

## MINUTES

Eau Claire County  
Committee on Finance and Budget  
Thursday, June 23, 2016 / 4:30 pm

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

Members Present: Jim Dunning, Stella Pagonis, Mike Conlin, and Robin Leary

Members Absent: Nick Smiar

Staff Present: Scott Rasmussen; Finance Director, Keith Zehms; Corporation Counsel, Tim Sullivan; Corporation Counsel, Michael Halloin, Law Clerk, Tina Pommier; Deputy Treasurer, Janet Loomis; County Clerk, Diane Cable; Human Services Director and Angie Harmon

Chair Dunning called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

### Handling of Vouchers and Payments over \$10,000 / Discussion – Action \*

(\*information to be sent by Corporation Counsel prior to or at the meeting)

Corporation Counsel assigned Law Clerk, Michael Halloin, to research the state statute that addresses the topic of who reviews and authorizes the payment of vouchers in excess of \$10k. The payment for contracts was also reviewed. It was concluded that authorization is made when the annual budget and contracts that are already approved by the board. The report will be reviewed and shared with the board.

### Proposed Resolution / File No. 16-17/015 “Disallowing the Claim of Sandra L. West Filed on May 6, 2016 Against Eau Claire County / Directing the County Clerk to Notify the Claimant of Said Disallowance” / Discussion – Action

Keith informed the members regarding the fact sheet and resolution #16-17/015. The county liability insurance agent advised that the county is not liable for this claim and recommends the claim to be disallowed.

**ACTION:** Supervisor Leary made a motion to disallow the claim and approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried, 4-0.

### Proposed Resolution / File No. 16-17/025 “Disallowing the Claim of Robert H. Shugarts Filed on May 23, 2016 Against Eau Claire County; Directing the County Clerk to Notify the Claimant of Said Disallowance” / Discussion - Action

Keith informed the members regarding the fact sheet and resolution #16-17/025. The county liability insurance agent advised that the county is not liable for this claim and recommends this claim to be disallowed.

**ACTION:** Supervisor Conlin made a motion to disallow the claim and approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried, 4-0.

## In-Rem vs. Tax Deed / Consideration and Discussion of Process

The memo provided describes the current administrative tax deed process and the alternative in rem process which is legal action within the circuit court for foreclosure. The current tax deed process currently involves the treasurer and county clerk office. The steps for the in rem process would include the circuit court and corporation counsel offices. If the county decides to start using in rem for delinquent properties an ordinance would need to be adopted to change the process and the recommended start date would be in September. The committee members are directing staff to continue researching and moving forward on changing to the in rem tax deed process.

## Proposed Ordinance / File No. 16-17/020 “To Repeal Section 4.19.030 C. & D of the Code: Interest and Penalties on Delinquent Taxes” / Discussion – Action

Keith and Tina provided information on suggested changes made to section 4.19.030 C & D of the County Code regarding interest and penalties on delinquent taxes.

**ACTION:** Supervisor Colin made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance as presented. Motion carried, 4-0.

### *Addendum Item:*

## Fairchild Building-Owner George Mann-Potential Tax Deed / Discussion/Direction to Staff

Keith updated the members regarding the property in Fairchild that the village will not be renovating and could become a tax deed property through the county. The building is in poor condition and has hazards. The committee directs Corporation Counsel to contact the village and state that the county will provide staff assistance by obtaining funding and grants but have no intention to proceeding with tax deed.

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

- Survey Questions Sent
- Summary of Living Wage Survey
- 2015 Vendor Listing
- National Poverty Levels
- Potential Impact of Living Wage Ordinance for ADRC
- Living Wage Analysis
- Constant 100% of Poverty Level
- Poverty Scale 100% to 110%
- Poverty Scale 110% to 130%

The members discussed the living wage ordinance further that was originally rejected at county board meeting on June 21 but was adopted with an amendment to extend the ordinance no later than July 15. It was referred back to three committees for review, Finance & Budget, Human Services Board and Committee on Human Resources. Diane Cable provided the members with comments and concerns on the potential impact on services provided to Human Services. Keith provided the members with a copy of amendment #2 for the ordinance which contains wording changes.

**ACTION:** Motion by Supervisor Leary to approve amendment #2 for the ordinance. Motion carried, 4-0

Scott provided a living wage analysis spreadsheet on pay vs. poverty level scale and brief description for each. Keith and Scott are developing potential impact FAQs. This item will be placed on the next Finance & Budget meeting agenda.

All of the LWO documents are put on the county website for reference.

Budget Survey / Discussion - Action

- Budget Calendar / Timeline Review

The committee reviewed the budget timeline document. Capital improvement projects have been submitted by departments already to administration.

Internal Controls / Progress, Planning and Priorities / Discussion – Action

This item was a follow to the CLA report that was provided to the board. Scott informed that the departments are responding and are continuing to work on implementation.

Finance Department Financial Matters / Discussion-Action

- Update on County Sales Tax Report / Discussion
- County Board Vouchers (if any)
- Line Item Transfers (if any)

Scott provided a projection of county sales tax.

Committee Review/Approval of Minutes / Discussion – Action

- May 12, 2016

**ACTION:** Supervisor Pagonis made a motion to approve the May 12, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried, 4-0.

Future Agenda Items / Set Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

Public input session held on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Augusta

The regular meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> public input session will be held on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at the L.E Phillips Memorial Library

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Angie Harmon  
Clerk