



**MINUTES**  
**Committee on Finance & Budget**

**Thursday, March 14, 2024**

4:00 p.m.

Courthouse – Room #3312

721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI

**Members Present:** Supervisors Jim Dunning (via Webex), John Folstad, Cory Sisk (via Webex), Dane Zook, Robin Leary

**Other Supervisors:** Stella Pagonis

**Staff Present In-Person:** Jason Szymanski, Finance Director; Sharon McIlquham, Corporation Counsel; Amy Weiss, Senior Accounting Manager; Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Jon Johnson, Highway Commissioner; Angela Eckman, Human Resources Director; Matt Theisen, Facilities Director; Angie Weideman, DHS Director; Vickie Gardner, DHS Fiscal Manager; Ron Schmidt, DHS Deputy Director; Greg Dachel, Information Services Director; Kyle Welbes, Highway Fiscal Manager

**Staff Present Online:** Linda O'Mara, Accountant; Samantha Kraegenbrink, Assistant to the County Administrator; Jacob Harris, Internal Control Specialist; Erika Gullerud, Financial Analyst; Stacy Stabenow, Payroll Specialist

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

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

No members of the public were present.

**Review of Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Leary as presented

Vote: 5-0 via voice vote

**Board Chair Reimbursement Request**

Motion: Leary moved approval

Vote: 4-0 via roll call vote

Folstad, yes; Zook, yes; Leary, yes; Sisk, yes; Dunning yes

**Proposed Resolution 23-24/085 “To Create 2.0 (FTE) Maintenance Supervisors in the Eau Claire County Highway Department” /**

Jon Johnson and Angela Eckman presented information on the request to create two new maintenance supervisors.

Motion: Leary moved approval as presented

Vote: 5-0 via voice vote

**On-Call Pay Policy**

Angela Eckman presented proposed changes to the on-call pay policy.

Folstad asked about the difference between employees who physically respond versus only responding via phone, and requested that clarity be added to the policy about when the time worked starts (for employees who need to physically respond).

Motion: Folstad moved approval of policy with addition to clarify when call-in time starts

Vote: 5-0 via voice vote

**Proposed Ordinance 23-24/076 “To Amend Section 2.12.140 B. of the Code: Medical Examiner System”**

Motion: Folstad moved approval as presented

Vote: 5-0 via voice vote



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**Preliminary 2023 Countywide Financial Results**

Jason Szymanski presented preliminary data on the preliminary 2023 results.

**Preliminary 2023 DHS Financial Results**

Angela Weideman, Ron Schmidt, and Vickie Gardner presented information on the estimated deficit of \$906k.

Folstad's concern is that the department has been showing an estimated deficit for several months, the amount has not been brought to the entire board, and no mitigation policy (department or countywide) has been drafted. There should have been a budget amendment offered to the board. The expenditures are not inappropriate, but the county needs to come up with the money. There is opportunity to change the budget process. There will be significant costs incurred in response to the HSHS closures. The county needs to become more transparent and fiscally responsible.

Leary agrees and would like to know how to mitigate when the county is operating behind, due to timing on reconciliations and reimbursements from the state.

Zook would like to send a letter to the DHS board to request information more often.

**Directive:** Zook directed Finance Director to get clarification of certain terms, specifically, how they are calculated within the parameters of the code, and how they apply to practice.

**2025 Budget Process: Debt Strategy**

Kathryn Schauf noted that the capital projects team will start meeting to prioritize capital project requests for 2025. Significant general fund application to 2024 capital projects will limit availability of funds for 2025. Guidance from the committee will help departments prioritize projects.

**Finance Department Update**

Jason Szymanski gave a department update.

Future Meeting: April 11, 2024

Agenda Items: 2024 capital funding, tax delinquencies, ARPA analysis

The committee adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Amy Weiss  
Committee Clerk