

## Trempealeau County Executive/Finance Meeting

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ernie Vold at 9:00 a.m. in the Wisconsin Room at the Trempealeau County Government Center, Whitehall, Wisconsin on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

**Committee Members Present:** Ernie Vold, Doug Winters, Dave Suchla, Wally Geske, Mark Smick,

**Others Present:** Paul Syverson, Jami Kabus, LaVerne Michalek, sheri Rhoda, Nicole Hunger, Rich Anderson, Rebacca Suchla, Brian Puent, Jeff McIntyre, Renee Lyon, Laurie Halama, Matt Galewski, Rose Ottum, Phil Borreson, Brian Reilly, Phil Borreson

Notice was posted according to open meeting law requirements.

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

5. County Sales Tax Update - handout reviewed, no action taken.
6. General Fund Update – handout reviewed, no action taken.
7. Department Updates/Requests – none
8. Sale of Real Estate Tax Parcel #18-726-0: Michalek discussed the property south of Strum in the Town of Hale. This property was cleaned up. Was found to not have sewer and the foundation of the house was not concrete. House was previously damaged by fire. Corporation Council is looking for Committee direction on selling the property through the bidding process. Further discussion on the bidding process and the minimum pricing. Vold will join Corporation Council and the Treasurer for bid opening.  
**M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Geske/Winters to sell the property to the highest bid, with a minimum bid requirement of \$10,000. Motion Carried.**
9. Budget Expense Restriction – Suchla distributed several graphs showing past monthly expenditures. Suchla pointed out projected year end increases of expenditures in several departments. Further discussion regarding spending in the public sector. Smick identified the Board members that voted against the resolution at the last board meeting, saying that they will have to talk with those people to get a no vote to bring it back to the floor. Suchla suggested changing the resolution to take the Executive/Finance Committee out of the resolution, requiring only the standing committee approval.  
**M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Suchla/Smick to change the resolution, taking E/F Committee out of it and forwarding it to full County Board. Motion Carried.**
10. Steaming Committee Meetings – Smick would like Currier to attend and update the committee on the status of bids for streamlining meetings and an update on the projector. Further discussion on Property Committee involvement in purchases. Smick asked if Property Committee should be included on such things as the purchase of Sheriff's Dept squad cars? He also asked about prodigal on purchasing and who oversees that process. Michalek referred Smick to the Purchasing Policy and Procedures. Vold said that committee responsibilities and oversight is outlined the County Board rules and that the County is run by committees. This agenda item will be forwarded to next month's agenda.
11. 2010 Budget question on hours between land management and Health Dept – Sheri Rhoda and Nicole Hunger distributed handouts regarding this issue that was brought up at the last County Board meeting regarding the Environmental Health Program and the transition of hours that happened when that position was moved.

## 12. Personnel Requisitions

- a. Jailer – The Jailer position was tabled in the past in order to look into other cost saving options in the Sheriff's Department. Suchla is bringing the Jailer requisition back to the table for consideration.

**M/2<sup>nd</sup>: Suchla/Winters to approve the Jailer requisition and forward it to full County Board for approval to consider external candidates in addition to internal candidates. Motion Carried, with one nay vote from Geske.**

- b. Corporation Council – A requisition was presented to the committee for the approval of a Corporation Council, due to a retirement.

**M/2<sup>nd</sup>: Winters/Geske to approve the Corporation Council requisition and forward it to Personnel/Bargaining Committee for approval, waiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> appearance to E/F Committee. Motion Carried.**

## 13. Refinancing Options – Brian Reilly – Ehlers

Brian Reilly from Ehlers appeared in front of the committee, updating them on Finance options for the County. He gave a handout regarding the debt inventory of the County and discussed refinancing option to close the budget gap. He discussed the different bonds and loans the county has and the duration and rates of each. Reilly advised that he did not see an advantage or opportunity for cost saving based on the current financing. He further advised that the County can not levy money to reimburse itself, if we pay of an obligation early. Suchla asked about moving money around, with a referendum approved by the public. Reilly advised that that is not allowable per state statutes.

## 14. 2011 Budget

- a. Call Backs – Register of Deeds: Committee asked about money that Jackson and Vernon County receive from the Tribes. Committee also asked about grant opportunities available for the Register of Deeds. Ottum said that Land Records office may have a program, but is not aware of any grants available. Syverson alerted the committee that he updated the budget with the health insurance rates reflecting the deductible. He explained that in a lot of cases because your expenditures go down, so do your revenues. So the net affect because of the deductible is that the levy request will be going up \$51,000, Kabus advised that when she discussed cost savings, it was based solely on premiums, headcount and deductibles. Suchla asked Syverson how an \$18,000 savings creates a \$51,000 loss. Syverson tried to explain how the reduction of expenses decreases revenues. Suchla said to put those expenses on that department to increase the revenues. Syverson said he can not do that because that is not a legitimate expense to claim. Further research will be needed to determine if this is still possible with a cost savings to the County. Suchla pointed out that it is dramatic on the Health Care Center side for employee savings. Kabus asked how we could have found this out a month ago. Syverson said we wouldn't until we found out from the department. The Committee questioned how the deductible could not be considered the same type of expense as health insurance. Further discussion on the funding and budget impact. Geske said we need to know more about this before we make a decision. Child Support discussed the reimbursement process for their department and how they could also claim the insurance and deductible for revenues. Smick recommended reducing everyone's budget across the board. Geske pointed out that this would again affect those departments the same way that, with reducing expenses reduces revenues. **M/2<sup>nd</sup> Geske/Suchla to take the deductible resolution back to the board and rescind the boards October 7 decision. Motion Carried.** Suchla asked that further research be done to see if it is possible to charge back those effected departments. Phil Borreson explained that it is a legitimate cost under Section 125 and rescinding this will affect over 300 employees at the TCHCC and an average, \$2000 savings. McIntyre reported back that his department would be able to bill for the health insurance change. If it is determined that it can be charged back

to these departments, the resolution can be pulled from the Board agenda. The committee continued to review many other budget items for possible reduction, including consolidating Emergency Management with the Sheriffs Department, budget items in the Coroner's department, University Extension, Sheriff's Dept, Circuit Court position's salary and Information System's telephone savings.

Finalizing proposed Budget – Suchla said the balanced budget was contingent upon the financing options, but that is not going to be an option. The other option was the elimination of the Director position in the Television Studio. There was a decrease in Circuit Court budget, regarding the Judicial Assistant salary. A reduction of telephone expenses should also be reflected, as advised by Smick.

**M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Suchla/Smick to eliminate the TV Studio Director position, with the administrative duties assigned to the UW-Extension Director or another Director. Motion Carried.**

**M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Suchla/Smick to reduce the Coroner's budget by \$5,000 in continuing education and professional services. Motion Carried.**

15. Closed session per WI State Stat. 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data @ 1:19 pm **M/2<sup>nd</sup>: Suchla/Geske. Roll Call taken. Vold –aye, Smick-aye, Suchla-aye, Winters-aye, Geske-aye. Motion carried.**
16. Reconvene into open session @ 2:44 pm **M/2<sup>nd</sup> Suchla/Geske, roll call taken, Vold –aye, Smick-aye, Suchla-aye, Winters-aye, Geske-aye. Motion carried.**
17. Set date for next meeting on 12/7/2010 at 9:00 am.
18. Adjourn @ 3:05 PM by Chairman Vold.