center, 600 W 4th St, Davenport IA. The purpose of the meeting was for the public hearing of, and the Board's review, discussion, and adoption of, the Scott County Assessors proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-20. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Board Chair, Tony Knobbe who also took roll call as follows:

Schools:

Adam Holland – Bettendorf School Board, President

Tracy Lindaman – North Scott School Board, Vice-President

Jean Dickson – Pleasant Valley School Board, Director – District 7

Mayors:

Bob Gallagher – Bettendorf

Martin O'Boyle – Eldridge

Michael Limberg – Long Grove

Michael Bawden – Riverdale

John Kostichek – Walcott

Supervisors:

Tony Knobbe – Chair

Ken Beck

Brinson Kinzer

Others Present:

Tom McManus – Scott County Assessor

Beth Haney – Office Manager, County Assessor's Office

A quorum was established by the voting units.

Next order of business was to designate the delegates for each voting unit.

Schools – Dickson

Mayors – Kosticheck
Supervisors – Beck

A motion to approve the prior meeting minutes was made by Beck, seconded by Gallagher, all ayes, motion carried.

Board Chair recognized to the Board proof of official public notices of the Assessor's budget in both the QC Times and North Scott Press local newspapers, and that both met the publish date requirements per Iowa law.

At 4:04 p.m. the Chair requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. **A motion was made by Bawden to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Limberg, all ayes, motion carried.** After the Board verified that no public persons were present, **a motion to close the public hearing was made by Limberg, seconded by Dickson, all ayes, motion carried.**

County Assessor McManus then reported on updates of the Assessor's Office since the last meeting. McManus informed the Board of a recent staffing change and subsequent job opening and online posting for available Deputy Assessor position. There was discussion of Deputy Assessor qualification requirements per Iowa law and McManus noted that the salary proposed in the budget was likely higher than a new Deputy would be starting at, but needed to propose the higher salary in case the position attracted someone with experience worthy of higher compensation expectations. McManus mentioned new 2019 aerial photography flight of Scott County. McManus then gave a presentation on the Assessors Beacon website to the Board demonstrating some of the many new features available to the public. McManus also presented on new updates to the County Assessors website. McManus then informed the Board that he would likely be requesting the addition of two holidays to the Assessor's Office holiday schedule next year after he has had time to research it further. He informed the Board that after discussing this with HR, he discovered that the county considers each holiday to have a weighted value in relation to the annual COLA adjustment and that he would do more research to determine its feasibility. McManus commented on a new Assessors Office salary survey and informed Board that he would review it extensively and if any findings, present at next year's budget meeting.

McManus then spoke on SF49, a new bill being proposed to change the Assessor's position from an appointed position to an elected position. He discussed many of the issues this new bill would cause and also presented the Board with a letter he had recently sent to Senator Lofgren outlining some of the many cons of this bill and how it would negatively affect the Assessors Offices in Iowa and ultimately Iowa property owners and taxpayers. Then, McManus requested the Board, if so inclined, to pass a resolution regarding this bill so he could share with the Iowa State Assessors Association and local and other state legislators. After some discussion, it was determined the Scott County Conference Board was adamantly and vehemently in agreement regarding SF49. There was discussion of the Scott County Conference

Board becoming more involved at many levels of government if needed to ensure this bill not be considered. **A motion was made by Beck on behalf of the Scott County Conference Board passing a local resolution officially requesting that SF49 not be considered and that the Assessor's position remain an appointed position. Seconded by Bawden, all ayes, motion carried.**

McManus then reported on a property assessment appeal update regarding a single-family residence in Bettendorf being used for religious purposes changing from taxable status to property tax exempt status and why. Mayor Gallagher provided additional information on the topic and much discussion by the Board followed.

McManus then informed the Board of the importance of a good building permits system for assessment and taxation purposes and requested the Mayors to thank their building permitting and inspection departments for doing a good job.

McManus then presented the proposed Assessor's budget for adoption. He also informed the Board that again this year he worked with County Budget Director David Farmer and the County Auditor Accounting and Tax Manager Wes Rostenbach to ensure budget feasibility and the meeting of all state budget requirements. He proudly informed the Board that the Scott County Assessor's levy is the second lowest in the state. There was discussion as to how and why that is, and the benefits of hiring appraisal staff and becoming an in-house operation versus contracting with appraisal vendors as in the past. He informed the Board that there have been no changes to the proposed budget since the last meeting and asked the Board if there were any questions. There was discussion on the recent history of the Assessor's budget and the declining levy rates and the amounts requested for property taxation. **A motion to adopt the budget as proposed was made by Bawden, seconded by Beck, all ayes, motion carried.** Unanimous approval, budget adopted.

No old business reported.

No new business reported.

At 5:07 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by O'Boyle, seconded by Beck, all ayes, motion carried.

Date: _____

Tom McManus,
Conference Board Clerk,
Scott County, Iowa

Date: _____

Tony Knobbe,
Conference Board Chair,
Scott County, Iowa

SIGNED COPIES RETAINED IN COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE