

## MINUTES

Eau Claire County  
Committee on Finance and Budget  
Thursday, February 11, 2016 / 4:30 pm

721 Oxford Avenue  
Eau Claire County Courthouse – Room 3312  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Due to a conference call, the meeting was moved to Room 3312 of the Courthouse.

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

Staff present: Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Scott Rasmussen, Finance Director; Keith Zehms, Corporation Counsel; Janet Loomis, County Clerk; Jon Johnson, Highway Commissioner; Sharon Rasmusson

Vice Chairperson Jim Dunning called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

### **Update on Internal Controls Assessment by CliftonLarsonAllen / Discussion**

Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator, stated that Judy Enders, Consulting Manager of CliftonLarsonAllen will provide an oral report to the county board in March. In addition, Brock Geyen, a Principal Specializing in Public Sector with CliftonLarsonAllen will provide an oral report to the County Board at their February 17, 2016.

### **Review Table of Contents - County Fiscal Policies / Discussion – Action**

County Administrator stated that staff continue to work on fiscal policies. This item will be reviewed again in the next couple of months. Discussion only.

### **Highway Equipment Financing Options / Discussion – Action (follow up from January meeting)**

Jon Johnson, Highway Commissioner present. Compared leasing vs. buying based on funding that is currently available. Equipment replacement fund is \$750,000; Johnson would like funding to lease 8 vehicles. Supervisor Smiar stated that we can't continue to buy; leasing at this point seems to be a good option. Finance Director stated that the county cannot borrow funds to lease vehicles. Committee discussed new revenue sources that could assist in paying for the leasing program. Highway Commissioner suggested that a joint meeting be held between the Highway Committee and the Committee on Finance & Budget to discuss further. This would build vision for the program. Committee selected Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 4:30 pm to meeting jointly with the Highway Committee.

### **Discussion of County Receipting Procedures / Discussion -- Action**

No discussion at this point.

## **PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Financing Program / Discussion - Action**

The Committee held a conference call with Andy Guzikowski and Andrew Phillips of von Briesen & Roper. PACE is an innovative program that enables property owners to obtain low-cost, long-term loans for energy-efficiency and water conservation improvements. PACE loans help property owners overcome financial barriers that typically discourage investment in water conservation and energy efficiency retrofits to existing properties. Improvements financed using PACE can generate positive cash flow upon completion with no up-front, out-of-property cost to property owners. County does not incur any financial burden by taking on this program. In addition, there is little or no risk to counties. It is a great economical tool and energy initiative. Committee discussed and had some concerns - foreclosures? Who will cover costs? County may end up with property that they need to dispose of.

Chairperson Stella Pagonis directed this item come back to the next regular meeting of the committee and to bring back a chart as to how this program works.

## **2016 Budget Wrap Up / Discussion**

Complaints: add-back policy.

## **Preliminary Review of 2015 Fiscal Year / Discussion**

Next meeting.

## **2017 Budget Calendar Review / Discussion**

Next meeting.

## **Finance Department Financial Matters / Discussion-Action**

- a. Update on County Sales Tax Report: general discussion
- b. County Board Vouchers: none
- c. Line Item Transfers: none

## **Committee Review/Approval of Minutes / Discussion – Action**

- January 19, 2016
- January 21, 2016

Motion by Supervisor Dunning to approve of the January 19 and January 21<sup>st</sup> minutes as written. Motion carried.

Next meetings of the Committee are scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, February 25, 2016 (joint meeting with Highway Committee)
- Thursday, March 10, 2016 (regular meeting)

Committee adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Rasmusson  
Committee Clerk