

IRON COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes May 9, 2024

Approved

1. Meeting called to order:
The meeting was called to order at 10:30am by Youngs.
2. Pledge of Allegiance:
Pledge was recited.
3. Roll call taken:
Present were Youngs, Krall, Wolff, Lauer, Erickson, and Lutgen by Zoom.
4. Acknowledge that the meeting was properly noticed and posted:
The Clerk certified the meeting was properly noticed and posted.
5. Elect Chair of Finance:
Youngs asked for a nomination for a chair. Erickson nominated Kurt Wolff, Youngs called for any other nominations three times. Motion by Erickson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Kurt Wolff, seconded by Lauer. All yes, Carried.
6. Elect Vice Chair of Finance:
Wolff asked for any nominations for Vice Chair. Lauer nominated Roxanne Lutgen; Wolff called for any other nominations three times. Motion by Erickson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Roxanne Lutgen seconded by Lauer. All Yes, Carried.
7. Approve minutes of April 11, 2024 as presented:
Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by Lauer, seconded by Krall. All yes, carried.
8. Clerks Report:
None
9. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:
Youngs noted that his office will be for the all-County Board Supervisors if they need it. Teresa Way from Child Support stated that she had comments on item 29 on the agenda, she said that some are new to the board but that with all the discussions on budget cuts and to reduce the deficit, she hoped that the board did their due diligence in looking into the cost of the fully funded dollar they are proposing. The amount we give the consortium and the amounts they give for reimbursement match with what is paid out. Christan Brandt noted that this is horrible timing and that she felt that the committee and department head should be ashamed to even bring this to the Finance Committee again after it was denied back in December and with all the upheaval, uncertainty and budget issues going on at this time. It does not matter where the raise is coming from, it's wrong to even consider at this time.
10. Discuss/Action to use remaining COVID/ARPA funds towards replacement of heat pumps in the courthouse:
Wolff noted that he had a discussion with Bill from Maintenance and Christan about the heat pumps for the courthouse. With the budget issues he would like to take things that have already been paid for or budgeted. The figures in your packet are for the heat pumps already installed and then for the

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next 5 that need to be replaced. Motion to recommend to the full board approval of using COVID/ARPA funds to purchase the heat pumps made by Lutgen, seconded by Lauer. All yes, Carried.

11. Discuss/action an offer to purchase 32-acre parcel #0218-0000 in the Town of Gurney:
Eric Peterson noted that they have an offer from David Kretschmar to purchase the 32 acres. The County land is land locked. We did get comparisons for prices, and this also went out for bid, but we did not receive any other ones. Motion to recommend to the board to sell the land made by Erickson, seconded by Krall. All yes, carried.
12. Discuss/Action Iron County Fair Board review of financials and request for loan:
Courtney Ofstad discussed the finances of the Fair board and that they are looking to have a permanent stage that can be used more than once a year. Currently we rent the stage every year and since 2021 it has cost us over \$19,000. We are already working with the Extension and NICER to get other events there such as a drive-in movie night. We would have the loan paid off early if possible. We do not have any collateral so that is where we need the County to step in, the loan would be in the Fair Boards name, but they want guarantee that somehow the loan would be paid. The loan is for \$40,000 and would be a 5-year note. Lutgen noted that after hearing the financial statements she feels comfortable that they could pay the loan. Motion to recommend approval to the board made by Erickson, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, Carried.
13. Discuss/Action how to apply FEMA check for Saxon Harbor:
Wolff discussed how we should pay down the loan with the FEMA funds of \$2,689,295 as the interest on the loan is expensive and all that has been paid monthly. Motion to pay down the loan with the full FEMA check made by Lutgen, seconded by Krall. All yes, carried.
14. Discuss/Action Saxon Harbor Loan current obligation expires June 8, 2024:
Wolff noted that the loan expires before the next meeting so we need to plan as to what our next steps would be. In the packet were some suggestions for an 8- and 10-year loan. He did not think it was in our best interest at this time to be committed to this with the budget matters at hand. He would like to see us do a 1-year interest only loan again then decide in the next few months as phase II is being completed. Motion to roll over the remaining loan that can be prepayable anytime for another (1) one year term made by Lauer, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.
15. Discuss/Action Investing Cash:
Wolff noted that he spoke to Chippewa Valley and had a great conversation with them. They have also agreed to increase the money market rate from 2.25% to 4.99%. This solves the concerns about the capital investment money we could be earning.
16. Discuss/Action Designating Chippewa Valley Bank as County's Main Banking Institution:
This needs to be brought to full board. Motion to bring to full board to make Chippewa Valley or main banking institution. All yes, carried.
17. Discuss/Action on plan to update employee handbook, employee benefits and property/liability coverage: It has become apparent in meeting with department heads and the clerk that we need to revise the handbook. Wolff would like to form a small subcommittee which he stated would be

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himself, Lauer and Lutgen. They would coordinate items that are talked about, get input from Department Heads, and then roll them out to the Finance Committee and then full Board once completed. Motion to form the subcommittee made by Krall seconded by Erickson. All yes, carried.

18. Discuss/Action for Child Support to post job position:

Wolff stated that the Child Support position has been vacant for a few months and was told to wait. We need to move forward and cannot wait and stop doing business. This will be posted internally for 10 days and then to the public. Motion to post the position made by Erickson, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, Carried.

19. Per Diem for non-board and board committee members:

The clerk stated that some non-board members are collecting per diem, and some are not and never had. Can we get clarification as to who gets a per diem, so it is on record. All board and all non-board members can get per diems unless they elect to not get it. The clerk asked if those individuals do not want to take the per diem that they please send it to her office in writing. Motion that all non-board members receive the \$40 per diem made by Lauer, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.

20. Discuss/Action on 2025 Budget Timeline and Capital Improvement Fund:

Wolff noted that we will need to move up the budget timeline to start working on 2025 to July. He also has a sheet for Capital Improvements that will be handed out to the bigger departments to access and complete a 5-year plan.

21. Discuss/Action to Appoint Logger to Forestry Committee:

Peterson stated that they used to have a logger sit on the committee years ago, but he was unable to attend most of the meetings. The committee feels it would be good to place one on that committee again as it gives their perspective. They would like to place Eli Ladwig on the committee as an advisory role only and no voting power. Motion to recommend putting Eli Ladwig on the committee in an advisory role only made by Erickson, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.

22. Update on Phase Two of the budget amendments.

A. Levy breakdown and use of debt: Wolff noted that we need to understand the core revenue and expenses not COVID funds, Enbridge, or Carbon Credits. We need to understand the state aid and our levy. The levy declined in growth the last few years. Our Base Levy is set by the state and is based on net new construction. Debt Levy is not tied and can be used to increase our levy.

B. Closing the remaining budget deficit: We need to close the remaining budget gap, we had to cut what we could and then the next step would be levy increases.

23. Discuss/Action on Job Descriptions for County Employees:

Lauer stated that every employee now has a job description. They are not perfect, but they are good, and the formatting is all the same. The plan is to have all the employees sign off and completed by June. This will be presented to the full county board.

24. Discuss/Action to Hire Attorney to assist with implementation of Phase II:

Wolff noted that he met with Tim Dean on budget problems, and he noted that he would not be the one to assist with this issue. He went to our insurance company and Wisconsin County Mutual has

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attorneys that are available to help us in these situations. This will be covered by our insurance company. They selected Axley Brynson from Madison. Motion to hire the attorney to assist in implementing Phase II made by Lutgen, seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried.

25. Review and discuss budget comparison reports for March:
Wolff noted that he would like these to accurately reflect the current month. The committee noted that they have always been a month behind.
26. Review, discussion and approval of credit card bills, voucher numbers 787 through 1139 and check numbers 148065 through 148440:
Motion to approve the credit cards, check and vouchers made by Erickson, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.
27. Closed Session per WI State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Economic Support Lead Worker Pay:
Motion to go into closed session at 12:12pm made by Kral, seconded by Lauer. Roll Call taken, all yes. Carried.
28. Return to Open Session:
Motion to return to open Session at 12:46pm made by Lauer, seconded by Erickson. Roll Call taken. All yes, carried.
29. Action to provide \$1 wage increase to Human Services Economic Support Lead worker that is fully funded by consortium:
Motion that no action be taken at this time made by Erickson, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, Carried.
30. Set date and time for future Finance Committee Meetings:
Future Finance Committee meetings will be held on the third (3) Tuesday every month at 7:00am.
31. Adjournment:
Wolff adjourned the meeting at 12:48pm.

Approved: June 18, 2024

Respectfully submitted,
Christan Brandt,
Iron County Clerk