

## Trempealeau County Executive/Finance Meeting

Meeting called to order by Ernie Vold at 9:00 am in the Wisconsin Room at the Trempealeau County Government Center, Whitehall, Wisconsin on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Present: Ernie Vold, Wally Geske, Doug Winters, Dave Suchla, Mark Smick, Bonnie Kindschy, Nick Gamroth, LaVerne Michalak, Brian Puent, Curt Johnson, Cindy Currier, Kathy Gauger, Paul Syverson, Jami Kabus, Mary Gullicksrud, Phil Borreson, Dick Miller, Jim Johnson**

Notice was posted according to open meeting law requirements.

Adoption of Agenda – **Motion/Second: Suchla/Winters** to adopt the presented agenda; **Motion carried.**

Minutes of Prior Executive/Finance Meeting – **Motion/Second: Geske/Suchla to accept the minutes from the meeting; Motion carried.**

5. County Sales Tax Update - Almost on track compared to 2 years ago. No action taken
6. General Fund Update - No change. Auditors coming in August, tentatively. No action taken
7. Department Updates/Requests -
  - A. Health & Human Services – Jeff McIntyre
    - i. Human Service Fund Balance – No report available.
  - B. Coroner – Bonnie Kindschy
    - i. Department Update – handed out a summary of deaths in County. Discussed recent issues with State Lab of Hygiene. Also discussed the autopsy process.
  - C. County Clerk
    - i. Ordinance Codification – Syverson distributed a codification quotation from the Municipal Code. Syverson said the benefit to having this done is finding things faster. This would be available both in hard copy and on electronic format. The County would have to research and find all of our ordinances, although they could do it for an additional fee. Michalak said it is not required to have, but it can be a handy tool. If the County has an indexing system, we can get by with that. A book like this is nice, but expensive. Smick said he understands Michalak's opinion, but we need to get our act together. We have to get synchronized and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Winters suggested a representative from the firm come to talk to the committee.  
**Motion/Second: Suchla/Smick to have Syverson contact the representative from the firm to come and talk to the committee. Motion carried.**
  - D. Health Care Center – Phil Borreson
    - i. House Purchase Direction Question- Borreson distributed a handout of an appraisal report for the house the TCHCC is interested in purchasing in Pigeon Falls. Michalak explained eminent domain and the proper procedures to be followed to protect the County from any potential future claim for additional monies. Borreson said the owner's representative approached the TCHCC for purchase and provided the property tax bill for 2009 and said this is my appraisal. Suchla suggested to Borreson to approach the owner to get a real appraisal, we will pay for it, and get it done. Not to wait for it to go on the market. Michalak said we have an option to purchase and we are all set to go ahead and get a deed from the owner and purchase it. But there is this potential problem that could surface. The County has done their own appraisal, which is higher than what she is asking for. Borreson said they can not purchase the house for the appraised amount of \$95,000.

**Motion/Second: Suchla/Geske we show her our appraisal. Motion carried.**

- E. Real Property Lister – Nick Gamroth & Dave Suchla
- i. Ordinance Codification- Gamroth & Suchla went to Winona County in Minnesota to talk with the assessor as to how county-wide assessing works for their county. They summarized the department layout, budget, fees and county demographics. Reviewed Winona County-wide assessing process, practices and procedures. Suchla said he was impressed, but it is not something we can do because the software is over \$200K alone. A simple ordinance saying the cost per square foot of the property would work. Suchla also said that parcel #s are more than Minnesota. Gamroth said that this is something that we would have to look into, as it would provide major issues in the Treasurers' department. Gamroth thinks the I-Pass system may be released from the state. He feels we should wait to see if the state will do this for us. Vold told Gamroth to come back to update the committee on the I-Pass Program. No action taken.
8. Smoking Ordinance- Michalak handed out a copy of a smoking ordinance that would incorporate the new state law and allows more funds to say locally. This resolution will also go in front of the Law Enforcement Committee. Puent updated the committee of the smoking ban and the process if someone violates the law. The owner of the establishment is the first line of enforcement. If the issue is not resolved, Law Enforcement may be called in to address.  
**Motion/Second: Suchla/Geske to approve the smoking ordinance. Motion carried.**
9. Hiring Freeze – Suchla asked about hiring temporary or part time staff and how that affects the county's responsibility of unemployment insurance. Smick said the whole initial discussion was to help relieve future layoffs if the budget is as grim as predicted, not creating net increases. Smick said if a position is necessary, fill from within, let the dominos fall and end with one less employee. Miller pointed out that the committee has the ability to deny filling a position, but the committee has a responsibility to make sure work is accomplished if a position is not filled. Smick said the reason that the hiring freeze was forwarded to the Board was with the optimism that it would give the County positive PR and that the press would pick up on it. The intention was to send out signals to the public and impress the public, but feels the media coverage was poor, as nothing was covered. Geske said everybody is going to defend that they have to have everybody who is working for them.  
**Motion/Second: Suchla/Winters motion to table. Ney-Geske, Smick. Motion Carried.**
10. Projector for County Board Room- Smick felt the projector & screen quote seemed very high and was not satisfied with the quote. Discussion was had as to the type of equipment and the location of the projection. Referred back to the Property Committee.
11. Intranet for County Board Members- Smick feels that intranet access for board members may give them more access to documents such as records, minutes and agendas. Suchla said that this somewhat exists today. Vold asked how many County Board members have computers. Smick said that is immaterial, but the public should also have access to information. Currier gave an overview of the current webmaster and process to post minutes and agendas. Intranet has been an issue due to hackers, viruses, etc. It would be a programming process to make this available for the Board members to login. Smick said that there is no reason why the public cannot have unapproved, draft minutes too. Further discussion continued regarding the concerns of posting of unapproved, draft minutes. Suchla suggested e-mailing draft minutes to board members. Currier said we have only 5 email addresses of County Board members and will work on setting up Board members access to intranet info.
12. Courthouse "Wi Fi" Connectivity- Currier handed out a quote for WI FI access in one meeting room. WI FI would give access to board members who bring their laptops to access the internet. It would be separate from our network. Currier shared that auditors, State Patrol, etc. request to use the network and would save the IT Department a lot of time to use wireless, rather than resetting their laptop settings each time. Discussion continued on the level of technology needed. Suchla would

like to double check some of the prices. Smick believes vendors who service government entities charge premium prices and suggested Best Buy would be much cheaper. Currier said Computer Discount Warehouse Government (CDWG) prices are the same or better in pricing, as demonstrated over the past several years.

**Motion/Second: Motion by Smick to approve the one room installation. No second was given. Motion fails. Suchla asked that the item be on the agenda next month so that additional research can be done over the next month.**

13. Streaming Committee Meetings- Smick believes all committee meetings should be broadcasted live. Vold asked why this would be a benefit when most final decisions are made at County Board Meetings. Smick feels the real discussions happen at the committee level and the public should see them first hand and offer their input. Vold will put this item on the August E/F agenda.
14. 2011 Budget
  - A. Prioritization- Smick wants the budget preparers to be instructed to submit multiple versions of a budget, showing a 2%, a 5% and a 10 % reduction. Vold disagreed, saying we first have to know what dollars we are going to have available instead of creating extra work. UW Extension is working on a prioritization for the County, which includes a questionnaire to the public. Suchla questioned the validity of public input when they do not know the inter-workings of the services and functions throughout the county departments. No action taken.
  - B. County Comparables- Suchla said that the letter sent out to the department heads outlines the request. Smick questioned the counties used as comparables, asking that it be qualified, in writing, that the comparable counties are in effect until an arbitrator or legal action establishes a new one. No additional action taken.
15. Personnel Requisitions
  - A. Hwy Payroll Clerk- Suchla asked if we have looked into contracting this position. Vold said the union would not allow it and contracting would be much more expensive. Johnson handed out a comparable of other county highway office staff and department information and reviewed it with the committee. Suchla wondered if that truly is a FT position, referencing the comparable handout. Johnson said he can not detail the day to day operations of how other county highway offices run their operations based on the handout. Discussion continued of the need of the position. Smick suggested tabling the requisition until we are further along in the budgeting process.  
**Motion/Second: Suchla/Smick at a 0.6 FTE. Motion fails with Vold, Geske & Winters voting nay. Winters/Vold to fill at 1.0 FTE. Motion carried with nay votes by Suchla & Smick.**
16. Closed Session per WI Stat. 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data at 11:40 am.  
**Motion/Second: Geske/Winters. Roll call taken. Motion carried.**
17. Reconvene into Open Session at 11:54 am.  
**Motion/Second: Suchla/Winters. Roll call taken. Motion carried.**
18. Set Date for Next Meeting - August 9, 2010 9:00 am.
19. Adjourn @ 11:55 am - **Motion/Second: Suchla/Smick to adjourn. Motion carried.**

Submitted, Mark Smick, Secretary/jk