Budget Hearing 02/15/2023

The Louisa County Conference Board met in the assessor’s office at the courthouse in Wapello on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, to consider the FY2023/24 Consolidated Budget of the county assessor’s office. The notice/agenda was posted at the courthouse in compliance with ‘open meeting’. Board Chairperson Chris Ball called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. With the following members attending:

 Supervisors Mayors School District Representatives

Shawn Maine David Kauffman Tom Howell

Chris Ball Kathyrn Crumly Mike Crow

Brad Quigley Mark Huston

 Gerald Kirk

A quorum for the meeting was declared present. Chairperson Ball called for the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion by Mayor Huston to approve. Second by Supervisor Maine; motion passed.

Assessor Smith presented the Conference Board Guidelines followed by the Assessor’s report.

The Board then heard the resignation of Board of Review member, Deb Massner. Discussion on any new applicants. Assessor Smith is working on finding a replacement, it is posted on the county web site and will continue to look for a replacement and she will report at the next meeting.

Following discussion on the keeping the entry level positions at the courthouse equitable, motion by Kauffman to authorize increase newly hired employee, Sarah Dean, to match other entry level positions in the courthouse and the update in the Salary Schedule. Motion seconded by Maine. Units voted as follows: Mayors-Yes; Supervisors-Yes; School Representatives-Yes. Motion carried. An additional page to the salary schedule was presented for the Assessor position relating to increases based on designations available in the assessor’s field. Motion by Kauffman seconded by Howell to adopt the Assessor’s Salary Schedule. Units voted as follows: Mayors-Yes; Supervisors-Yes; School Representatives-Yes. Motion carried.

Following discussion on the Consolidated Budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 a motion was made by Kirk to approve the proposed budget which included 10% raises. Second by Quigley. Units voted as follows: Mayors-Yes; Supervisors-Yes; School Representatives-Yes. Motion carried.

The approved budget, pending final approval, includes salaries and retirement payout totally $268,863, second payment to Eagleview for aerial flight of $22,770 and operating expenses of $225,843 for a total approved budget of $517,476. Of that $479,000 is to be raised by property taxes and utility excise tax at a rate of 0.62288 per $1,000 of valuation.

Discussion of a policy on the handling of expenditures and employee handbook for the assessor’s office took place brought about by proposed legislation. The proposed policies are the practices that have been in place, but not formally adopted. Motion by Kauffman to adopt the Louisa County Assessor Expenditure Policy. Second by Howell. Units voted as follows: Mayors-Yes; Supervisors-Yes; School Representatives-Yes. Motion carried. Motion by Kirk to adopt the Assessor’s Office Louisa County, Iowa Employee Handbook. Second by Maine. Units voted as follows: Mayors-Yes; Supervisors-Yes; School Representatives-Yes. Motion carried.

A public hearing for the adoption of the FY 2022-2023 budget is scheduled for Monday, March 6th at 4:30 pm at the courthouse in Wapello followed by a public hearing at 4:40 pm to amend FY2022-2023 moving money from the medical insurance line to payroll for the increase in the entry level hourly rate.

There being no further business brought before the Board, upon motion by Supervisor Quigley and second by Mayor Kirk the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Chairman Chris Ball Clerk Cathy C. Smith