

MINUTES

Eau Claire County
Committee on Finance and Budget
Thursday, July 14, 2016 / 4:30 pm

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

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

Staff present: Janet Loomis, County Clerk, Sue McDonald, Glenda Lyons, Tina Pommier; Scott Rasmussen, Kathryn Schauf, Diane Cable, Keith Zehms, Matt Michels

Chairperson Jim Dunning called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Condemnation Order / Tax Delinquent Property in Village of Fairchild / Committee Consideration of Process

Janet Loomis, County Clerk, was present to discuss property owned by Dorothy McDonald in the Village of Fairchild where a condemnation order was issued. Property is tax delinquent back to 2011. County Clerk wants to get input from the committee as to next steps; Corporation Counsel advised not to do anything.

Handling of Vouchers and Payments Over \$10,000

Corporation Counsel needs best practices from Clifton LarsenAllen. Bring back to next meeting.

Recycling Program Budget Amendment / Discussion – Action

Matt Michels from Planning and Development is requesting a budget amendment to the 2016 county budget as an increase to the recycling grant appropriation for fiscal year 2015-16 was approved by the state assembly and signed by the governor (Wisconsin Act 392). This amounts to a restoration of \$86,793 in additional funding to Eau Claire County of the nearly \$110,000 grant funding reduction. Michels discussed that the following priority areas would be fulfilled upon receiving the additional recycling grant funds:

- Use of Fund Balance
- Fulfill Contractual Obligations
- Public Outreach
- Replace Aging Infrastructure

There is no impact to county levy and the Committee on Planning and Development endorses the budget amendment. Motion by Supervisor Leary to approve of the request as submitted. Motion carried.

In Rem vs. Tax Deed / Consideration of Positives and Negatives Discussion – Action

Keith Zehms, Corporation Counsel briefly reviewed the difference between In Rem vs. Tax Deed. How does the process differ? A concern made is how do we manage from a staffing standpoint? It was stated that some Wisconsin counties do both. Other concerns made were with contaminated properties.

County Treasurer, Glenda Lyons, doesn't know which one is more efficient. County Administrator stated that In Rem should be used where the properties are more valuable – this would give the county a better return. Also, there is a better bidding climate with In-Rem. Committee would like more information; i.e., best practices; how it's worked for other counties and how other counties divide duties amongst departments. It was recommended that staff contact other counties that have both processes in place. County Administrator suggested that a flow chart be drawn up. This item to be layed on the table.

Internal Controls / Progress, Planning & Priorities / Discussion - Action

Cash handling project: working in respective areas and documenting changes. An update will be provided to Committee and a response will be drafted by departments based on the report that was submitted.

Living Wage Ordinance / Discussion and Consideration / Action

Committee reviewed the living wage ordinance and the action taken by the Human Services Board, Committee on Human Resources, Committee on Finance & Budget and Aging & Disability Resource Center Board. There are a number of amendments and other documentation that have been added to the "pending legislation" link on the county's website.

Staff will be working on estimates regarding how much this ordinance will cost the county.

2017 Budget / Discussion – Action

Capital Improvement Plan and Debt Service: committee received a capital projects request summary sheet.

Budget Survey: Chairperson Jim Dunning and Sharon Rasmuson from Administration will meet to review budget survey. Goal is to have the 2017 budget survey on the county's website by the end of July.

Proposed Resolution / Initial Resolution Authorizing the Borrowing of Not to Exceed \$13,000,000

As part of the approved 2016 Eau Claire county budget, the County Board approved borrowing of \$12.626 million in general obligation debt to pay for highway projects, information systems software/hardware, general building repairs and maintenance, vehicle replacement and contribution to the construction of the Confluence Community Arts project. Scott Rasmussen, Finance Director estimates that this issue will add approximately \$1.5 million in additional debt service payments for each of the years 2017-2026, based on a 10-year payback.

Motion by Supervisor Conlin to authorize the borrowing of not to exceed \$13,000,000 for capital projects named above. Motion carried.

Finance Department Financial Matters / Discussion-Action

- Update on County Sales Tax Report / Discussion
- County Board Vouchers (if any) - none
- Line Item Transfers (if any) - none
- Audit Update for 2015. Audit to be placed on September committee agenda.
- Budget Calendar Update. Committee members selected dates for budget discussion with departments.

Committee Review/Approval of Minutes / Discussion – Action

Motion by Supervisor Leary to approve of the June 23, 2016, committee minutes as presented.

Next committee meeting to be held on July 28, 2016, at Augusta City Hall. This is the first of two public input sessions on the 2017 county budget. Prior to this public input session, a short business meeting at 6 pm will be held to review Finance Department's proposed budget.

Committee adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Rasmusson
Committee Clerk