

MINUTES

Eau Claire County
Committee on Finance and Budget
Thursday, May 12, 2016 / 4:30 pm

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

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

Staff present: Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Scott Rasmussen, Finance Director; Janet Loomis, County Clerk, Sue McDonald, Tax Deed Clerk; Glenda Lyons, County Treasurer; Diane Cable, Human Services Director; Tom Wirth and Jeff Koenig

Others present: Andrew Doud, Leader-Telegram; Jim Nardo, Eleanor Wolf and Jeremy Gragert

Supervisor Jim Dunning, Chair Pro-Tem, called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair / Discussion – Action

Motion by Supervisor Conlin to nominate Supervisor Jim Dunning for Chairperson. With no other nominations, Supervisor Smiar made a motion to close nominations and to endorse Supervisor Dunning as Chairperson. Motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Leary to nominate Supervisor Stella Pagonis for Vice Chair. With no other nominations, Supervisor Mike Conlin made a motion to close nominations and to endorse Supervisor Pagonis as Vice Chair. Motion carried.

Appointment of Committee Clerk / Discussion – Action

Motion by Supervisor Leary to appoint Sharon Rasmusson as Committee Clerk. Motion carried.

Request to Forgive Interest and Penalties on Property located at 304 Vine Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin / Owner: CCF, Inc. / Parcel #221-09-0320 / Discussion – Action

Jim Nardo of CCF, Inc. was present to request the forgiveness of interest and penalties for property located at 304 Vine St. Eau Claire. Mr. Nardo had filed personal bankruptcy January 2004. He stated that because of the bankruptcy filing, he thought he no longer owned the property; however, later discovered in a letter he received from the Wisconsin Department of Administration that due to possible contamination, this property was not taken in the bankruptcy proceedings.

Nardo stated that as of April 2015, the mailing address for CCF, Inc. was changed to 9431 Washington Circle, Chanhassen, MN. Nardo claims that in September 2015, he informed Eau Claire County of this change of address; yet he stated he never received a notice of back taxes due from the county. The taxes go back to 2005. Because taxes have not been paid, the county can now proceed in taking this property. Assessed value of the property is \$74,000.

Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator, spoke on behalf of Corporation Counsel stating since there was no error on the part of the County, the county is not permitted by law to waive penalties and interest per state statute 74.47. Motion by Supervisor Leary to decline the request for the forgiveness of interest and

penalties totaling \$46,264.93 on property located at 304 Vine St., Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Motion carried.

1st Quarter Financial Report / Discussion

- County Treasurer
- County Clerk
- Finance Department

County Treasurer, County Clerk and Finance Director provided their 1st Quarter financial report to the Committee. Review only at this time.

Update on Internal Controls Assessment by CliftonLarsonAllen / Discussion

Brock Geyen was present before the committee and Judy Enders appeared by telephone to provide an update on the internal controls assessment that is ongoing with county departments who have cash handling responsibilities. Judy Enders will schedule an appointment with Human Services within the next week. A hard copy of the report will be distributed to all county members when it is finalized.

Referral from County Board / Ordinance / File #16-17/006 / “To Create Chapter 2.95 of the Code: Living Wage” / Report Back to County Board / Discussion – Action

Eau Claire County is exploring and discussing the enactment of a Living Wage Ordinance. County Board Supervisor Nick Smiar, originator and supporter of this ordinance stated that the ordinance requires that all contractors with Eau Claire County pay their employees at least 110% of the 2016 FPL (\$12.84) on an hourly basis, beginning January 1, 2017. It is anticipated that the major impact will be felt in the Department of Human Services because non-profit organizations frequently pay minimum wage or just above that wage. (Committee members understand that minimum wage is not a living wage. The latter is a wage which provides a livelihood for persons and families.) Supervisor Smiar stated that the Human Services Board will be sending a survey to all entities that they contract with for services to seek input on the cost/benefit impact this will have on contractors of services.

Supervisor Conlin was concerned with the ordinance and how it would impact Eau Claire County on the wages that are paid on the lower end of the pay scale. He stated that this could have a large fiscal impact on the county if implemented.

Motion by Supervisor Leary to approve of the living wage ordinance (File #16-17/006) as written. Motion carried 4-1.

Creation of Two Positions in the Department of Human Services for the Comprehensive Community Services Program / Discussion-Action

Diane Cable, Tom Wirth, Jeff Koenig (DHS staff) and Supervisor Colleen Bates (Chair of Human Services Board) were present to discuss the positions that are proposed to be added for the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program. Eau Claire County became a certified CCS provider on April 1, 2016. The program is for individuals of all ages who have a mental illness, substance abuse disorder or a dual diagnosis and needing care beyond outpatient care.

The CCS Program is a Medicaid reimbursable program and the cost of these two positions will be reimbursed 100% through the CCS Program; no budget impact.

Motion by Supervisor Pagonis to approve of two positions in the Department of Human Services for the Comprehensive Community Services Program contingent upon the positions being fully funded through the CCS Program. Motion carried.

2017 Budget Discussions

- Priorities
- Timeline
- Committee Process
 - o Goals
 - o Performance Measurements
 - o Community of Interest

Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator, reviewed budget timeline. Performance measures were reviewed and will be an important & significant part of the budget process for 2017. It was also discussed that the performance management form will be changed to include the strategic planning process. In addition, County Administrator wants to spend more time refining the Capital Improvement Plan. Lastly, Committee reviewed and edited the priority list was drafted by the County Administrator.

Finance Department Financial Matters / Discussion-Action

Update on County Sales Tax Report / Discussion

Scott Rasmussen, Finance Director, briefly reviewed with the committee the county sales tax report that was part of the agenda packet.

County Board Vouchers – None.

Line Item Transfers

Law Enforcement Software. This is an intergovernmental cooperative agreement between the City and County of Eau Claire for a Law Enforcement Software System. The purpose of the agreement is to document sharing of Law Enforcement software and hardware. Replacement of the system is required due to end of current support scheduled for 2017 for both software and hardware. Amount budgeted in 2016 is \$200,000. Cost for 2016 is estimated to be \$273,000. The difference of \$73,000 will be taken out of the IS capital project account; other projects will need to be reprioritized.

Committee discussed in depth; however, felt more information was needed due to cost increase. Motion by Supervisor Pagonis to postpone until more information was received. Motion carried.

Committee Review/Approval of Minutes / Discussion – Action

- March 10, 2016
- March 29, 2016
- April 4, 2016

Motion by Supervisor Conlin to approve of the March 10, 2016, March 29, 2016 and April 4, 2016 committee minutes as written. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items / Set Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 4:30 pm.

Committee adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Rasmusson
Committee Clerk

