

FINANCE
November 3rd, 2021

- Call to order** The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Koch at 9:00 a.m. Committee members present were Geri Kozelka, Wayne Jerrett and Gerry Krachey. Also present were Deanne Lutz, Treasurer; Kyle Kozelka, Hwy Commissioner; Roby Fuller, ADRC Director; Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman; Don Stirling, County Board Supervisor; Linda Redman, RIP; Nancy Dowling, Clerk of Court; Dale Klemme, CDA Inc.; Rod Olson, Vernon Communications and Jim Hackett, Emergency Management; and Roberta Fisher, County Clerk.
- Verify posting** The meeting was verified as being properly posted.
- Approval of Minutes** Krachey moved; Kozelka second to approve the minutes from the October 20th Finance Meeting. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.
- Approval of Bills** There were no bills to present at this meeting.
- Broadband Grant -Vernon Communications** Rod Olson, Vernon Communications, appeared before the committee to explain the timeline and the funding involved with the broadband expansion project for Crawford County.
- Crawford County was awarded a \$5.7 million grant. This was the second largest grant that was awarded for broadband expansion.
- Final engineering and staking is taking place currently. Vernon Communications will start notifying residents the first of the year of the project schedule. By the first of April, engineers will be in the area to begin route flagging. Pre-construction meetings with Crawford County and the Townships will take place throughout the project.
- A projected completion date is set for June of 2023. This timeline is an estimate, pending weather conditions and other issues that may arise.
- The County will initially fund the project on a sort of revolving line of credit, with reimbursements being made from the grant itself, and

Seneca School District and Vernon Communications contributing their shares.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$6,168,478. A grant was awarded in the amount of \$5,584,980. Crawford County's share will be \$350,000; Vernon Communications \$677,500 and Seneca School District \$50,000.

Dale Klemme, Broadband Grant committee member, suggested to the Finance Committee to consider using some of the ARPA Recovery funds to purchase the broadband survey from 3C Co-op, which was conducted by UW River Falls. The survey cost is \$2,900.

Klemme informed the members that the broadband committee has completed their work with this grant and a final report will be submitted to the County Board at the December meeting. He is asking the county to consider hiring a facilitator or an entity to oversee the next phase of this project, and to budget \$9,600 for this purpose.

Richland Grant was also awarded a broadband expansion grant. They will be at the next finance committee meeting to request that the county contribute \$400,000 for their project. Klemme is asking the county to consider budgeting for this project as well.

Motion by Krachey; second by Jerrett to approve the purchase of the broadband survey from 3C Co-op for \$2,900, and to be considered for ARPA funding. The motion carried unanimously.

**Ordinance to
Amend Meal
Reimbursement**

The Clerk presented an Ordinance to amend the meal reimbursement as follows:

RULE 6: GENERAL PROCEDURES.

- (i) Per Diem, Mileage and Meals. Maximum meal reimbursement for both in-County and out-of-County shall be: Breakfast - \$10.00; Lunch - \$15.00 and Dinner - \$25.00. The maximum daily meal allowance is \$50.00 total, including any tip. Any meal included in registration costs will be considered against the daily allowance for meal reimbursement. Receipts must be turned in for all meal expenses both daily and overnight. A maximum amount allowed for tips is 15%. No reimbursement is allowed for alcoholic beverages.

Motion by Krachey, second by Kozelka to approve the ordinance to amend the meal reimbursement as above. This Ordinance will be taken to the Rules & Procedure Committee for approval before being presented to full county board for final approval. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution
for Borrowing**

Deanne Lutz, Treasurer handed out the rates and terms that she received from various financial institutions to be considered for the Resolution Authorizing the Borrowing of \$500,000.

Motion by Koch, second by Krachey to accept the rate and terms from Peoples State Bank at .50% interest with a one-day turn around. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

**2022 Wage
Increase for
Non-union
Employees**

Gerry Krachey informed the committee that Personnel met with the Sheriff's Union (WPPA) on Friday and agreed to a 3-year contract with them. Wages for the union are as follows:

2022- 2% on January 1 and 1% on July 1
2023- 3% on January 1
2024- 4% on January 1

Motion by Krachey, second by Jerrett to approve a 2.5% increase for all other non-union employees on January 1, 2022. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

Deanne Lutz, Treasurer requested the committee to consider amending their motion to allow all other non-union employees to receive the same as the sheriff's union with a 2% wage increase on January 1 and a 1% lift on July 1. The committee denied her request.

There was discussion regarding how the Budget process will be completed in the future. Koch is open to input from all Department Heads, and proposes this change for next year.

The clerk handed out the proposed 2022 Budget to the committee members. The members were encouraged to review the draft and ask any questions they may have. Koch explained to the committee how he will present the Budget at the Public Hearing on November 9th.

Next Meeting

November 17th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Krachey moved, Koch second to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with no negative votes cast, and the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Roberta A. Fisher, County Clerk