

**MINUTES**  
Eau Claire County  
**Committee on Finance & Budget**  
Monday, December 6, 2021  
**4:30 p.m.**  
Webex Conference Call

**Committee on Finance & Budget Members present:** Supervisors Jim Dunning, Robin Leary, Stella Pagonis, Gerald Wilkie, Nick Smiar (ex-officio)

Supervisors Absent: Supervisor Steve Chilson

**Other Board Members Present:** Supervisors Heather DeLuka, Judy Gatlin, Joe Knight, Kevin Stelljes

**Staff present:** Norb Kirk, Finance Director; Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Sue McDonald, County Clerk; Josh Pederson, Parks Director; Jessica Rubin, Human Resources Director; Amy Weiss, Senior Accounting Manager

**Others present:** Ryan Patterson, Leader Telegram; several unidentified call-in users

Chair Pagonis called the Committee on Finance & Budget to order at 4:30 pm and confirmed compliance with open meetings law.

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

No members of the public wished to speak.

Proposed Resolution 21-22/071 “Authorizing the Sale of Tax Deed Property...”

Motion: Leary moved approval as presented

Vote: 3-0 via voice vote

Norb Kirk reviewed the October Investment Analysis.

**Distribution of Unspent Educational Dollars**

Heather DeLuka would like to use the unspent training education dollars to support the fair. With limited occupancy, the Fair Committee was not able to raise as much money. Extension also does not support the fair anymore. Approximately \$10,000 were removed from the Extension budget in 2019. Committee expects a request from the Fair Committee to request to have its own account for uses for the Fair. The Committee also suggested that DeLuka begin writing a request for ARPA funds.

**Parks Land Acquisition Opportunities**

Supervisor Stelljes and Josh Pederson presented information on significant parcels available for acquisition. The county forest has remained mostly unchanged since 1981, total size is about 52,000 acres. Withdrawals from county forest have been used as dump sites for sand from Lake Altoona and Lake Eau Claire, as well as the Seymour landfill. Small acquisitions have mostly offset these withdrawals. County’s investment in county forest is about \$9 million. The value in today’s dollars is approximately \$191 million. The county most recently paid \$35,000 an acre for the land associated with new highway facility.

**Five Star Sand Mine Parcel:** Committee questioned environmental issues that the county could have to become responsible for. There are wells around one of the sites, but have ceased pursuing a purchase until remediation has occurred. Leary would like Land Conservation to provide opinion. The parcel would provide a public land connection between Harstad Park and Lake Eau Claire Park. ARPA dollars could fund purchase through the infrastructure bucket of funding (green energy and climate mitigation without demonstrating losses directly related to covid-19).

**Anderson Property:** 240 family-owned acres. This parcel contains red pine, which is valuable for timber sales. The family may be looking for some sort of compensation for the timber sold from this parcel.

**Heartwood Forestland:** largest noncounty forest owner, total acreage is 1,560 acres; much of land is young red pine plantation with a lot of river frontage. These parcels may never be available again if other private parties begin to purchase.

**Funding:**

State County Forest Loan Program – payments equal to 20% of annual timber sales

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship – pays 50% of state chosen appraised value  
Most likely a loan program since these are significant additions to county forest  
Parks is currently pursuing negotiations on all three properties and are working on developing offers  
Committee inquired about feasibility of having resolutions drafted by January in order to circulate amongst  
committees for review (Admin, Parks, F&B), goal is to have to County Board by February

Supervisor Kevin Stelljes and Josh Pederson presented information on carbon credits. Companies can voluntarily purchase carbon credits. A credit is equal to one metric ton of carbon dioxide emissions.

Proposed Resolution 21-22/073 “Amending the Library Allocation in the Annual Budget Resolution”

Motion: Wilkie moved approval as presented

Vote: 4-0 via voice vote

Proposed Resolution 21-22/075 “Approval of 2021 Gifts, Grants, and/or Donations...”

Motion: Leary moved approval as presented

Vote: 4-0 via voice vote

The committee reviewed the quarter 3 financial reports.

The committee reviewed the 2021 estimated balance for the general fund. The data is provided by departments.

Amy Weiss presented information on the three different ways to review the 2020 year-end financial results for the Department of Human Services.

Kathryn Schauf did not have an update related to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Contracts and personnel have been awarded for reviewing and awarding funds.

Procurement Policy and Local Preference

Both of these policies will be reviewed at the January meeting. The county does award points for local preference.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: *Regular Meetings – July 26, 2021; October 4, 2021; October 7, 2021; October 14, 2021*


Motion: Leary moved approval for all as presented

Vote: 4-0 via voice vote

Future Meetings: January 10, 2022; maybe a special meeting before 2<sup>nd</sup> Board in December

Agenda Items: resolutions for Parks land purchases, procurement policy and local preference, resolution to cancel checks, tax deed sale

The committee adjourned at 7:27 pm.

  
Amy Weiss  
Committee Clerk