

MINUTES

Eau Claire County
Committee on Finance and Budget
Thursday, January 21, 2016 / 5 pm

721 Oxford Avenue
Eau Claire County Courthouse – Room 1273
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Members present: Supervisors Stella Pagonis, Mike Conlin, Nick Smiar, Jim Dunning, Robin Leary

Staff: Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Scott Rasmussen, Finance Director; Jon Johnson, Highway Commissioner; Rich Walthers, Highway Department; Janet Loomis, County Clerk; Sharon Rasmusson, Administration

Chairperson Stella Pagonis called the Committee meeting to order at 5 pm.

Approval of Taking Tax Deed Property Having Delinquent Special Assessments / Discussion – Action

Janet Loomis, County Clerk, reviewed with the committee six parcels that are eligible for the county to begin the process of taking on tax deed. All parcels have delinquent special assessments in excess of \$250. Parcels are as follows:

Computer #221-14-0147, City of Eau Claire	Owner: Jessica Whiteside; 703 Gilbert St.
Computer #221-04-0241, City of Eau Claire	Owner: Che Nunnery; 305 Minnesota St.
Computer #126-1039-02-00, Village of Fairchild	Owner: George Mann; 231,233 & 235 N. Front St.,
Computer #221-10-1433, City of Eau Claire	Owner: Chad & Princess Christopher; 2731 Morningside Dr.
Computer #221-09-1155, City of Eau Claire	Owner: Tammy Hays; 1808 Vine St.
Computer #221-10-0024, City of Eau Claire	Owner: Elmer Steinmetz, 1501 E. Madison St.

Motion by Supervisor Leary to approve of starting the tax deed process on the above named properties. Motion carried.

Proposed Resolution (File #15-16/121) “Awarding Bid for Sale of Tax Deed Property to Orvin & Pamela Bystol for the Sum of \$5,000; Directing Corporation Counsel to Prepare Quit Claim Deed on the Described Property; Directing the County Clerk to Execute Said Quit Claim Deed on Behalf of Eau Claire County” / Discussion - Action

Motion by Supervisor Dunning to award the bid for sale of tax deed property to Orvin & Pamela Bystol for the sum of \$5,000. Motion carried.

Proposed Resolution (File #15-16/122) “Disallowing the Claim of Steven J. Durham Filed on December 29, 2015 Against Eau Claire County; Directing the County Clerk to Notify the Claimant of Said Disallowance” / Discussion – Action

Motion by Supervisor Smiar to disallow the claim of Steven J. Durham. Motion carried.

Review 2014 Auditor Management Letter / Discussion – Action

Scott Rasmussen, Finance Director, provided a summary of internal control issues be addressed as mentioned in the 2014 audit. Discussion only.

Internal Controls Assessments - CliftonLarsonAllen / Discussion

Next meeting.

Review Contents - County Fiscal Policies / Discussion – Action

Next meeting.

Highway Equipment Financing Options / Discussion – Action

Jon Johnson, Highway Commissioner and Rich Walters were present and reviewed with the committee ways to modify the way equipment is acquired (leasing vs. buying). With funding available in the 2016 budget, Highway Department is able to lease 11 vehicles per year (total of \$725,000). Johnson stated that the life cycle cost to operate per unit is less than if the equipment was owned. Recommendation by Highway Commissioner is to lease for 7 years.

Downside to leasing is the interest cost. Beyond the 10 year mark of ownership (lease or own), costs go up. Finance Director recommends a five year plan for this project. This would be a fixed lease for the term. Can't borrow money to lease equipment.

Heavy equipment (grader and paver) - Highway Commissioner expressed interest in participating in a lease program on the grader (\$197,000) and paver (\$348,000). County Administrator would like a report to show the progress on how this is going. Motion by Supervisor Nick Smiar to allow the Highway Department to finance/lease equipment. Motion carried.

2016 Budget Wrap Up / Discussion

Next meeting.

Preliminary Review of 2015 Fiscal Year

Next meeting.

Line Item Transfer Requests / Discussion – Action

No line item transfer requests submitted.

Update on County Sales Tax Report / Discussion

Committee reviewed updated county sales tax report. Discussion only.

County Board Chair Vouchers (if any) / Discussion – Action

No vouchers submitted.

Future Agenda Items / Set Next Meeting (February 11, 2016)

*Internal Controls Assessments - CliftonLarsonAllen / Discussion

*Review Contents - County Fiscal Policies / Discussion – Action

*Leasing option – Highway to come back (possibly)

Review/Approval of Committee Minutes (December 10, 2015)

Motion by Supervisor Smiar to approve of the December 10, 2015 minutes as written.
Motion carried.

Committee adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Rasmusson
Committee Clerk