

Trempealeau County Executive/Finance Meeting

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mike Nelson at 9:00 a.m. in the Wisconsin Room at the Trempealeau County Government Center, Whitehall, Wisconsin on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2013.

Committee Members: Mike Nelson, Ernie Vold, Tom Bice, John Aasen

Others in attendance: Doug Winters, Curt Skoyen, Paul Syverson, Jami Kabus, Laurie Halama, Mary Gullicksrud, Sheriff Anderson, Pete Olson, Jack Speerstra, Dan Diehn, Rian Radtke, LaVerne Michalek, John Kelly

Notice was posted according to open meeting law requirements.

Adoption of the Agenda – **M/2nd by Vold/Bice to adopt the agenda; Motion carried.**

Adoption of Minutes from previous meeting(s): **M/2nd by Aasen/Bice to approve the minutes from the 8/12/2013 meeting. Motion Carried.**

5. County Sales Tax Update - handout reviewed.
6. General Fund Update – handout reviewed.
7. Associated Snowmobile Clubs Request for Groomer Loan – Pete Olson addressed the committee regarding the potential conflict of interest concern at the last County Board meeting. The resolution was sent back to the committees (E/F and Parks). Olson distributed the three quotes that were received for the drag. **M/2nd by Aasen/Vold to approve the lowest bid (Universal) and forward to the Parks Committee for approval. Motion Carried.**
8. Sale of Tax Foreclosed Property (Theresa Lane) to the Town of Lincoln (020-00529-0000 & 020-00634-0000): Speerstra and Diehn addressed the committee regarding this property. He requests that the Town of Lincoln be allowed to purchase this property outside the bidding process, which is allowed under state statutes. Speerstra advised there were concerns of citizens of the township regarding this particular property and to avoid potential controversy regarding sand mining in that area, the town would like to keep this a town road. A total of \$517 is still owed on the property. **Motion by Bice to approve selling the property back to the Town of Lincoln for \$260 failed to get a 2nd. M/2nd by Vold/Nelson to sell the property back to the Town of Lincoln or \$1.00. Motion Carried.**
9. City of Independence – Lift Station Easement: Michalek summarized the history regarding the Independence Sewer System Lift Station located on East End Road/Hwy 121 in Independence. The City is asking for finalizing a permanent utility easement around the existing lift station that was never officially recorded. Gullicksrud advised that the Health Care Center Board of Trustees were in support of the easement. **M/2nd by Vold/Aasen to approve the easement for the cost of \$1.00. Motion Carried.**
10. Department Update/Requests
 - a. IT Department – Archiving and Reviewing Committee meetings via our website. Kelly presented an updated resolution for the Committee’s consideration. A resolution was taken to the County Board in August, but was sent back to committees, as the original resolution language approved by the Ag/Extension committee had been changed at the E/F Committee. Kelly advised that the Ag/Extension committee has approved the language in the revised resolution. Discussion was had as to how many meeting could be handled. Kelly noted that

staffing and the use of the studio by other groups may cause some issues. He advised that currently, County Board and Land Management are the only two meetings that are taped. **M/2nd Aasen/Bice to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board. Motion Carried.**

- b. Highway Department – Resolution to request for Transfer from the General Fund. Dave Lyga distributed a list of potential highway improvement projects that would require monies from the Unassigned General Fund. In May, 2013, a request for \$525,000 was tabled at the County Board until the Audit results were available. **M/2nd Aasen/Bice to approve the resolution and forward to County Board. Motion Carried.**

- 11. Selling of County Property – Bice wanted to clarify that his preference is to sell property that holds no public benefit or a good reason to hold it. Discussion was had regarding current county-owned property and uses for it now. No further action taken.
- 12. Fraud Hotline – Amanda (Auditor) suggested looking at establishing a fraud hotline. Syverson distributed a handout regarding hotlines that he received from Amanda. The Sheriff advised that the state has a fraud hotline and the County used to have a crime stoppers program. The committee will review and will discuss further next month.
- 13. County Board Rules – Discussion was had regarding the approved motion made at the August E/F Committee meeting regarding creating an appointment committee. At that August meeting, Suchla had suggested appointing a committee that would recommend replacement committee members (citizen members) to be considered for vacancies. At that meeting the action taken was to approve the creation of the Appointment Committee to recommend citizens for committee vacancies to the Chair. Today, the committee discussed further if they meant to have a new committee formed, who appoints this committee and who makes up the committee? Discussion was had that the standing committee should be the one to forward recommendations for the Chair to consider, not a new committee. **M/2nd by Bice/Aasen to rescind the 8/12/2013 E/F Committee motion which approved the creation of the Appointment Committee to recommend citizens for committee vacancies to the Chair. Motion Carried.** In additional discussion regarding County Board Rules, Radtke advised the committee that there is a County Board Administration Policy regarding the assignment process of County Board members to standing committees that he would like the committee to visit at their next meeting.
- 14. 2014 Budget process:
 - a. Preliminary Equalized Value: \$1,758,603,400
 - b. Preliminary Net New Constructions: 0.82%
 - c. Establish dates and schedule for department hearings: 9/17, 9/18, 9/19, 9/20 and 9/27.
- 15. Items for next agenda: Fraud Hotline, County Board Rules
- 16. Next Meeting date: 10/7/2013
- 17. Chairman Nelson adjourned the meeting at 10:40am.