

FINANCE
September 18, 2019

- Call to order** The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gerry Krachey at 9:00 a.m in the absence of Duane Rogers. Committee member present was Geri Kozelka. Wayne Jerrett and Greg Russell were absent. Board Chairman Tom Cornford acted as the ex-officio so that a quorum was present. County Clerk Janet Geisler was also present.
- Verify posting** The meeting was verified as being properly posted.
- App of Minutes** Kozelka moved, Cornford seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.
- Audit** Jay Bennett of Johnson Block appeared to present the 2018 audit. The following comments were noted:
- The General Fund balance as of 12/31/2018 was \$2,944,574.
 - Total General Fund balance decreased by \$442,882. Human Services balance increased by \$589,745.
 - Total revenues increased by \$182,670.
 - Property taxes increased by 4.5% since 2014.
 - Delinquent taxes receivable decreased \$89,913.
 - Sales tax revenue decreased by approximately 2.8% in 2018.
 - Total governmental fund expenditures decreased \$840,778
 - There was a decrease in Highway charges for services revenue of \$710,397 and an increase in intergovernmental grants of \$417,873.
 - Highway operating expenditures decreased by \$364,400
- SMRT Bus** Pete Fletcher and Dave Bonifas appeared to give an update on the SMRT bus. Previously the City had been the local sponsor but after a mutual agreement with the City, LaCrosse County is now managing the system. There must be a local match in order to receive State and Federal funding. A summary was given of the ridership. In 2020 new buses will be purchased and there is a request for an additional \$1,000 to \$2,000 the budget
- 911 Costs** Julie Cipra, 911 Coordinator, appeared to give an update on the tower upgrade costs. She is still waiting on the release of the grant applications. There will be a few more expenses to be taken out of the bonding money for the tower costs. It is best to take the costs for the 911 upgrades out of the General Fund until the grant money is received.

- Tourism Council** Eric Frydenlund representing Driftless Wisconsin and Dale Klemme, representing the Tourism Council came before the committee. Eric gave a report on the launch of the website which the County partially funded along with Vernon County. He is requesting \$2,500 to \$3,000 for 2020 to continue the marketing campaign.
- Dale Klemme representing the Tourism Council appeared and advised of a drop in tourism for Crawford compared to the surrounding counties. The Art Festival in Soldiers Grove was discussed. There was a funding request for this last year which was not given. Dale is presenting the same budget that he requested last year which is \$17,500. The breakdown is \$6,500 for the Soldiers Grove Art Fest and \$11,000 for the tourism council.
- Dave Troester** Dave appeared and is requesting part-time help for the Zoning department in the 2020 Budget in the approximate amount of \$15,400. Information was provided showing the income brought in by the Zoning department due to fees and assessments. The extra help is needed due to the septic system program. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting when more committee members are present. The DAWS project for testing wells was discussed. There had been \$37,000 put into the 2020 Budget for this project which may be adjusted when Dave has more information.
- Server** Gigi Collins advised that she has found additional funds in the Surveyor's budget in the approximate amount of \$25,000 which could be used towards the purchase of a new server. The cost for the server and maintenance is \$33,575. The remaining amount which is approximately \$8,585 can be taken from the Technology account.
- Krachey moved, Kozelka seconded to approve the purchase of the new server in the approximate amount of \$33,575. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.
- Cost Allocation** A three-year plan was presented from MAXIMUS with a cost of \$4,500 for each year. The Clerk advised that this amount has not increased for several years.
- Krachey moved, Kozelka seconded to approve the three-year cost allocation plan with MAXIMUS. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.
- App of bills** Cornford moved, Krachey seconded to approve the bills as presented. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

2020 Budget

The Clerk presented several updates on the budget. The amount of allowable levy increase is \$98,603. The health insurance rates were received which reflect an approximate increase of 4.3%. Employees will endure most of the increase for the Quartz plan since the plan does not qualify as a Tier 1 plan and therefore is not considered in the breakdown on the premiums. There is still no employee contribution for Medical Associates. If employees do switch from Quartz to Medical Associates there will be a savings to the County. The Clerk will make as many changes as possible before the budget is finalized.

The Clerk advised that a first draft of the budget will be available by the next meeting. The Highway budget has not been received yet.

Next Meeting

October 2, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to prepare the County Board agenda for October and continue working on the budget.

Adjournment

Krachey moved, Cornford seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with no negative votes cast and the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Janet Geisler, County Clerk