

Trempealeau County Executive/Finance Meeting

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ernie Vold at 9:03 a.m. in the Wisconsin Room at the Trempealeau County Government Center, Whitehall, Wisconsin on Monday, December 5th, 2011.

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

Others Present: Paul Syverson, Jami Kabus, Brian Reilly, Curt Johnson, Laurie Halama, Don Hellrung, Rich Anderson, Rian Radtke, Michelle Weisenberger, Nick Gamroth, Lee Henschel

Notice was posted according to open meeting law requirements.

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

Adoptions of the Minutes from Previous Meetings – Motion/Second: Winters/Suchla 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. Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of the County's Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Dated February 1, 2006 – Brian Reilly met with the Committee regarding early payoff of the bond. He advised that there would have to be a notice of redemption, giving a 30-day notice. A recommendation from Executive/Finance Committee to the County Board would be in order via resolution. A sample resolution was presented. For a March 2012 action, a notice would have to be submitted mid to late January. M/2nd by Suchla/Winters to approve and forward to County Board. Motion Carried. Reilly also discussed 2003 refunding bonds, affecting TCHCC and PFHCC. He advised that we can refinance in advance of the call date. The proceeds would be placed into escrow. He explained the options of refinancing, reviewed estimated savings on an annual basis and the best value of savings qualifying as worth while. Curt Johnson will look into and discuss further with the TCHCC Board.
8. County Newspaper – Syverson advised that the County normally rotates designating the County paper alphabetically, per resolution. Gauger addressed the committee regarding prices and circulation. M/2nd by Smick/Suchla to forward a resolution, designating the Trempealeau County Times as the official newspaper for 2012. Motion Carried.
9. Department Updates/Requests –
 - a. County Clerk –
 - i. Credit Card Policy – Committee received a copy of a draft credit card copy. This is to satisfy concerns from the auditors. Syverson said he reviewed policies from other counties and drafted the one presented to the Committee. M/2nd by Suchla/Smick to approve the policy presented. Motion Carried with one no vote from Winters.
 - ii. GASB 54 Auditing Reporting – Committee reviewed GASB 54 fund balance policy examples. Auditors wanted something in place by the end of the year. M/2nd by Suchla/Winters to table and review at next meeting. Motion carried.
 - b. Clerk of Courts –
 - i. Fines and Forfeitures – Weisenberger distributed handouts showing a chart with department duties and money activities in the Clerk of Court office and a chart of A/R and outstanding accounts. Weisenberger answered questions regarding the

breakdown of state and county revenues collected. Discussion was had regarding the use of collection agencies.

- ii. Family Court Commissioner – Smick said that during a past Audit committee meeting, he noticed an invoice for services. He said that other attorneys submit an itemization, but the Court Commissioner’s was a flat fee and wanted an explanation quantifying his services. Hellrung advised the committee that he is contracted by the County. He explained the history of his role and detailed the services he provides to the County, explaining he brings more money into the County than what his position costs. He advised his duties are dictated by state statute and went into details regarding the areas of the family law system.
 - c. Corporation Counsel/Treasurer
 - i. Halama distributed a listing of foreclosed properties for 2010 taxes. She advised that the County should write off the taxes due for 2011 on these properties (handout distributed with a listing) . Further discussion regarding the values and proration. M/2nd by Winters/Suchla to write off the taxes on the properties. Motion Carried.
10. Nepotism / Code of Ethics – Radtke advised that concerns regarding nepotism could be addressed in the County Board rules, presented suggestions to the County Board rules. He also advised that an ethics code creates a mechanism for the public to file complaints against the County. He advised that a code of ethics already exists in the state statutes. M/2nd by Winters/Suchla to table. Motion Carried
 11. Work on County Board Rules - Smick distributed a 2nd draft copy of County Board Rules, code of ethics and committee listing, revised since the November meeting. Radtke also had changes to suggest for County Board rules that he will send to committee members. M/2nd by Suchla/Winters to table. Motion Carried
 12. M/2nd Winters/Suchla to recess until 1:00 pm. Motion carried
 13. 1:00 PM meet with Human Services Board regarding budget – M/2nd by Winters/Suchla to call recess back to order at 1:00 pm.

Human Services Budget. Joint Meeting with Executive & Finance Committee

Suchla asked the Human Services Board questions during the joint meeting about reviewing the Human Services budget to possibly find ways to save money. McIntyre explained department services, including mandated services. An area that the department is over budget is out-of-home care for children that are either mandated or court ordered. Another area is the IMD residents at the Trempealeau County Health Care Center. The department has brought that number down by placing them back into the community (Farnam House or half-way house), but has to go through the court process to do so. Question was raised by Suchla about why we have three Social Workers. He stated, “If we don’t need a Social Worker, don’t get them”. Mr. McIntyre passed out a handout explaining when and where the department was over budget. Discussion followed.
 14. Items for next agenda
 15. Set date for next regular meeting 1/3/2012, 2/7/2012 and 3/6/2012 at 9:00 am.
 16. M/2nd by Suchla/Smick to adjourn @ 1:21 PM. Motion Carried