



MINUTES
Committee on Finance & Budget

Thursday, December 14, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Courthouse – Room #3420
721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI

Members Present: Supervisors Jim Dunning, John Folstad, Robin Leary, Cory Sisk, Dane Zook, Nancy Coffey (ex-officio)

Staff Present: Jason Szymanski, Finance Director; Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Glenda Lyons, Treasurer; Sharon McIlquham, Corporation Counsel; Lieske Giese, Health Department Director; Amy Weiss, Senior Accounting Manager; Linda O'Mara, Accountant (online); Vickie Gardner, DHS Fiscal Manager (online), Samantha Kraegenbrink, Assistant to the County Administrator (online), Greg Dachel, Information Systems Director (online)

Chair Zook called the Committee on Finance & Budget to order at 4:00 pm and confirmed compliance with open meetings law.

The Finance Director took roll call. Members present are indicated above.

No members of the public were present.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Folstad moved approval as submitted

Vote: 5-0, motion passes via voice vote

Glenda Lyons summarized the in-rem process for 2023. Of 118 properties, two properties were taken at court. Property One: owner is deceased, and small property that has been vacant for some time. Folstad would support selling to municipality since it is near adjoining land. Property Two: small piece of land near Ace Hardware. The committee would support offering to Ace Hardware.

Proposed Resolution 23-24/066 “Approving the Eau Claire County Opioid Task Force to Expend Funding for a Public Health Specialist in the Eau Claire City-County Health Department”

Lieske Giese presented information on this request. The state discontinued funding for the full-time public health specialist, who has provided general support and has been a pivotal person in public health initiatives. The Health Department is in need of gap filler funding while they look for additional funding from other sources for 2025.

Motion: Leary moved approval as presented

Vote: 4-1, motion passes via voice vote

Proposed Resolution 23-24/060 “Approving the Eau Claire County Opioid Task Force to Expend Funding for Peer Support Training in Eau Claire County”

Lieske Giese presented request for Peer Support training. Peer support is an evidence-based practice and the county does not have enough training.

Motion: Dunning moved approval as presented

Vote: 5-0, motion passes via voice vote

Proposed Resolution 23-24/067 “Resolution Recommending Prior to Relocation of the Refugees, World Relief Arrange an Independent Economic Impact Study Regarding Costs to Taxpayers be Completed and Reviewed by the County Board of Supervisors and a Disclosure from World Relief Regarding How the Capacity of 75 Primary Resettlement Refugees was Determined”

Motion: Folstad moved approval as presented

Chair Zook provided a disclaimer that even though three committee members signed the resolution, a walking quorum was not in effect because the signors were asked to sign, and the signors did not discuss the resolution outside of a public meeting.

Motion: Folstad to amend by eliminating the first whereas (rows 10-11)

Vote: 5-0 motion passes via voice vote

Vote on Original Motion as Amended: 4-1, motion passes via roll call vote

Dunning: no; Folstad: yes; Leary: yes; Sisk: yes; Zook: yes



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American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Interest Income

Motion: Folstad moved for an oral resolution to have the interest earned on ARPA funds moved to the general fund

Motion: Sisk moved to postpone until a fact sheet is written and responsibility is clearly identified

Vote: 5-0, motion passes via vote

Proposed Resolution 23-24/061 “Designating American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) Funds to Be Used for the Jail Remodel Project Located at 710 2nd Ave, Eau Claire Wisconsin 54703”

Motion: Folstad moved approval as presented

Coffey requested that the committee consider the Committee on Administration’s plan to develop an award process. Leary feels that this request is premature because there has not been a designated process for others to submit and evaluate ideas. The entire board needs to have a say in how ARPA funds are awarded.

Folstad is supportive because this project is in the budget and the budget stated that alternative funding sources for capital projects should be reviewed.

Vote: 3-2, motion passes via voice vote

Dunning: no; Folstad: yes; Leary: no; Sisk: yes; Zook: yes

Proposed Resolution 23-24/065 “Resolution to Use a Portion of the Remaining American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funds for Capital Projects at Beaver Creek Reserve”

Motion: Leary moved approval as presented

Folstad would like a full list of projects prior to obligating funds.

Coffey is concerned that other agencies and other worthy projects are not able to ask for additional funds and Beaver Creek did not request additional funding through the budget process.

Dunning wants a list of other projects because approving the jail and the BCR resolutions will use up almost all remaining ARPA funds without offering a request process that is equitable.

Vote: 4-1, motion passes via roll call vote

Dunning: no; Folstad: yes; Leary: yes; Sisk: yes; Zook: yes

Community Agency Funding for Children’s WI

The committee had questions that need to be answered.

Motion: Leary moved to postpone

Vote: 4-1, motion passes via voice vote

Jason Szymanski reviewed the most recent Moody’s rating report. The only area of concern may be the fund balance ratio.

Jason Szymanski reviewed the November sales tax report.

Future Meetings: January 11, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Items: Contract Review, Code Section Review, In-Rem Property Disposition, ARPA interest income, Children’s WI funding

The committee adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Amy Weiss
Committee Clerk