

Iron County Finance
Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2024
Approved

1. Meeting called to order:
Wolff called the meeting to order at noon in the County Board Room.
2. Pledge of Allegiance:
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll call taken:
Present was Wolff, Youngs, Erickson, Lutgen and Lauer. Absent Krall,
4. Acknowledge that the meeting was properly noticed and posted:
Clerk Brandt certified the meeting was noticed properly.
5. Approve minutes of August 14, August 20, and September 4, 2024 as presented:
Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by Lutgen, seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried.
6. Clerks Report:
The clerk noted that in the future if proper policy and procedure could be followed for going back into closed session if the clerk does not stay in the meeting. She asked that they come get her before any motions are made so that they can be properly documented.
7. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:
8. Discuss/Action on 2023 Audit: Scott Sternhagen from Clifton Larson to review 2023 Audit:
Scott Sternhagen with Clifton Larson went over the 2023 Iron County Audit documents and reviewed the findings of the audit.
9. Discuss/Action to dissolve Employee Handbook Committee:
Motion to dissolve the Employee Handbook Committee made by Lauer seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.
10. Update/Discuss/Recommendation for ARPA and Tribal Funds:
The clerk handed out information on the remaining balances in both funds. She noted that a laptop was purchased already for programming as well as the sound system that they are looking to purchase, these can both be used under Technology in the Tribal funds. There is also a section in Tribal labeled Election Administration which the clerk's office handles and can be used towards wages and supplies that are already taken out of the budget. The Committee will have the departments look into wages. Motion to use the remaining ARPA funds of \$12,982.77 to pay for the Crisis Inpatient Placement with Human Services made by Lauer, seconded by Erickson. All yes, carried.
11. Discuss/Action for approval to Hire the vacant Highway Patrolman Position:
Motion to approve the hiring the vacant Highway Patrolman Position made by Erickson, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.
12. Discuss/Action on pay scale from 90% to 100% for Highway Employee:
Motion to approve the Highway employee to 100% due to 6-month probation and evaluation being completed made by Erickson, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.
13. Discuss/Action on allowing the new Register of Deeds to come in for training:
Dan from the Register of Deeds office requested to have the new incoming Register of Deeds come in after the election to get some training completed. He was looking for roughly 128 hours and had put

Iron County Finance
Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2024
Approved

in \$27 an hour. Motion to allow the training with 90% of the current pay and a max of 128 hours made by Erickson, seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried.

14. Discuss/Action on 2025 Operating Budget and Operating Levy:

Wolff asked that item 14 and 15 on the agenda be combined for discussion as they tie together.

15. Discuss/Action on 2024 (payable 2025) Debt Levy components and Capital Expenditures

Wolff reviewed the budget deficit and the deficit for the 2025 budget. Wolff stated that there are a few things that need to be determined to balance the budget and stop depleting the general fund. Start looking at paying down Saxon Harbor, we work with Chippewa Bank to do a 20-year amortization, we raise the levy by \$375 thousand. He also stated we need to look at borrowing funds for capital improvement, road projects and property liability insurance. The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands does loans and there would be no payment till 2026. Motion made to recommend increasing the 2024 payable in 2024 levy by \$375,000 to the full board made by Lutgen seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried.

Motion to work with Chippewa Valley Bank to work on the Saxon Harbor Loan to include principal payments to start paying it down made by Lauer, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, Carried.

Motion to borrow approximately \$1,200,000 to pay for 2024 payable in 2025 capital expenditures, property/liability insurance, highway road work and placement costs made by Lutgen, seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried. Lauer added that she would like to see a way for the employees to submit ways to reduce the budget that may have not been discussed and this can be done anonymously. UW extension would put the online survey together and send to all county employees. Discussion on looking into a County Administrative type position in the County. Motion to recommend to the full board to discuss making and hiring a County Administrator type position in the 2025 budget made by Lutgen, seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried.

16. Discuss/Action to approve Consulting Contact with Government Solutions LLC:

Wolff noted that he would like to hire a consultant, and this consultant has worked with Ashland and Trempealeau Counties. He stated that we have gone as far as we can go on cutting expenses and we need help as we do not have the answers to what can and cannot be used for levy as well as grants. Motion to recommend approval to board to hire Government Solutions made by Lauer, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.

17. Discuss/Action on forming a Referendum Committee:

Motion to recommend forming the committee and bring to full board made by Lutgen, seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried.

18. Review and discuss budget comparison for August and Treasurer's Report: The committee reviewed the budget comparison and the Treasurer's report.

19. Review, discussion, and approval of credit card bills, voucher numbers 2434 through 2573 and check numbers 149810 through 150042 dated 8/15/2024 to 9/10/2024: Motion to approve the credit cards, vouchers and issue the checks made by Lauer, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.

20. Closed Session per WI State Statutes 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. Review of Corporation Counsel Applications: Motion to go into closed session at 2:15 made by Lutgen, seconded by Lauer. Roll call taken. All yes. Carried.

21. Return to open Session and report any action if necessary:

Iron County Finance
Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2024
Approved

Motion at 2:27pm to return to open session made by Lutgen, seconded by Lauer. Roll call taken. All yes. Carried. No action taken.

22. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm.

Approved: October 15, 2024

Respectfully submitted
Christan Brandt, County Clerk