

MINUTES
Eau Claire County
Committee on Finance & Budget
Monday, October 12, 2020
1:00 p.m.
Webex Conference Call

Members Present: Supervisors Jim Dunning, Robin Leary, Stella Pagonis, Jerry Wilkie, Steve Chilson (1:55pm)
Staff Present: Norb Kirk, Finance Director; Amy Weiss, Senior Accounting Manager; Diane Cable, Director of Human Services; Matt Theisen, Facilities Director; Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Jason Szymanski, Highway Fiscal Manager; Jessica Rubin, Human Resources Director; Glenda Lyons, Treasurer;
Others Present: Ryan Patterson, Leader Telegram;

Chair Pagonis called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and confirmed compliance with open meetings law.

The clerk took roll call. Members present are indicated above.

No members of the public wished to comment.

Referred Resolution 20-21/063 “Authorizing the Filling of the Operations Administrator Position in the Department of Human Services”

Motion: Dunning moved approval as presented

Vote: 1-3 via voice vote; motion fails

Norb Kirk reviewed the content of proposed resolution 20-21/083 “Approving a 2020 Budget Transfer in the Capital Projects Fund.” The resolution will be included on a future agenda for a vote.

The committee reviewed options for a new highway facility, such as a separate bonding to build the entire facility. The committee is interested in other options to create the new building as a multiuse facility.

Motion: Leary moved to amend the Administrator’s 2021 Budget Recommendation to reduce capital expenditures by \$2.870M, removing funding for phase 1 of the highway facility, and to move forward on a 20-year bond issue to build a new highway facility not to exceed \$24M

Vote: 5-0 via roll call vote, no negative vote

Budget Wrap Up Session

The committee reviewed county revenues in general, pay particular attention to sales tax and confidence levels for the Department of Human Services.

The committee reviewed capital and debt service. With the proposed removal of the phase 1 of the highway building, the proposed 2021 bonding amount for Highway is \$4,372,300.

- The committee needs to add \$75,000 back to bonding per the Beaver Creek Reserve contract. Total 2021 bonding to be \$7,139,855.

The committee briefly reviewed both the fund balance estimate and the personnel reports included in the 2021 Administrator’s Recommended budget.

The committee reviewed the Administrator’s Recommendation by department. Supervisor Wilkie was concerned about the additional training allocated to the County Board budget, because it did not feel right that the board was increasing their levy request when other departments were asked to reduce theirs by 5%. Supervisor Leary disagreed, and was supportive of additional training dollars so that board members do not incur a loss when they serve.

- Wilkie reduced the county board training budget by \$12,680, bringing total allocated to each supervisor to \$900
- Wilkie removed funding from IS budget for legislative software (\$34,836) to use for a more critical purpose

- Dunning adjusted the P&D budget by removing levy dollars allocated for the electric vehicle (\$32,000) and allocated them to the unfunded admin specialist II (\$33,708); the vehicle was added to capital bonding for total \$7,171,855.
- Pagonis added a contracting agency and donate to Project Lifesaver \$2,000
- Pagonis increased funding to Sojourner, up \$14,000 to the total request of \$30,000
- Remaining unallocated levy (\$29,808) will fund a portion of contingency, reducing fund balance allocated to \$270,193

The committee reviewed the recommended COLA and HSA changes in the 2021 recommended budget. There were concerns expressed that these changes make the county less competitive in recruiting. Pagonis reduced the HSA reduction from 50% to 25%. Funding for this should come from a \$200,000 increase to the sales tax budget.

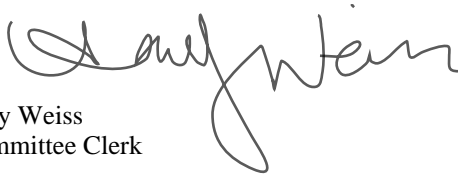
Committee's Recommended Amendments on the 2021 Administrator's Recommended Budget to Advance to the County Board

Motion: Leary moved approval of changes detailed above

Vote: 5-0 via roll call vote; no negative votes

The next meeting will be October 20 at 6:15 pm prior to board meeting to discuss the 2011B Advanced Refunding bids.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.



Amy Weiss
Committee Clerk