

COMMITTEE: FINANCE
DATE: JUNE 22, 2021
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
PLACE: COUNTY BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lukas called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and read the agenda.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chaney, Collins, Gretzinger, Lukas

Absent: Campbell

Others Present: Nora Matuszewski, Mark Ferris, Scott Williams, Christy Conley, Matt Osterman

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Collins to approve the agenda as presented, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 9, 2021 FINANCE MEETING

Motion by Chaney to approve minutes as presented, second by Collins. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPERTY PURCHASE WITH EDA FUNDING IN RESOLUTION FORM

There was a lot of discussion evolving around the resolution in the present form. The County Board Chair wanted to make it clear that she is under a lot of pressure that involves not only the purchase of land, but, the park and the ongoing projects that are in place right now and she can handle that, but, when things come to light after the fact she is going to question it. She was not under the impression the purchase of the land would require the county to pay \$430,000 up front for the closing on the property. Ferris and Williams explained the money for the grant would pay back the entire amount except for the initial \$100,000 needed to secure the grant. They explained it may be possible to pay for the purchase in phases, which could be \$100,000 from the General fund and then \$150,000 from the Revolving Loan fund, which could be replaced by the grant and then the remainder could be paid for with the grant funds. They also wanted to remind the committee that the purchase of the land is totally contingent on them securing the \$1,200,000 grant.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A P.A.C.E. PROJECT

There was discussion on a letter of support for the replacement of a boiler system at Nicolet Hardwoods asked of by Sara Connor. The replacement would be through an Energy Assist program with P.A.C.E. which would require a resolution from full county board to agree to a special assessment which would stay with this property. There was some concern with special assessments and defaults the county has had to pay. The committee is asking for more information to be obtained before a decision is made.

Motion by Collins to table pending more information, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AND BROADBAND

There was discussion about the ARPA funds and usage. The county citizens would benefit the most by the expansion of the broadband as many residents are still going to be without broadband services with the project that is ongoing right now.

Motion by Chaney to use the ARPA funds for the expansion of county broadband, second by Collins. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

Discussion followed with Matt Osterman of Northwoods Connect as to his capabilities of another project to expand on the one he is currently managing for the county as well as his other projects. There was discussion on the possibility of applying for a larger grant on top of this one to expand even further with more cable in the ground. Ferris told the committee there are PSC grants available for broadband as well that could be added to this funding. The committee wanted to explore this option with Osterman, if he felt he could do the work and possibly write a grant for additional funding, which he agreed he could expand to get this accomplished and he would be able to write the grant which would be due by July 27, 2021.

Motion by Collins to have Matt Osterman write the grant with the PSC to expand the broadband, with him having the ability to do the project, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE WPSC TOWER CONTRACT

Lukas is not sure what the hold up on the contract is, and told the committee that there is a cost to move the county emergency equipment over to the new tower. Osterman said there was not a problem on his end with the contract and he can wait a little longer to get his equipment moved on.

FUTURE AGENDA

- Financial Management Policy
- American Rescue Plan Act
- Garbage contract
- P.A.C.E. Project
- General Obligation Debt spending update
- Next Meeting June 30, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Collins to adjourn, second by Gretzinger. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.