

IRON COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for June 18, 2024
Approved

1. Meeting called to order:

Wolff called the meeting to order at 7:00am in the County Board Room.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

The pledge was recited.

3. Roll call taken:

Present were Wolff, Lutgen, Erickson, Lauer, Youngs and Krall.

4. Acknowledge that the meeting was properly noticed and posted:

The clerk certified the meeting was properly noticed and posted.

5. Approve minutes of May 9 and May 30, 2024 as presented.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by Lauer seconded by Erickson. Carried.

6. Clerks Report:

None

7. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:

None

8. Discussion/Recommendation for the 2025 - 911 Grant for Emergency Medical Dispatch, Software and Training:

Stacy Ofstad discussed the grant and that this was part of the grant program they implemented a few years ago through the state. If they do not apply for this Iron County will not be able to receive or apply for these types of grants again. This would be a 10% match. There are two proposals for the purchase of the software program. Priority Dispatch at \$139,454.00 and Power phone at \$53,598.00. Motion to recommend approval for the Power phone quote at \$53,598.00 made by Lauer seconded by Krall. Carried.

9. Discussion of 2023 Audit Update:

Wolff noted that the audit should be done soon, and we are still going to show internal weakness for 2023. We want to work on eliminating the material weakness and cost of the audit due to those weaknesses.

10. Discuss/Recommendation for 2025 Budget Overview:

Wolff noted that we need to get the budget started for next year, He suggested plugging in numbers for salaries and adding 2% and around 5% for insurance. Christian will get those budget sheets out soon. The 5-year capital outlay sheets should be turned in by July 9th, so we can go over them at the next meeting. In completing the amendments we still have a deficit for the 2024 budget of \$850,000.00.

11. Discussion for Stumpage Revenue Outlook:

Wolff asked that the forestry committee look at stumpage projections for next year. He stated that prices are going down and he had economic concerns and supply and demand. He noted that we are

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10% behind. Eric Peterson noted that we cannot really go month to month as it goes up and down and as of this month, we are only about \$40,000.00 behind.

12. Discussion/Recommendation Board of Commission of Public Lands:

Wolff wanted to explain what this was in case any board member was not familiar with it. He stated that this may be something the County look into for borrowing funds or refinancing the remaining loans that the county has. By utilizing the public lands for the loans, we can skip a year and help ease the budget by \$225,000.00 We need to decide if we want to let the cash account fall or remain the same.

13. Review of Department Head Meeting:

Youngs noted that we have a lot of cell phones, and he did not realize this. Wanted to know if there was a way to consolidate to get a better rate. It was noted that some are already on the same plans and get a government rate. Questions and concerns on handbook information were addressed as the edits were online, this will be addressed.

14. Discussion/Recommendation Jailer's "Protective Status" Election:

Youngs noted that we got a letter from Chanz Green's office, and they consider the case closed as this is legislative and nothing can be changed. This was a clerical error that affected approximately 10 paycheck runs. It was stated that most of the 8 employees that it involved would have opted out if they had known the proper amount that would have been deducted from their checks.

15. Discussion/Recommendation Employee Handbook Update:

Currently the updates that are being worked on in the handbook are travel, overtime and the first 10 pages.

16. Discussion/Recommendation Health Insurance Overview:

Lutgen noted that she has been in touch with our insurance agent and going over the insurance benefits. She noted that the plan has been the same and has not changed for a very long time. She also explained the deductible and how that works and is applied. It was discussed to look into options that would help with some savings for the County with not much impact to the employees.

17. Discussion Organization Structure:

Wolff noted he had attended some training sessions and that WCA will also be here on June 20th. We need to review the organization of the County. We have some departments who currently do not answer to any committee and with that do not answer or report to anyone. He would like to see those departments get consolidated into current committees. We also do not have a County Administrator. Erickson noted that we cannot afford one. Wolff stated that he felt that we cannot afford to not think about having one.

18. Review and discuss budget comparison for April and May:

Discussion on the budget comparison and questions asked. The committee would like to change how this is done going forward.

19. Treasurer's Report:

Report was reviewed to funds currently in accounts.

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20. Review, discussion, and approval of credit card bills, voucher numbers 1140 through 1629 and check numbers 148441 through 148951 dated 5/1/2024 to 6/7/2024:

Motion to approve the credit cards, vouchers and bills made by Lauer seconded by Lutgen. Carried.

21. Set Next Finance meeting date and time:

Next Finance meeting will be July 16th at 7:00am.

22. 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. Discussion on employee matters and Child Support Position:

Motion to go into closed session at 8:40am made by Erickson, seconded by Krall. Roll call taken. All yes. Carried.

23. Return to open Session and report any action necessary:

Motion to return to open session at 9:18am made by Lauer, seconded by Lutgen. Roll call taken. All yes. Carried. Motion to hire Courtney Larson at \$20 an hour made by Lutgen, seconded by Lauer. All yes. Carried.

24. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:20am.

Approved: July 16, 2024

Respectfully submitted,
Christan Brandt, County Clerk