

MINUTES

Eau Claire County
Committee on Finance and Budget

Friday, September 28, 2018 / 8:30 am
Eau Claire County Courthouse – Room 1273
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Members present: Supervisors Steve Chilson, Jim Dunning, Robin Leary, Stella Pagonis, Gerald Wilkie

Staff present: Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Norb Kirk, Finance Director; Amy Weiss, Senior Accounting Manager; Jon Johnson, Highway Commissioner; DiAnna Steines, Highway Accountant; Cappy Christenson, Register of Deeds; Janet Loomis, County Clerk; Glenda Lyons, Treasurer; Susan Schaffer, Clerk of Courts;

Others present: Judge Manydeeds, Elizabeth Giese, Health Department Officer-Director; Janice Vinopal, Health Department; Marissa Stanley, Health Department Assistant Director

Chair Stella Pagonis called the meeting to order at 8:35 am and confirmed compliance with open meetings law.

Kathryn Schauf addressed committee questions regarding her 2019 budget recommendation. The overall goals for the 2019 budget are to review processes, find efficiencies, and to unify the departments. It is a priority to develop the County's risk management program. The committee reviewed proposed community agency reductions and the reasons behind the proposed reductions. The committee values contributions to these agencies and desires increases to them, if possible, in future years.

The 2019 budget recommendation includes capital investments that will reduce long term maintenance costs. A single point of entry could discourage citizens coming to the courthouse for needed services. Concerns were expressed over the design costs on a new highway building, however, a new highway building would reduce maintenance costs on the County's trucks.

Jon Johnson and DiAnna Steines were in attendance to present the 2019 Highway budget request. Charges and fees increased due to vehicle registration fee estimates. The department is contracting out more large construction projects and using staff time to keep up on road and culvert maintenance. The department is receiving more state aid for projects that the department is completing for the state. Maintenance costs are on the levy, fund balance is to be used for specific projects, or unforeseen catastrophic circumstances.

Cappy Christenson was in attendance to present the 2019 Register of Deeds budget request. Reductions in services and supplies are due to a transfer of software costs to Information Systems. Additional costs to finish back scanning of all deeds has been included with the 2019 budget request. There has been a significant increase in vital records requests due to WI implementing the Real ID requirements.

Janet Loomis was in attendance to present the 2019 County Clerk budget request. Charges and fees have been reduced because there is currently no tax deed inventory for sale.

Glenda Lyons was in attendance to present the 2019 Treasurer budget request. The increase in projected and budgeted investment interest is due to increasing short term interest rates. A better economy has made for less interest and penalty collections because taxpayers have been able to pay their taxes on time.

Judge Manydeeds was in attendance to review courthouse security needs and the construction of the sixth courtroom (with jury room and bathrooms). It was recommended that the county develops a security plan that is unified and covers all departments.

Susan Schaffer was in attendance to present the 2019 Circuit Court and Clerk of Courts budget request.

Lieske Giese, Janice Vinopal, and Marissa Stanley were in attendance to present the Health Department budget. The department underwent a reorganization to focus on what the department does, and not what sort of staff work there. Substantial time and effort has been spent finding and applying for grants, which takes time away from completing the core work of the department. The City of Eau Claire and the County of Eau Claire are required to split the cost of the Health Department. The cost share is based on equalized value.

Supervisor Steve Chilson made a motion to approve the September 21, 2018 regular committee minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Submitted by Amy Weiss, Committee Clerk