

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE:	FINANCE
DATE:	MAY 3, 2022
TIME:	9:00 A.M.
PLACE:	FOREST COUNTY BOARDROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lukas called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and read the agenda.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anderson, Campbell, Chaney, Gretzinger, Lukas

Absent:

Others Present: Nora Matuszewski, Christy Conley, Lynne Black, Bill Anderson, Mark Ferris, Mitch Olson (Bug Tussel), Karen McMillion, Mark Dodge (Bug Tussel)

APPROVE AGENDA

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

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 7, 2022 FINANCE MEETING

Motion by Chaney to approve the minutes from April 7, 2022 Finance meeting, second by Campbell. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION WITH BILL ANDERSON ON BI-PARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE

Bill Anderson (Highway Commissioner) was in to discuss the road blocks he is facing with the Infrastructure projects. He told the committee that in order to qualify for the federal grants, projects have to be completely designed and up to the Fed's standards and submitted by June. The only project they could consider that would be able to be done in the timeline would be 11 miles of County S. Ayers told him they could get the engineering done by the deadline of June 5th, but, would have to start today and the engineering would cost around \$300,000, and even with that done, there is only a 30% chance of acquiring the grant. The project would be around \$11 million and these grants are 80%-20%, which would be a cost to the County of \$2.2 million on top of the \$300,000 engineering costs. He explained these grants consider rural communities to be Merrill, etc. Bill explained if the County had a lot of money to spend these are great grants. He also said there are carbon reduction grants out there for trucks, but, the cost for the trucks are \$500,000, to be paid up front by the County and then again, the grant is 80%-20%, with a 30% chance of acquiring the grant funding.

Anderson went through the list of projects the County has acquired and explained the grants for these projects with the state were much more beneficial for the county with less of a cost. He told the committee the County has 112 miles of road to pave and take care of, and with the budget he is working with, he is able to pave one (1) mile of road a year, so, unless something changes the county will never keep up.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON UPDATING RESOLUTION FOR THE INTENT TO BORROW - \$10,000,000 AND FORWARD TO FULL COUNTY BOARD
No Action

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A RESOLUTION FOR REVENUE BOND FINANCING WITH BUG TUSSEL - \$8,486,227 AND FORWARD TO FULL COUNTY BOARD

Mark Dodge (Bug Tussel) presented a slide show on what his company is wanting to do in Forest County. He told the committee good things are happening in communications and they want to make broadband affordable. He explained what they want to do is not just for internet, it is support for fire services, tech support, etc. for our counties and surrounding counties. The connectivity to surrounding counties being important. The County will need to get a resolution to County Board for an intent to borrow up to \$8,486,000, which is for the co-signing for bonds Bug Tussel wants to acquire to do the project. They will pay the County back an average of \$103,000 for up to 30-years for borrowing the bonds and re-payment of the ARPA funds. There were many questions about the project, which will be putting 376 miles of fiber in the ground in Forest County.

Motion by Chaney to pursue creating a resolution of Intent to Borrow for Broadband, second by Anderson. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COUNTY BOARD CHAIR, COUNTY CLERK AND MAINTENANCE CELL PHONES

Motion by Gretzinger to approve the cell phones, with costs coming from the individual departments, second by Anderson. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A NETWORK ACCESS AGREEMENT – JAMES WHITEAKER, I.T. DIRECTOR

Table for next Finance

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ACCOUNT DESIGNATION FOR BODY SCREENING SYSTEM

The Clerk explained there was a resolution to pay for the system out of the General fund, but, no account was discussed.

Motion by Chaney, second by Campbell to approve payment to come out of the Sheriff Department Outlay.

Motion by Campbell to adjourn for a half hour because of the Chair and the 2nd Vice Chair needing to meet at the County Park with contractors, (11:10 a.m.) second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

Lukas called the meeting back to order at 11:52 a.m.

DISCUSSION ON ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL STAFF WITHIN THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE; POSSIBLE ACTION AND FORWARDING ON TO PERSONNEL

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The Clerk explained there is more and more Financial responsibilities falling on the County Clerk's office and there is not enough time or staff to get it all done.

Motion by Gretzinger to find out the costs for a CPA, 3-days week and then forward on to Personnel, second by Anderson. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session: the committee may consider a motion to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. stat. §19.85(1)(c) "considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, and 19.85(1)(e) "deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session" and §19.85 (1)(f) considering financial, medical, social, or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of specific charges, which, if discussed in public would likely have an adverse effect on the reputation of the person referred to in such data." this closed session relates to:

- Discussion/Action of cash reconciliation procedures for Departments with outside checking accounts pertaining to outstanding checks and balancing issues
- Discussion/Action on Economic Development Coordinator

Motion by Chaney to convene to closed session, second by Campbell. All present voting Anderson (AYE), Campbell (AYE), Chaney (AYE), Gretzinger (AYE), and Lukas (AYE). Motion carried.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ACTION, IF APPROPRIATE, ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Anderson to reconvene to open session to take action, if appropriate, on matters discussed in closed session, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

Motion by Chaney to move a resolution to full county board for all outside checking accounts to follow a reconciliation procedure approved by the County Clerk and County Treasurer, second by Gretzinger. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

Motion by Campbell to pursue moving forward with the (FCEDP Director) Coordinator of Economic Development/Chamber Employee, and creation of an MOU for the position, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

With this position the cost to the county would be an additional \$25,000 per year, for a total of \$45,000, with no additional costs for 2022. There should be a 3-year MOU between all entities involved, with the position still be housed in the Chamber building. Ferris will forward the information to the Clerk, so Corporation Counsel can write up the agreement.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SETTING A DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

- MOU- FCEDP/Chamber Employee
- Intent to Borrow- \$10,000,000
- Policy for County Network
- Update on the Borrowing

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Campbell to adjourn, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 1:10 p.m.