

**Legislative Committee
Special Meeting
September 12, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

Attendees

Committee: Allen Hinkley, Art Merrill, Lisa Driscoll, Eric Wilson, Tim Kelso, Tina Molé
Staff: Maria Kelso, Judith Garrison, Penny Bishop, Amy Merklen

Mr. Hinkley called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Elections Commissioner Judith Garrison announced that they were awarded a grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) in the amount of \$50,000 which has to be spent this year. She distributed a copy of a draft resolution for committee approval. In reply to Mrs. Driscoll, Ms. Garrison said the funds will be spent on a range of things including items to help poll sites be secure. Besides a big tent, Ms. Kelso stated she used \$1,600 to purchase flashlights and lanterns to be prepared for anything because no matter what happens, elections do not stop. Mrs. Driscoll made a motion to approve the budget amendment resolution to accept the CTCL grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson and unanimously carried. Ms. Kelso presented the Board of Election's 2025 Budget request for committee review and approval which is \$25,629 less than last year's budget. The budget is less because there will not be a third election in 2025.

In reply to Mrs. Driscoll, Ms. Kelso said they have not decided on which voting machines would be purchased. Ms. Garrison said they will have back-to-back presentations so they can thoroughly evaluate the machines. Mr. Merrill explained that the Finance Committee approved to have the Board of Elections purchase the voting machines in 2024 from contingency so the cost for the machines will not be included in next year's budget. Mr. Hinkley asked what the shelf life would be on the new machines?

Updated Public Defender, County Clerk, District Attorney, Clerk of the Board Medical Examiner budgets that include 2025 salary and fringe data were circulated for review and approvals.

County Attorney Amy Merklen distributed her budget for review and approval. She included the salary and fringe data for from Personnel but voiced her concern with a particular staff member who received a promotion but not an increase in pay. The concern was discussed, and a note was made on the budget to use the salary in question at the higher rate.

All budgets were approved as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.