

MINUTES

Eau Claire County Committee on Finance and Budget

Monday, October 1, 2018 / 1:00 pm
Eau Claire County Courthouse – Room 3312
Eau Claire, WI 54703

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

Others present: Supervisors Colleen Bates, Mark Beckfield, Heather DeLuka, Donald Mowry, Tami Schraufnagel; Catherine Emmanuelle, Area Extension Coordinator; Brook Berg, Human Development & Relationships Educator

Staff present: Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Norb Kirk, Finance Director; Amy Weiss, Senior Accounting Manager; Jennifer Speckien, ADRC Director; Adam Kohls, Interim Veteran Services Director; Charity Zich, Airport Director; Jean Gay, Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court; Tiana Glenna, Criminal Justice Manager; Diane Cable, Director of DHS; Kristi Peterson, Extension Office Coordinator

Community Agency representatives: Tim Wavrunek, Restorative Justice; Luke Hanson, Executive Director EDC; Steve Jahn, Executive Director Momentum West; Pat Stein and Kim Carey, Bolton Refuge House; Kevin Birch, Director of Housing Catholic Charities (Sojourner House); Jennifer Eddy, Executive Director Family Resource Center; Mary Pica-Anderson, LE Phillips Senior Center; Barb Pritzl, Augusta Senior Center; Carrie Ronnander, Chippewa Valley Museum

Chair Stella Pagonis called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm and confirmed compliance with open meetings law.

The committee reviewed the 2019 capital improvement plan briefly, paying specific attention to relocation projects.

Supervisor Mark Beckfield was in attendance to present a proposal for Veteran's Park, located along Forest St. in Eau Claire. The City of Eau Claire has contributed the parcel of land and the maintenance of the land (park).

Adam Kohls presented the 2019 Veteran's budget request. The department has begun offering bus trips to the Tomah VA. The flag drop box is overwhelmed and has been keeping area organizations busy burning flags. The co-location with ADRC has worked very well for this department.

Jennifer Speckien presented the 2019 ADRC budget request. A move out to the Ag Center would benefit their clients by being more accessible. The state (main source of funding) prefers to see ADRCs located outside of government buildings. Since grant funding has remained flat, for 2019 the department needed to reallocate funds to support core services, in lieu of optional services such as the very popular prevention programs. These programs are one of the main paths that get clients in and using other ADRC services.

Charity Zich presented the 2019 Airport budget request. The contracted levy amount is used mostly for capital projects. The main project in 2019 is to refurbish the main runway. The airport is also planning a perimeter fence upgrade, based on recommendations from wildlife management.

Jean Gay presented the 2019 Register in Probate budget request. Mandatory e-filing is in effect March 4, 2019.

Tiana Glenna presented the 2019 CJCC budget request. Jail population, treatment courts, and methamphetamine use are drivers of the CJCC's costs. The County's population and felonies have grown over the last several years.

Tim Wavrunek and Diane Cable presented the Restorative Justice (RJ) 2019 funding request. The Administrator's budget recommends a decrease in funding by 50%, but since RJ is a good match with other DHS services, the County believes that it can maximize grant funding to keep the current level of service.

Catherine Emmanuelle and her team presented the 2019 Extension budget request. This contract is reviewed by the County Administrator and Corporation Counsel.

The committee heard presentations from several community agencies.

Luke Hanson presented the 2019 EDC funding request. Committed fund balance, received on the sale of land, has been fully utilized and funding of this organization is supported by levy. The EDC is focusing time on projects that could increase net new construction.

Steve Jahn presented the 2019 funding request. Funding from the county may be small, but it is significant. The direction of the organization right now is to keep talented individuals working in the area.

Christina Wasson presented the 2019 Innovation Center funding request.

Pat Stein and Kim Carey from Bolton Refuge House presented the 2019 funding request. They are planning to build a new wing in 2019, so there is less of a chance that they will have to turn away clients.

Kevin Birch from Catholic Charities (Sojourner House) presented the 2019 funding request.

Jennifer Eddy from the Family Resource Center presented the 2019 funding request. The center is currently under the direction of a volunteer director. The center lost a significant grant and is partnering with DHS to fill some of the funding gap.

Mary Pica-Anderson and Barb Pritzl presented the 2019 Senior Center funding requests. Loneliness and isolation are the equivalent of one pack of cigarettes per day.

Carrie Ronnander presented the 2019 Chippewa Valley Museum funding request. The museum is working on collaborations with other community organizations to market activities and events.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Amy Weiss, Committee Clerk