

MINUTES

Eau Claire County Joint Meeting

Committee on Finance and Budget
Highway Committee

Thursday, March 8, 2018 / 4:30 pm

721 Oxford Avenue
Eau Claire County Courthouse – Room 1273
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Members present: **Committee on Finance & Budget**: Supervisors Jim Dunning, Robin Leary, Stella Pagonis, Mike Conlin and Nick Smiar

Highway Committee: Supervisors Ray Henning, Steve Chilson, Carl Anton, Katy Forsythe and Kathy Clark

Staff present: Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Amy Weiss, Interim Finance Director; Janet Loomis, County Clerk; Rod Thorson, Highway Engineer; DiAnna Steines, Highway Accountant; Sharon Rasmusson, Assistant to the County Administrator

Others: Sean Lentz, Senior Municipal Advisor, Ehlers, Inc.

Chairperson Jim Dunning called the Committee on Finance & Budget meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Chairperson Ray Henning called the Highway Committee to order at 4:30 pm.

Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

County Clerk's office notified Administrator's office that the meeting was properly noticed and posted.

Public Comment Period (15 minutes max)

None.

Review of PASER Rating / Long Term Road Infrastructure Planning / Bonding Impacts / Discussion -Action (Sean Lentz, Senior Municipal Advisor of, Ehlers, Inc. in attendance)

Jon Johnson, Highway Commissioner, reviewed with those in attendance work that has been done by the Highway Department regarding PASER rating. A decision on capital spending needs to occur in the near future. Johnson shared a memo with those present summarizing the highway capital investment and corresponding PASER rating from 2014 through 2017.

REALTIES

- Higher costs more for heavily traveled roads.
- Looking at the county's financial standing; continue to look for efficiencies.
- Maintenance on county roads would still go on with a PASER rating of 6 or more.
- Can't ignore current road conditions; however, still need to be concerned about situation down the road.
- Not wise to use long term bonding for future enhancements; need to look at other revenues as well as long term funding.
- Preventative maintenance helps with a better PASER rating. Can we have a lower PASER rating on less traveled roads?
- Higher the PACER rating, the more the county receives in General Transportation Aids (GTA).

REVENUE OPTIONS

- Bonding soon will be insufficient.
- Look for long term sustainable solution in order to be flexible with road maintenance.
- Wheel tax in 2019.
- Referendum on everyone in county.
- Increase in gasoline tax

Sean Lentz, Senior Municipal Advisor, from Ehlers, Inc. stated long term bonding is limited to 5% of equalized value of the county. Currently, \$80,000,000 in debt. (\$420,000,000 available)

Both committees's adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Rasmusson
Committee Clerk