

MINUTES

Eau Claire County
Committee on Finance & Budget
Friday, October 4, 2019
8:30 am
Courthouse - Room #1301
721 Oxford Avenue • Eau Claire, WI

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; Frank Draxler, Operations Manager; Diane Cable, DHS Director; Danielle Powers, Sheriff Administrative Services Manager; Lt. Dave Riewestahl; Tammy Stelter, DHS Accountant;
Others present: Supervisor Colleen Bates; Ryan Patterson, Leader Telegram;

Chair Pagonis called the meeting to order at 8:37 am and confirmed compliance with open meetings law.

Public Comment: none

2020 Budget Process: review county board and administration budgets since they were postponed on 10.02.19.

- Administration: Kathryn Schauf presented the 2020 recommended budget.
- County Board: Kathryn Schauf presented the 2020 recommended budget.

Review of 2019 Fiscal Health: none

Approval of Meeting Minutes: postpone to next meeting

Budget Wrap-Up Session:

Budget documents can be found here: <https://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/government/county-budget-information>

Norb Kirk reviewed the 2020 estimated fund balance projection. Negative trend could trigger a warning of a future downgrade in the bond rating from Moody's. The county cannot afford further budget overages. Decisions to delay projects to manage debt will be favorable developments to Moody's.

The committee reviewed changes in department levy requests.

The committee reviewed revenue estimates and projections related to timber sales.

The committee reviewed program levy changes in DHS. Diane Cable was present to answer follow-up questions from the committee.

Supervisor Leary arrived at 11:17 am.

Danielle Powers and Lt. Dave Riewestahl were present to answer follow-up questions regarding the 2020 correctional officer position requests.

The committee took a break from 12:10 pm to 1:15 pm.

Motion: Wilkie to include following policy statement in budget:

“Given the difficult fiscal condition of the county, the 2020 budget puts a hold on all positions, current and future vacant positions, effective the day the 2020 budget is approved. Only when reviewed and approved by the county administrator, the oversight committee, the F&B committee, and the HR committee can a position be filled. If denied by any of the above, the oversight committee may bring it to the full board for consideration.”

- Vote: 5-0, no negative vote

Motion: Wilkie to include following policy statement in budget:

“Strict budget compliance is required. Shortfalls need to be corrected as they occur, and well before the end of the year. At the point a department becomes aware that there will be a net shortfall, the department will put in writing what they believe is causing the shortfall, and what they are going to do to mitigate it. This will be presented to the county administrator, the oversight committee, and the F&B committee.”

- Vote: 5-0, no negative vote

Motion: Wilkie to include the following policy statement in budget

“Going forward, DHS staff need to attend monthly F&B meeting to go over written and oral financial report.”

- After discussion, no action was taken

West Central Regional Planning: raising rates annually beyond what county would receive for levy dollars, rates are decided after contract is signed, draft letter to send to organization commissioners notifying of county concerns

Motion: Pagonis to fund 4 correctional officers at \$83,424 each (\$333,696 total); Sheriff department is assuming \$83,424 reduction in overtime budget, \$122,973 from HR Director (not abolishing position, could address with contingency), increase in Fines & Forfeitures of \$70,000, increase in Public Charges \$30,000, \$20,000 EDC support reduction, \$5,147 increase in outside revenues, remaining needed increase to sales tax to balance budget

- Discussion: Wilkie increase Clerk of Courts revenue to fund additional 2 correctional officers; committee supports delaying hiring for the HR Director, and funding with contingency in 2020 if needed
- Vote: 4-1, motion passes

Motion: Chilson to use clerical error in Community Agencies to fund \$2,500 to Bolton, \$3,000 to Interfaith, and \$3,000 to Sojourner House.

- Discussion: none
- Vote: 5-0, no negative vote

Motion: Pagonis adjust capital projects as follows: add additional highway repairs of \$345,000, food chopper \$10,975, remove LED lighting \$425,000.

Discussion: none

Vote: 5-0, no negative vote

Final Recommendations on the 2020 County Budget and Tax Levy to the County Board

Motion: Leary to approve budget as amended, property tax levy \$35,801,196 – proposed budget to County Board

Discussion: none

Vote: 5-0, no negative vote

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Amy Weiss
Committee Clerk