

RESOLUTION NO. 21-73

ABOLISH THE ELECTIVE OFFICE OF CORONER AND CREATE A MEDICAL EXAMINER POSITION

WHEREAS, Article 6, Section 4 of the Wisconsin Constitution and Section 59.34 (1) (a) of the Wisconsin Statutes provide that counties may institute a Medical Examiner system to perform the statutory duties of Coroner; and

WHEREAS, the current Ozaukee County Coroner's term will expire on January 2, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Medical Examiner position will provide the County with the opportunity to establish qualifications for appointment to the position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors that the elected office of Coroner is abolished as of January 2, 2023 and a Medical Examiner system creating a full-time position of Medical Examiner to best ensure the continuation of qualified and efficient services under Section 59.34 of the Wisconsin Statutes is instituted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Medical Examiner pay grade shall be analyzed and adopted as recommended by the 2022 Compensation and Classification Study; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to delete the word "Coroner" and replace with the words "Medical Examiner" in County Ordinances and the Ozaukee County Policy and Procedure Manual (P&P). Excluding Chapter 3 of the P&P, which will be updated as part of the 2023 budget process.

Dated at Port Washington, Wisconsin this 6th day of April 2022.

*SUMMARY: Abolishing the Elective Office of Coroner and establish a Medical Examiner position.*

*VOTE REQUIRED: Majority*

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

03/15/22

Public Safety Committee

APPROVE AND FORWARD

Mr. Dzwinel outlined the request to consider hiring a medical examiner position versus maintaining the current elective coroner position.

Mr. Dzwinel clarified that the timeline is such that a decision would need to be made no later than the November 8 General Election. Candidates for the office of coroner will begin circulating nomination papers from April 15 thru June 1.

Mr. McDonell explained that with the Medical Examiner position, Ozaukee County could continue to use Milwaukee County for pathology, reviewed the budget impact, support staff would remain status quo, and accountability of the position.

Discussion and questions regarding the benefits of this transition, budget impact, and how the process was communicated to the coroner.

Mr. Deppisch spoke to his length of service, comparable counties regarding budget impact and support staff, services performed, and how this possible transition was communicated to him.

Discussion and questions continued on Mr. Deppisch's attendance at committee meetings, support staff, current structure, accountability, additional cost, and scope of work.

Sheriff Johnson supports the change creating accountability and professionalism to the office.

Discussion on the process to move forward to the County Board, the need for information to make an informed decision, and the timeline.

The intent will be to move this forward to the Executive Committee and ultimately the County Board; however, the direction from the committee is that staff needs to provide more information on the breakdown of the costs, and be clear on issues and challenges for wanting to change this position.

Motion to approve the resolution in order to move the resolution forward to the Executive Committee.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**RESULT:**       **APPROVE AND FORWARD [UNANIMOUS] Next: 4/4/2022 3:00 PM**

**MOVER:**         J. Braverman, Supervisor District 24

**SECONDER:**    D. Becker, Vice-Chairperson

**AYES:**           R. Nelson, D. Becker, J. Braverman

**EXCUSED:**      S. Whitworth, E. Stelter

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**RESULT:**       **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:**         T. Grabow, Supervisor District 9

**SECONDER:**    R. Nelson, Supervisor District 6

**AYES:**           Schlenvogt, Melotik, Geracie, Nelson, Jobs, Grabow

**RES. 21-73**  
Abolish the Elective Office of Coroner  
and Create a Medical Examiner Position

 **Passed By Majority Vote**

Winker		YES
Haas	M	YES
Jobs		YES
Schlenvogt		YES
Clark		YES
Nelson	S	YES
Becker		YES
Larson		YES
Grabow		YES
Melotik		YES
Wolf		YES
Richart		YES
Vacant		ABSENT

Rishel		YES
Geracie		YES
Whitworth		YES
Irish	EXCUSED	<del>ABSENT</del>
Stelter		YES
Ross		YES
Godden		YES
Strom		EXCUSED
Holyoke		YES
Henrichs		YES
Braverman		YES
Frohman		EXCUSED
Minkel-Dumit		YES