

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE:	FINANCE
DATE:	SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
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 (phone), Campbell, Chaney, Gretzinger, Lukas, Skallerud

Absent:

Others Present: Nora Matuszewski, Steve Watson, Keith Haselton, Tamara Feest

APPROVE AGENDA

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

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 FINANCE MEETING

Motion by Chaney to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2023 Finance meeting, second by Campbell. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION WITH KEITH HASELTON (HUMAN SERVICE CENTER) ON THE 2024 BUDGET

Keith Haselton told the committee that the Oneida County's Finance department has proposed to their county board to cut the budget for the Human Service Center again this year. It was asked if it was because of the huge surplus in the Human Service Center reserve fund and Keith told the committee, it was. The Human Service Center met last month to refund money back to the counties again this year based on the percentages the counties put into the Center. There are discussions in Oneida County about pulling out of the Human Service Center. Gretzinger is concerned if they do, Forest County will have to pull out as well and follow Oneida County because the county could not fund the Human Service Center being the smallest county.

DIGITAL NAVIGATOR PRESENTATION ON LAPTOP USAGE

Digital Navigator Director – Steve Watson was on hand again with a step-by-step sheet for using the laptop.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session: “The Committee may consider a motion to convene in 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 Wis. Stat. §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”, this closed session relates to:

- Discussion with Tower Attorney on current American Tower lease agreement and possible new lease agreement extension

Motion by Skallerud to convene into closed session, second by Chaney: Roll Call Vote: Anderson (AYE), Campbell (AYE), Chaney (AYE), Gretzinger (AYE), Lukas (AYE), Skallerud (AYE). Motion carried.

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

Motion by Skallerud, second by Campbell to reconvene to open session to take action, if appropriate, on matters discussed in closed session.

No Action

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON EMPLOYEE TIER SCALE

Motion by Skallerud to follow up on newly passed job descriptions first and then go with the tier system presented for budget year 2025; if the referendum is successful, second by Anderson. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A MARKETING FIRM FOR THE REFERENDUM

The committee will need an RFP to bring in some firms. Ron will speak to his contacts at the College and other counties will be contacted to see if they have used marketing firms before.

Motion by Chaney to explore a marketing firm for wage and operational costs to go to referendum, second by Campbell.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE 2024 BUDGET

The work comp came in but, no insurance rates yet. The Clerk is still waiting for several departments to turn in their budgets – Clerk of Courts, District Attorney, Victim Witness, UW-Extension, Library, Fair, Social Services and the Aging. The budget for last year was difficult but, this year will be more as the increase to the levy will not cover much. The committee will discuss with department heads the difficulties they are facing with the budget and will follow up with employees as well. The committee feels since there was an increase in wages last year by \$1.00 that it will be difficult to increase by that for 2024 with the budget shortfall already faced with the 2023 budget.

Motion by Chaney to change the \$1.00 to \$.50 increase for all non- union, full-time employees for the 2024 budget, second by Skallerud. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- 2024 budget
- Department Head meeting on budgets
- Financial Management Policy
- Referendum discussion – marketing firm
- Budget meetings set for –September 25 (1:00p.m.) if possible and September 28 (1:00pm)

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Skallerud to adjourn, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.