

## **Trempealeau County Executive/Finance Meeting**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ernie Vold at 9:01 a.m. in the Wisconsin Room at the Trempealeau County Government Center, Whitehall, Wisconsin on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

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

**Others Present:** Jami Kabus, Jeff McIntyre, Rich Anderson, Rian Radtke, Michelle Weisenberger

Notice was posted according to open meeting law requirements.

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

**Adoptions of the Minutes from Previous Meetings – Motion/Second: Suchla/Winters to approve minutes from previous meeting. 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 –
  - a. County Clerk –
    - i. Credit Card Policy – Committee received a copy of a draft credit card copy. The committee will review and bring back at the December meeting to discuss with Syverson.
  - b. Clerk of Courts –
    - i. Fines and Forfeitures – Weisenberger told the committee she would be attending the December meeting to share this topic with the Committee.
  - c. Human Services
    - i. Budget – M/2<sup>nd</sup> Suchla/Smick to table and discuss issue at the December meeting. Motion Carried, with no votes from Vold and Winters.
8. Personnel Requisition –
  - a. Disability Benefit Specialist – McIntyre distributed a job description and projected savings regarding the Disability Benefit Specialist position that is currently being contracted with Kelly Services. McIntyre reviewed the duties of the position and explained that by bringing it in house would save approximately \$13,683.00. These savings would be applied towards senior services benefits programs. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Suchla/Winters to approve and forward the position. Motion Carried.
9. Early Retirement -Discussion was had regarding the creation of an early retirement option. With potential layoffs and in an effort to save the cost of unemployment claims, Suchla said that it should be set up as a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis. Kabus said that there should be a detailed policy or program summary and a disclaimer for employees to sign off on. She also shared the typical package includes health insurance continuation. Suchla said this would include a lump sum payout only. Geske questioned if this is worth the savings. Smick said that numbers should be crunched with several cost scenarios. Further discussion was had if there is a need for this. No further action was requested.
10. Nepotism / Code of Ethics – Smick distributed a summary of a proposed consolidation of county committees, a draft of county board rules and a code of ethics. Suchla offered some proposed language changes to Smick's draft. Discussion was had regarding nepotism and marital status.

Suchla initially said that the Health Care Center would be exempt, but said they may need to be included since county board members serve on the HCC Board of Trustees. Radtke asked for reasons for the proposed change. Suchla gave examples of County Board members and relatives employed at the County and the conflict of interest. Radtke advised on the pros and cons of establishing a code of ethics and the potential legal actions that could be brought forward against county board members and employees. Radtke advised that any such policy should be reviewed by our insurance as they will be the ones defending the County Board members and employees. Geske said that an ethics code should be a general outline, philosophical and broad in nature. He added that you cannot judge who is moral or not. Smick encouraged the committee to review and bring the topic back at next month's meeting to discuss.

11. Tax Foreclosure Bid Approval – Blair Property: Radtke advised that the high bidder on the Blair property was \$5,527 from Steve Doerr. Two other bids were also submitted. Smick asked what Doerr would be doing with the property, adding that he preferred to have the City of Blair to utilize the property, asking why one form of government can't help another. Geske said it is none of our business and this is a result of a bidding process. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Suchla/Geske to approve the highest bid and allow Doerr two weeks to complete the transaction, if not completed, the bid would be awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest bidder. Motion Carried.
12. County Board per diem – Radtke reviewed the statute regarding setting per diem for the next election, which requires a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote. Discussion was had regarding staying with a 2-level per diem, one per diem rate regardless of meeting duration or going to a salary concept. Smick said if the Board Members stay at the same rate, we are actually reducing our pay if you consider the cost of living increase. But by staying the same, we also show that we practice what we preach in comparing to the employees having no increase for the next two years. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Winters/Smick to keep per diem at the same rate for the next term. Motion Carried.
13. County Newspaper Discussion – Discussion was had as to if the county had to officially designate a paper for the County. Radtke said that based on the size of the County, we did not. Committee will address issue at the December committee meeting.
14. Work on County Board Rules - Smick encouraged the committee to review his draft of the county board rules and bring the topic back at next month's meeting to discuss.
15. Items for next agenda
16. Set date for next regular meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 9:00 am.
17. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Geske/Winters to adjourn @ 11:09 AM. Motion Carried