

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

Committee on Finance & Budget

Monday, January 10, 2022

4:30 p.m.

Webex Conference Call

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

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

Others present: Ryan Patterson, Leader Telegram; an unidentified call-in user

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.

2022 Budget Postmortem

- Norb Kirk reviewed suggestions for the 2023 budget creation, review, and adoption. Supervisor Wilkie would like more actual history on revenue and expenditures. The budget should be at least what the prior year actual is.
- General Committee Feedback:
 - Supervisor Leary thinks that the joint committee meetings between Finance & Budget and the oversight committee work really well. There could be some better education surrounding when board members can ask questions and suggest changes.
 - Supervisor Dunning suggested offering time for board members to submit general ideas that they would like to see the county address (social, environmental issues, etc.). This could be part of the strategic planning process, but could also be offered at input sessions throughout the budget process.
 - Supervisor Wilkie does not think that working off of the Administrator's Budget was a wise choice. This decision shifts budgeting away from elected officials. The 2022 budget process resulted in a double digit no vote. This was the first time this has happened in Wilkie's tenure.
 - Supervisor Chilson inquired about the budget timeline. Considering the new and evolved way of preparing the budget, Chilson suggested that the F&B committee could host a county board member listening and education session regarding the budget. This should be prior to submission of F&B amendments. This is where F&B could summarize hours of meetings and educate board members. This is where county board members would be free to ask questions on the budget. The Committee on Finance & Budget members need to take their job more seriously, and budget analysis must be more thorough and more in depth so that questions on budget amendments from board members could be adequately answered.
 - Committee feedback seems to align, at least in part, with Director suggestions.
- Capital and Debt: committee members feel that more time needs to be spent reviewing this in future budget years
- Kathryn Schauf reviewed the proposed preliminary 2023 budget timeline

Sales Tax and Vehicle Registration Fee Update

The committee reviewed the sales tax amounts for collections through October. If the county collects similar amounts for November and December 2021 as what was collected during this same time in 2020, the projected total sales tax revenue for 2021 is \$12.7 million. This is \$1 million over the 2022 budgeted amount.

The committee also reviewed the vehicle registration fee collections through November 2021. Collections are strong and as expected.

Procurement and Local Preference

Supervisor Wilkie would like the county to give preference to Chippewa Valley businesses when awarding contracts. Supervisor Pagonis said that the county cannot state that local businesses are favored. The county could build a local preference into the point and scoring process to award more points based upon being a local business.

Committee Feedback on Financial Reporting and Report Central

- The committee appreciates the consistency between departments. Supervisor Wilkie would like to see a year to date and information regarding the accrued receivable to date in order to get a better snapshot of how that particular department is doing.
- Supervisor Pagonis appreciates the Director's Report.
- Supervisor Leary thinks that all of the data is very useful, once one becomes familiar with how to navigate through the documents.
- Supervisor Wilkie relayed that the confidence level in the numbers is high amongst supervisors and department heads.

Review of Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2021

December 21, 2021

Motion: Dunning moved approve as modified

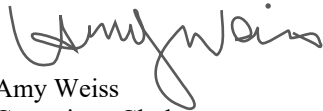
Vote: 5-0 via voice vote

Future Meetings and Agenda Items

Next Meeting: February 7

Items: discuss grant policy, review budget calendar, outside legal services and amount budgeted during 2022

The committee adjourned at 5:58 pm.



Amy Weiss
Committee Clerk