

MINUTES OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, September 23, 2022

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: Courthouse – Room 114

Members Present: Ed Wagner, Donna Rozar, Lance Pliml, Laura Valenstein (WebEx), Adam Fischer (WebEx)

Others Present (for all or part of meeting, in person or via WebEx): Trent Miner, Jeff Penzkover, John Peckham, Ray Bossert, Jake Hahn, Bill Clendenning, Jason Grueneberg, Bill Leichtnam, Brent Vruwink, Victoria Wilson, Travis Hofer, Dennis Polach, Tiffany Ringer, Brad Hamilton, Joe Zurfluh, Kimberly Stimac, Susan Feith, Ed Newton, PaNya Yang

1. Chairman Wagner called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
2. Under public comment, Ray Bossert expressed his opposition about the use of ARPA funding for the jail project and inquired about the status of those funds. This assumption was incorrect and he was subsequently corrected by the committee in that no ARPA funds have been allocated to the jail project, but this had been an option proposed by the financial advisor at the county board meeting at which no decision had been made in that regard.
3. Finance Director Newton provided the most current information based on the actions of yesterday's meeting.
4. HIRC Chair Hahn and Highway Dept. Accounting Supervisor Peckham reviewed the Highway Dept. budget and shared a letter from the Highway Commissioner who was not able to attend the meeting. They also reviewed past levy requests. The Committee reviewed how much of the actual levy increase was because of the unorthodox mid-year salary adjustment paid to the truck drivers. Motion by Pliml/Rozar to tentatively accept the Highway Department budget and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg reviewed the multiple budgets he oversees, including the non-lapsing budgets from Private Sewage & Land Records. Reviewed the projects coming up with LIDAR. He also discussed the surveyor projects being planned (Highway right-of-ways) and how well our current set up of a part-time surveyor is working out to the county's advantage. Motion by Pliml/Rozar to tentatively accept the Planning & Zoning budgets and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg presented the Economic Development budget and reviewed the number of grant applications received and vetted by the CEED

Committee. There were 19 total applications and of those, 6 were denied. The rest were approved as submitted, partially funded, or funded at more than the request. He discussed the ROI on the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission membership and that this amount dropped slightly for next year. Supervisor Clendenning that the Central Wisconsin State Fair is also looking for more money but it was noted that they had not submitted anything to the county at this point. Motion by Rozar/Pliml to tentatively accept the Economic Development budget and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Clerk of Courts Stimac and Supervisor Clendenning answered questions related to the Clerk of Courts budget, including the increase in bailiff wages and the new position needed for the Branch 4 court, starting mid-year. Motion by Rozar/Valenstein to tentatively accept the Clerk of Courts budget and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Child Support Director Vruwink and Supervisor Clendenning provided an overview of Child Support funding and comparables to other counties. While the percentage increase in the levy is high, the dollar amount is very low. Vruwink highlighted what they are hoping for during the next state budget process. Motion by Pliml/Rozar to tentatively accept the Child Support budget and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Library Board Chair Hamilton, along with Library Board members Feith and Zurfluh, presented the request to increase the library levy to 100% reimbursement level. Feith commented on the changes to library services due to the pandemic and the transition to electronic delivery. Miner provided historical perspective on the levels of funding and how the county had committed to incrementally get to 100% reimbursement and that this levy is not related to the county operational levy. Motion by Pliml/Rozar to move the library reimbursement to 100%. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Finance Director presented the UW Commission budget. Motion by Rozar/Pliml to tentatively accept the UW Commission budget and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
11. The Marshfield Fairgrounds budget was discussed. The loan that necessitated specific budget amount has been paid off. This budget is in a holding pattern, pending further information.
12. The Ho-Chunk Donation budget was reviewed and discussed. There are no changes to this budget from past years. Motion by Pliml/Rozar to tentatively accept the Ho-Chunk Donation budget and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
13. The Contingency budget of \$600,000 was presented. This is the same amount as last year. Any unused contingency reverts back to the undesignated general fund at the end of the year. Motion by Pliml/Rozar to tentatively accept the Contingency budget and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

14. The Payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) budget was presented. These amounts have remained constant over many years. Motion by Rozar/Pliml to tentatively accept the PILOT budget and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
15. The discussion of movement of wages is in a holding pattern at this point and will be addressed further as the budget becomes more finalized.
16. Chairman Wagner adjourned the meeting at 11:18 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.