

COUNTY TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

Minutes of Association Legislative Meeting

Meeting Date: June 11, 2024

Time & Location: 10:30 A.M. Marriott Hotel, Dublin, Ohio

Call to Order: 10:30 A.M. by President Alex Zumbar

Roll Call: Legislative Committee Co-Chair Dan Talarek, Lorain Co.; Angie Maki-Cliff, Ashtabula Co., Katherine Kelich, Belmont Co.; Robin Edwards, Champaign Co.; Brad Cromes, Cuyahoga Co., Scott Zumbrink, Darke Co.; Vickie Myers, Defiance Co.; Don Rankey, Delaware Co.; Caleb Stidham, Erie Co.; Cheryl Brooks-Sullivan, Franklin Co.; Char Lee, Fulton Co.; Steve McGhee, Gallia Co.; Jill Schiller, Hamilton Co.; Steve Welton, Hancock Co.; Lindsay Webb, Lucas Co.; John Burke, Medina Co., John McManus, Montgomery Co., Todd Hixson, Muskingum Co.; Lou Ann Wannemacher, Paulding Co.; Ellery Elick, Pickaway Co.; Alex Zumbar, Stark Co., Barney Wright, Warren Co.; Frank Grafmiller, Wyandot Co.;

Also in attendance were: Erin Glossup, Doug Crew, Rick Carr, and VD Troy.

CTAO Executive Director Kevin Futryk from Government Advantage Group was also present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve April 9, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Ellery Elick, seconded by Steve Welton. Motion carried.

Motion to approve May 14, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Barney Wright, seconded by Kathy Kelich. Motion carried.

Legislative Committee Report (CTAO Executive Director, Kevin Futryk)

H.B. 93 – Utilities Our concerns were addressed before the bill was passed by the House. There has been one Committee Hearing in the Senate. There has been no further movement on the bill. We are neutral on this bill.

H.B. 375- A Summary of Proposed OLBA Amendments to HB 375 was distributed by Kevin. A copy is attached hereto and made a part hereof. These are the most recent set of amendments. There is a meeting with Shawn Carvin, the Commissioners, and the Auditors the last week of June. The key provision is in the first bullet point with the removal of the additional 5% DTAC to fund demolitions made by the County Land Reutilization Corporations. Discussion was had regarding bullet point #4 stating that the County Treasurer shall adopt a written policy regarding the sale of real property sold pursuant to tax foreclosure proceedings. It was the consensus that County Treasurers is the better person to establish said policy. Dan Talarek asked if there would be a uniform policy for all counties or if each would establish their own. Kevin stated that in the past, the LC would develop “best practices” and try to get all counties to adopt those best practices. The other two issues that Shawn Carvin is willing to discuss are changes to Manufactured Homes and the Right of First Refusal.

H.B. 496 - Auditor's Clean-up The bill is scheduled for a vote by the committee this week. The primary concern is the requirement of the Auditor to notify the Treasurer of any staff changes. Even though current law requires notification, there is no formal process in place. Several Treasurers have an issue with removing that provision. Though there are concerns, we will not stand in the way of them passing it out of the House Committee but would like further discussions on the matter. John McManus made a motion of having no objection to removing the requirement that the Auditor must notify the Treasurer of any staff changes. Steve Welton seconded the motion, the motion carried. Treasurer, Brad Cromes, abstained from said vote.

H.B. 497- County Law Ohio Revised Code 135.33 reads:

“The board of county commissioners shall meet every four years in the month next preceding the date of the expiration of its current period of designation for the purpose of designating its public depositories of active moneys for the next succeeding four-year period commencing on the date of expiration of the preceding period.”

Originally, the County Commissioners Association proposed that it be changed to every two years but agreed to leave it at every four years after we raised concerns about shortening this time period. Many Treasurers have concerns with Section (A)(2) *“During a period of designation, the Board of County Commissioners, at its discretion, may meet once in accordance with the procedures of this Section in order to designate additional public depositories for the current period of designation providing that any additional designation shall take affect at least 180 days before the current period of designation expires and shall expire on the same date as all other public depositories in the current period of designation.”*

Kevin expressed concerns with John Honeck of the County Commissioners Association, the language “at its discretion” and that there should be consultation with the Treasurer. It was further conveyed that the concern is that it is strictly the Commissioners making the determination as opposed to working with the Treasurer who has a working relationship with the public depositories. After much discussion, most were happy with the compromise that the term will remain at four years.

S.B. 25 Foreclosures The 4th set of amendments that were shared with us have been circulated. These address the concerns that were raised with the bill. We had no problem with them and are waiting for the Senate Judiciary Chair to schedule a meeting. We have conveyed that the CTAO has no concerns with the bill.

S.B. 186 -Property Taxation Unanimously came out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Waiting on a Senate floor vote to be scheduled. Kevin will reach out to Senator Blessing’s office to see if he needs anything further from our association. Continue to reach out to our state Senators asking them to support this bill.

Update on Joint Committee of Property Tax Review & Reform All public hearings have been concluded. They will be working on their report of recommendations. Kevin received a call from Randy Tucker from The Cincinnati Enquirer who indicated that there doesn’t appear to be a major uptick in foreclosures and/or late filings after 1st half tax collections. Kevin explained

to him the process leading up to a tax foreclosure. Treasurer Jill Schiller has also spoken with Mr. Tucker in the past and have explained the process to him as well. Kevin will reach back out to Mr. Tucker and explain it to him again.

Cheryl Brooks-Sullivan conveyed that requests for a BOR hearing in Franklin County went from approximately 1500-2000 a year to over 12,000 this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Pay Raise – Steve McGhee relayed that there has been some discussions but no progress has been made. Bernie Quilter will be chairing the committee again. Kathy Kelich, Don Rankey and John McManus have volunteered to be part of the OCCO pay raise sub-committee. The Committee is looking at:

- Collapse the classes from six to four. This would, more than likely, be the last time this would be done.
- Some percentage increase (10, 15, or 20) with a COLA increase, either 3% or CPI.

Conversation with leadership is happening now, particularly with Representative Bill Seitz who is term limited, as well as Representative Jim Hoops, who was very supportive last time and is now in House leadership. The senate side is going to be more difficult. Senator McColley is not a fan of pay raises.

Steve McGhee further indicated that in his opinion we should be compensated for the various committees that we have to sit on per statute.

NEW BUSINESS

On June 10, 2024, the Senate introduced SB 288. This appropriates \$700 million to fund projects from the One-Time Strategic Community Investments Fund. (\$350 million for the House; \$350 million for the Senate). It is expected that next week the Capital Appropriations bill will be introduced, which could be around \$150 million, to fund community projects such as construction, equipment or renovation of facilities of state agencies.

The next CTAO Legislative meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024 10:30 a.m. via Zoom Meeting.

Caleb Stidham moved to adjourn. Seconded by Steve Welton. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie S. Myers, CTAO Secretary