

REAL ESTATE TAX CYCLE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENT: P. Chapman, M. King, M. Walters, C. Hankins, K. Novacich-Koberna

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: J. Thompson, P. Curtin, B. Cooper, A. Schoeberle, A. Meyer, J. Dauderman, L. Ogden, J. Zoelzer, A. Watkins, D. Westerfield, S. Rolens, K. Rosselli, R. Faccin, V. Jones, J. Ezra, C. Ellis, T. McRae, G. Bachman, D. Ming-Mendoza, M. Parkinson, D. Michael, C. Slusser, R. Wesley, K. Prenzler

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

Discussion was held regarding digitalization of county recorder records, Madison County media conversion agreements with Fidlar Technologies. Mr. Chapman gave a detailed introduction regarding the conversion agreements.

“Many board members first became aware of the Fidlar contracts and invoices during the last Finance, Tax Cycle, and County Board meetings. At the County Board meeting, the Recorder stated she took full responsibility for signing two contracts with Fidlar on October 2nd with the express purpose of Media Conversion Agreements for the protection of deteriorating files kept in the Recorder’s vault. The purpose was to save the files for posterity and to enhance commerce. It is a fact the Recorder received two invoices dated October 14th totaling \$100,918.95 requiring payment.”

Mr. Chapman voiced various ‘facts’ that were used in making a determination on if the Recorder’s actions were appropriate in going forward with the Fidlar contracts. Mr. Chapman also voiced actions he took on behalf of the Tax Cycle Committee.

The following questions were submitted to the State’s Attorney’s Office by Mr. Chapman:

Question #1: Given that the Recorder has asked the board to allow her to enter into this agreement previously and was refused, did the Recorder have the legal right to sign contracts without the Board's approval?

Question #2: If the Recorder does have the authority to enter into such agreements, can they do so if the money hasn't been officially budgeted?

Question #3: The Recorder made a general statement at the County Board meeting that she had requested a legal opinion from the State's Attorney's Office, did the Recorder seek any legal advice regarding the contracts?

Question #4: Has the Recorder or her staff sought any legal advice from the State's Attorney's Office regarding Chairman Prenzler's FOIA Requests?

Question: #5: If the Recorder had the authority to enter into the two October 2nd agreements, can she do so if (a) the cost of the agreements aren't budgeted, or if (b) they exceed her budget?

Question #6: If emergencies allow the Recorder to enter into unbudgeted agreements or into agreements that exceed her budget; (1) how is an emergency defined and (2) are procedures in place for determining emergencies and for her to gain board approval?

Mr. King voiced his disappointment in the Recorder's actions and also that a legal opinion was unable to be given at this time. He also voiced he would like to forego this discussion until more information is available.

Discussion was held between County Board members along with several others about the Fidler Contracts. It was noted the invoices have not yet been submitted by the Recorder's Office to the Auditor's Office for payment. Mr. Ezra welcomed the members of the County Board along with Ms. Meyer to submit their questions in writing which he will include in his memo.

Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Hankins to postpone this discussion until the next regularly scheduled Tax Cycle Committee meeting. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to postpone resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: M. King, M. Walters, C. Hankins, K. Novacich-Koberna NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Novacich-Koberna moved, seconded by Mr. Hankins to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Please refer to the audio for discussion details.

/mds