

## MINUTES

Eau Claire County  
Committee on Finance and Budget

Monday, April 8, 2019 / 4:30 pm  
Eau Claire County Courthouse – **Room 3312**  
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; Jamie Gower, Human Resources Director; Amanda Twitchell, Assistant HR Director; Amy Sires, Benefits Administrator

**Others present:** Supervisor Lydia Boerboom

Chair Stella Pagonis called the meeting to order 4:31 pm at and confirmed compliance with open meetings law.

The following individuals spoke on the benefits of renewable energy: Terri Boulter, Martha Nieman (County Board Supervisor, District 17), Eleanor Wolf, Jim Schumacher, Aaron Brewster, Jeremy Gragert (Eau Claire City Council, District 3), Karissa Red Bear, Phil Swanstrom

Supervisor Stella Pagonis informed the committee about plans for TIDs 2 and 3 in Altoona.

Recommendation by Supervisor Wilkie to act on Agenda Item 4 before Item 3.

### **Referred Resolution 19-20/003 “Resolution to Establish Goals of 100% Renewable Energy...”**

Supervisors Jim Dunning and Lydia Boerboom presented information on the fiscal impact of this resolution. The \$10,000 estimate is based on recommendations from city staff. The estimates include costs for staff, software, membership fees, training, seminars, and miscellaneous expenses. The county needs to do further research on the impacts to the county forest.

Motion: Wilkie moved for approval of Resolution 19-20/003

Motion passes 4-1.

Committee continued with Agenda Item 3.

Jamie Gower, Norb Kirk, and the HR team presented information on health insurance trends and challenges. Health insurance data is a moving target, as employees are able to change plans based on life events throughout the year. Total cost of premium has decreased from 2016-2019, due to the implementation of the Difference Card. ECC has experienced a high loss payout ratio due to high cost claims and high utilization. ECC is partnering with Mayo Clinic to complete a Population Health Study. Health insurance costs can be absorbed by grants and outside billing and do not affect the levy dollar for dollar.

### **Proposed Ordinance 19-20/007 “To Repeal Chapter 4.09 of the Code: County Accounts”**

Chair requests postponing discussion and action until all policy and code language are readily available.

Motion: Leary moved to move item to next month.

Motion passes 5-0.

In order to discuss cash handling policies, Glenda Lyons should be present. The committee’s desire is to review the cash handling internal control document prepared by the audit firm in 2016.

Motion: Dunning moved to delay to a future meeting

Motion passes 5-0.

Norb Kirk reviewed the preliminary 2018 financial results and related reports. Supervisor Wilkie brought up concerns about budget amendments and resolutions. Special attention was given to the estimated DHS loss and the reimbursement process. Highlights include high sales tax collections, increased investment interest, and unexpected increases in Parks revenue.

Norb Kirk explained the Build America Bond (BAB) program and informed the committee that the county has recently received a refund of BAB interest of \$577,000.

The committee briefly reviewed the 2020 budget calendar.

Supervisor Leary made a motion to approve the March 11 meeting minutes.

Discussion: Wilkie would like the minutes amended to include future agenda items: 6<sup>th</sup> courtroom, Housing Authority rent, Highway maintenance budget. The committee desires that future agenda items always be listed, and that there be an indication if the Chair has approved.

In favor, with correction proposed: 5-0

Schedule next meeting: May 6, 5:00 pm, Room 1301/1302

Possible agenda items:

1. Proposed Ordinance 19-20/007
2. Cash Handling Policies
3. Q1 investment income
4. Setting meeting agendas
5. Budget calendar
6. Budget survey
7. 2019 Q1 Financial Results

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Amy Weiss  
Committee Clerk