

MINUTES OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, September 21, 2023

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Wagner, Lance Pliml, Laura Valenstein, Adam Fischer (via WebEx), Donna Rozar (joins via WebEx at 9:12 AM, exits 9:57 AM)

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Wagner called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Finance Director Newton provided an overview of the 2024 budget to date, reviewed historical rates and levies, and answered questions in that regard.
4. The Highway CIP budget overage was reviewed and discussed. This item was held open based on further budget discussions, but HIRC Chair Hahn was advised to prioritize projects and review estimates on other projects to ascertain further savings.
5. Parks & Forestry Director Schooley reviewed the overage in the Parks & Forestry budget. The overage is attributed, in part, to an additional FTE in the maintenance staff. Some of this may be mitigated through a decrease in office staff hours.
6. Emergency Management Director Christensen reviewed the overage in her budgets. This is attributable to the Everbridge subscription. If the county does not renew this subscription, those dollars would not be expended. She also reviewed the step increases within her department and was advised to follow proper HR policy procedures when advancing more than one step. She was also advised to review the job descriptions of the Work Relief workers.
7. Sheriff Becker and Chief Deputy Ellis reviewed the overages within the various budgets of the Sheriff's Dept. These are attributable to the staffing of the new jail facility and officer safety needs. There will be savings starting in 2025 due to the fact they should not need to transport or house prisoners out of county. The committee reviewed the plans for the officer safety component.
8. Supervisor Hamilton and Susan Feith, representing the Wood County Library Board, thanked the committee for the 100% reimbursement rate given to the libraries for the past 2 budget cycles.

9. Supervisor Hamilton and Finance Director Newton reviewed the recent events and expenditures at the Marshfield Fairgrounds. After discussion, the consensus of the committee was to leave \$25,000 in the 2024 budget for Fairground improvement.
10. Dr. Tony Andrews, Campus Executive for UWSP at Marshfield reviewed the 2024 budget proposal.
11. CEED Committee Chair Leichtnam, along with committee members Hahn and Valenstein, reviewed the Economic Development budget and the grants approved by the CEED Committee. Concerns were expressed by the types of projects approved to receive economic development grants. Pliml has had a conversation with WCA General Counsel Andy Phillips who also expressed some legal concerns as well. Leichtnam indicated the CEED Committee is working on coming up with parameters and definitions for future grant processes. Consensus of the Operations Committee was to refer this budget back to the CEED Committee with a \$400,000 cap as well as better filter mechanisms for awarding of grant dollars.
12. The chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.

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

