

## **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 Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

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

**Others Present: Tom Bice, Dick Miller, Bob Duellman, Olin Fimreite, Paul Syverson, Jami Kabus, Rose Ottum, Laurie Halama, Rich Anderson, Cindy Currier, Rian Radtke, Jeff McIntyre, Jeri Marsolek, Pat Bell, Forrest Nutter, Terry Thompson, Jaime Flores, Engracia Saavedar**

Notice was posted according to open meeting law requirements.

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

**Adoptions of the Minutes from Previous Meetings – Motion/Second: Aasen/Smick 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. Joint meeting with Personnel/Bargaining Committee called to order by Bice at 9:05 am.
  - a. Kabus distributed a packet of information containing salary information regarding the three elected official salaries (County Clerk, Register of Deeds and Treasurer) from comparable counties. It also included a copy of the current resolution, and a copy of the resolution regarding the Sheriff and Clerk of Court. Kabus referenced the benchmark established in a 2004 resolution for the basis of establishing the salaries, using the non-represented salary matrix. Kabus advised that the intent was to create a consistent means of setting the elected officials salary, but the committee has to take into consideration economic conditions at the time. Syverson confirmed that the compensation for the next 4 year term would have to be established prior to the date candidates take out papers (April 2012).The committee requested information be brought back at the March meeting showing cost scenarios for varies percentage increases to see the overall costs to the county.
8. Department Updates/Requests –
  - a. County Clerk –
    - i. GASB 54 Auditing Reporting –Syverson distributed a handout explaining the GASB accounting practices that will need to be brought via resolution to the County Board. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Vold/Suchla to approve and forward a resolution to the County Board. Motion carried.
  - b. Corporation Counsel/Treasurer
    - i. Last month, the E/F committee approved a 90 day extension to Flores and Saavedar to pay the outstanding taxes, interest and expenses in full, with the 90 days starting 1/3/2012. Radtke advised that they fulfilled their responsibilities and would recommend the approval for the County Clerk to sign the deed for buy back of foreclosed property. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Suchla/Aasen to sign the deed as advised. Motion Carried
  - c. Diversion/Drug Court Program
    - i. Program Update: Pat Bell and Jeri Marsolek updated the committee regarding the Drug/OWI Court program and Diversion. Advised the committee on program useageand answered questions from the committee. Bell explained the program enrollment process and enrollment levels.

d. IT Department

- i. Simulcast/Streaming County Board Meeting and Committee Meetings: Smick requested that Committee meetings and County Board meetings be available by computer feeds through adaptive streaming. He said this would allow the public to have another means to see committee meetings at their leisure. Currier gave an overview of the cable casting process works from an IT prospective. She distributed a handout and showed a presentation of a sample cast. She advised that no additional fund would be needed as long as meetings were done in the County Board Room. Radtke advised of several concerns he has regarding streaming committee meetings: failure of a committee to follow parliamentary procedures, it creates a record and subject to open records, inadvertently broadcasting a closed session, defamation exposure, open meeting violations, etc. The broadcasting proposal would also have to be taken up by the Ext. Education & Communications committee before presenting a resolution to the County Board. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Smick/Suchla to approve cable casting on a trial basis, broadcasting county board meetings and any committee meetings possible. Motion carried with a no vote from Aasen.

9. Humane Society Funding. Vold suggested assigning unused funds to be given to the Humane Society rather than turning it over to the townships. Syverson advised that the County would not be able to donate the funds, as funds must be returned to the municipalities, per state statutes. No further action.
10. Nepotism / Code of Ethics – combined in discussion below.
11. Work on County Board Rules: M/2<sup>nd</sup> Suchla/Smick to remove from the table, Motion Carried. Smick reviewed with the committee that his proposed county board rules were a combination of rules from other counties, our current board rules and personal authorship by himself. He also authored an ethics code and a navigation guide to the documents, including a table of contents. Smick met with Radtke regarding his proposal and discussed Radtke's suggestions and concerns. Radtke advised of the issues consolidating all of these topics into one document. Suchla referenced Radtke's proposed County Board rules with a few questions. Radtke went through each of his proposed changes to the current board rules and explained the purpose for each. M/2<sup>nd</sup> Suchla/Aasen to approve Radtke's proposals to the County Board rules. M/2<sup>nd</sup> Suchla/Smick to amend the motion and strike 3C in Radtke's proposal. Motion Carried...back to original motion, as amended. Vold called the question. Motion Carried. The committee then turned to Smick's proposed board rules. Smick advocated for committee structure changes for efficiency and removal of committee layers that slow the process and create more bureaucracy, stating that it would save approximately \$15,000. With the first proposed board rule true for the Land Management committee per state statute, Radtke stated that it is beyond the scope of responsibilities of the County Board. The Committee continued through the rest of Smick's proposal, noting conflicting language with other rules, formatting and numbering issues, suggesting items to change and replacement language. Radtke also pointed out that there was significant revisions to the current committee structure in Smick's proposal, which mirrored Ozaukee County's. Radtke recommend a sub group or study committee to research the complete committee structure more thoroughly. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Smick/Suchla requesting Radtke to draft an updated version of the County Board rules with the changes discussed today and bring back to the committee in March. Motion Carried. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Suchla/Aasen for Vold to establish a sub-committee to research the County committee structure. Motion Carried. Vold appointed Bice, Winters, Smick, Miller, Reichwein, Nelson, Haines to serve on the committee, along with Kabus (minutes).

\*\*Recess until 1:00 pm\*\*

\*\*Reconvened at 1:00 pm\*\*

12. Investigation of telephone records of offices of County Clerk, Register of Deeds and Treasurer: Suchla stated that he asked to see phone records for the County Clerk, Register of Deeds and Treasurer. Radtke was advised by the State's Attorney General's office that this would be an open records request by an individual, which would include redacting phone numbers, unless it was a request by the oversight committee of that department and should be based on credible evidence. Radtke further advised of the intent of use of any information, cautioning against the use for personal or political purposes. Smick rejected the Attorney General's opinion and Radtke's counsel, and said that they should go into closed session.
13. M/2<sup>nd</sup> Suchla/Smick @ 1:15 pm to Convene to Closed session per WI SS 19.85(1)(f) for preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons relating to misuse of the Trempealeau County telephone system, which if discussed in public would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person involved in such problems or investigations. Roll call taken, Suchla – Yes, Smick – Yes, Winters – No, Aasen – Yes, Vold – No. Motion Carried.
14. M/2<sup>nd</sup> by Aasen/Winters @ 2:34 pm to reconvene into open session– Roll call taken, Suchla – Yes, Smick – Yes, Winters – Yes, Aasen – Yes, Vold – Yes. Motion Carried.
15. Items for next agenda: Land Records Department Update
16. Set date for next regular meeting 3/6/2012 at 9:00 am and 4/2/2012.
17. Vold adjourned @ 2:37 PM.