

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, March 6th, 2012.

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

Others Present: Tom Bice, Dick Miller, Bob Duellman, Olin Fimreite, Jami Kabus, Rich Anderson, Rian Radtke, Jeff McIntyre, Cindy Jacoby, Arild Engeliem, Mike Nelson, Jeff McIntyre, Ann Seymour

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: Suchla/Winters to approve minutes from previous meeting, as amended. 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 information showing cost scenarios for varies percentage increases to see the overall costs to the county. The committee discussed COLA, comparing County wages to private employers, etc. Suchla said that Western Dairyland is moving from Independence to Osseo, management is getting wage increases and many of their staff are planning to quit. The committee discussed that all county employees will eventually have to be given a raise at some point, but it is hard to predict a financial forecast for fours years into the future. M/2nd Suchla/Smick to set the County Clerk, Treasurer and Register of Deeds salary for a 1% pay increase each year for the next 4-year term and forward a resolution to the March County Board. Motion carried with Yes votes from Suchla, Smick, Bice, Duellman, Aasen, No votes from Miller, Winters, Vold. Joint meeting was adjourned by Bice @ 9:39 am.
8. Department Updates/Requests –
 - a. Land Record – Ann Seymour updated the committee with information regarding the projects she is involved with and what she will be working on in the future. She received compliments by the Committee members and from the community on her work.
9. Personnel Requisition –
 - a. TV Studio Coordinator position - Kabus introduced the proposed TCCTV position that was approved at the 2/9/2012 Ext-Education & Communication Committee meeting and the 2/16/2012 Personnel/Bargaining Committee meeting. Fimreite presented background, value and justification for the TV studio and the need for the new position. Fimreite also shared ideas for possible new shows but are not able to do because of the staffing levels. Miller said that if we were to approve this position, the committee has to be committed to keeping this position and fight to have it for years to come. M/2nd Suchla/Smick to approve the position, eliminate the 5 hour per week part time position and revise the budget to \$110,539.99 and not hire for this position before 4/15/2012. Motion carried.
10. Humane Society Funding – Vold shared a letter from Corporation Counsel regarding the Dog License Fund and surplus funds. It states that the surplus funds must be paid to the local municipalities for their use, referencing Wis. Stat. § 174.09(2) and §174.09(2).

11. Audit Committee Scheduling – Syverson has requestd that if Board members need to change their turn on the Audit Committee agenda that they contact Syverson to let him know of the change needed.
12. County Board Rules: Radtke distributed the revised County Board Rules with the changes approved from the previous E/F meeting in February. He pointed out that he added a table of contents, made the changes this committee approved at the February E/F committee meeting and the proposed changes to committee structure as approved by the special committee appointed by Chairman Vold at last month's meeting. Radtke reviewed the revised rules draft with the committee. Suchla questioned who is to follow the county board rules. Suchla voiced his ideas regarding nepotism, stating that no relatives, County Board members, elected officers or county employees should have relatives employed anywhere at the County. He cited the Sheriff's office and Hwy as examples. He suggested that if a department head hires a relative of an employee, their budget should be reduced. Suchla also asked about training history from the Sheriffs department, as he has a suspicion of favoritism granting training approval to staff. Smick wants Radtke to provide a written definition of an employee, county board member and a constitutional elected official.

M/2nd by Vold/Suchla to accept the proposal to blend the museum committee into Ext.- Education & Communication Committee, that they may meet quarterly and have upto 3 citizen members. Motion Carried.

M/2nd by Suchla/Smick to have the departments of Land Records, Real Property Lister and Register of Deeds report to the Environment & Land Use Committee. Motion Carried.

M/2nd by Suchla/Smick to have the departments of Clerk of Court, District Attorney, Victim Witness, Circuit Court, Child Support and Coroner report to the Law Enforcement Committee. Motion Carried.

M/2nd by Suchla/Aasen to project resolutions in front of the County Board onto the TV screen, and if not possible, read the resolutions. Motion Carried.

M/2nd by Suchla/Winters to submit County Board Rules, with today's amendments to the full County Board at their March meeting. Motion Carried.

13. Items for next agenda: updating the County Board Duties and Compensation policy, written definition of employees, elected board members and elected officers.
14. Set date for next regular meeting 4/2/2012 at 9:00 am.
15. M/2nd by Suchla/Aasen to adjourn. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned @ 11:55 AM.