

MINUTES

Eau Claire County Committee on Finance and Budget

Wednesday, October 3, 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; Frank Draxler, Purchasing Director; Jamie Gower, Human Resources Director; Amanda Twitchell, Assistant Human Resources Director; Megan Kluck, Child Support Manager; Janice Amenson, Legal Specialist II; Rod Eslinger, Planning & Development Director

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

The committee reviewed the estimated 2018 fund balance projection, paying specific attention to amounts used to balance the 2018 budget. Concerns arose regarding DHS estimated overages and the effect on the county's fund balance and bond rating.

Frank Draxler, Norb Kirk, and Kathryn Schauf presented the 2019 Purchasing, Finance, and Administration department budget requests. The proposed budget includes a restructuring so that cross departmental planning and risk management can be accomplished more completely. A focus for the Finance department is to develop better reporting and perform more analysis. Eau Claire County is continuing to share medical examiner services with Dunn County. This partnership has started conversations regarding other regional services that could be shared between counties.

Jamie Gower presented the 2019 Human Resources budget request. HR has been able to add additional trainings, benefit programs, and has enhanced employee policies to attract and retain talent. The elimination of the EAP program was brought forward to bring the department back to a net zero levy increase. This is a heavily utilized program and it is not recommended that the program be eliminated.

Megan Kluck and Janice Amenson presented the 2019 Corp Counsel/Child Support budget request. Plans for expected retirements of long-term employees were shared.

Rod Eslinger presented the 2019 Planning & Development budget request. The committee inquired about plans for acquiring properties through the Department's Land Stewardship program. Land Conservation has applied for a 3-year grant to help with watershed projects in the county. The department is working toward using some recycling fund balance to promote various recycling events in the county.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Amy Weiss, Committee Clerk