

## AGENDA

Eau Claire County  
Joint Meeting  
Committee on Administration  
Committee on Finance and Budget

Thursday, February 14, 2019 / 3:00 pm  
Eau Claire County Courthouse – Room 1301  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

**Members present:**

Committee on Administration: Supervisors Colleen Bates Mark Beckfield, Ray Henning, Nick Smiar  
Committee on Finance & Budget: Supervisors Jim Dunning, Robin Leary, Stella Pagonis

**Members absent:**

Committee on Administration: Supervisor Gerald Wilkie  
Committee on Finance & Budget: Supervisors Steve Chilson and Gerald Wilkie

**Staff present:** Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Norb Kirk, Finance Director; Amy Weiss, Senior Accounting Manager

Chair Nick Smiar called the Committee on Administration to order at 3:17 pm.

Chair Stella Pagonis called the Committee on Finance & Budget to order at 3:17 pm.

Chair Nick Smiar confirmed compliance with open meetings law.

There was one member of the public present, but did not wish to speak.

Kathryn Schauf began the discussion on a review of the County financials. The 2019 budget was difficult to put together and it is time to begin to be more strategic, and to develop a good, sustainable financial base that can grow along with the community. State decisions have affected county activity and resources, especially levy caps imposed after the county sales tax was implemented. State mandates and funding models also have a great impact on the county budget. Key metrics board members should look at in order to evaluate financial health are the debt levy ratio and the general fund balance to general fund expenditures ratio. Norb Kirk reviewed the projected 2018 general fund balance, and several charts showing the relationships between debt and operating levies.

Eau Claire County has been innovative with programs, policies, and practices to reduce expenditures in order to facilitate services within the levy limits.

The Board needs to make the case to the state that state decisions do affect the individual taxpayer by placing the burden on the County.

When it comes to budgeting, committees need to work on a holistic approach. Investing in one county program could bring down costs in another county program by early intervention.

The County needs to address these issues by taking three prong approach: align the budget process with the strategic plan, educate policymakers, and educate the taxpayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Amy Weiss  
Committee Clerk