Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
November 5, 2020

Committee members: Jones, Richard (Chair) Kutz, Russell (Secretary)

Rinard, Amy Nelan, Conor

Jaeckel, George (Vice Chair)

1. Call to order – Finance Committee Chair Richard Jones called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

- 2. Roll call (establish a quorum) Finance Committee members present were Richard Jones, Russell Kutz, Conor Nelan (joining at 8:41 am) and Amy Rinard. George Jaeckel was excused. Other board members present were Anita Martin, Jeff Smith, Kirk Lund, and Walt Christensen. Staff in attendance were County Administrator, Ben Wehmeier; Finance Director, Marc DeVries; Assistant Finance Director, Tammy Worzalla; County Treasurer, John Jensen; Corporation Counsel, Blair Ward; Paralegal, Sarana Stolar; UW Extension Director, Chrissy Wen; and Land & Water Conservation Director Patricia Cicero. Members of the public present were Jennifer Quimby of Waterloo, Peter Magnoni representing the Farm Drainage Board, and William Miller of Watertown.
- **3. Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law** County Administrator Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
- **4. Approval of the agenda** Supervisor Jones asked the Committee to move agenda items 11, 12 and 13 after item 7. The agenda was approved as amended.
- **5. Approval of Finance Committee minutes for October 8, 2020** A motion was made by Rinard/Kutz to approve the minutes for October 8, 2020. The motion passed 3-0.
- 6. Communications An email from Mo Hansen of Waterloo to the Finance Committee expressing an offer to purchase the tax foreclosed property at 122 South Monroe Street in Waterloo; an offer from Michael Guyer of the City of Jefferson to purchase the Ice Pump tax foreclosed property, a 2021 budget amendment from Supervisor Jeff Smith of Johnson Creek, a letter from Andrew Griggs from Neuberger, Griggs, Sweet & Froehle, LLP representing the Farm Drainage Board, a summary of the last five years of County levy-funded Farm Drainage Board activity, and a summary of the budget for the Courthouse/Sheriff Department/Jail remodel.
- 7. Public Comment Mayor Quimby addressed the Committee on the offer and proposed use of the tax foreclosed property in the City of Waterloo. William Miller expressed his interest in working with the Committee to purchase the foreclosed properties in the Rubidell development.
- 8. Discussion and possible action on Supervisor budget amendments The Committee discussed the budget amendments that were presented to the administrative team for evaluation. Amendment 1 from Supervisor Christensen proposed an increase in intergovernmental revenue as the result of a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to partially fund the Water Resource Manager position that was currently proposed to be funded at .5 FTE. This funding would restore the position to approximately .75 FTE. Motion by Jones/Rinard to approve the amendment. The motion passed 4-0. Amendment 2 from Supervisors Martin, Lund and Smith proposed to restore

the Water Resource Manager to a full 1.0 FTE by diverting capital funds from UW Extension for the replacement of carpet and chairs. Director Wen spoke against the amendment stating that the building was used as the County's Emergency Operations Center and reminded the Committee that we were in a pandemic and it was possible that the EOC could be activated as a direct or indirect result. In addition, several other departments and outside agencies utilize the conference space where the chairs and carpet is proposed to be replaced. Supervisor Jones added that the funding source for this request was a one-time funding source and the position being funded was ongoing so the sources and uses do not match beyond the 2021 budget year. Motion by Jones/Nelan to approve budget amendment 2. The motion failed 0-4. Amendment 3 from Supervisor Smith proposed to restore the funding to the Library to 2020 levels, an increase of approximately \$35,000 from the proposed budget. This increase could be funded by delaying expenses, raising taxes or borrowing money according to the amendment form. Supervisor Jones explained to the Committee that the funding for the Libraries was based on an agreed-upon formula and that by approving this amendment we would be unilaterally altering our contract with the Bridges Library System. County Administrator Wehmeier agreed that the formula, although not perfect, was based on budgeted expenses (which were down) and circulations with a built in stop loss amount for the libraries which everyone agreed to when the Bridges Library System was formed. Motion by Jones/Rinard to approve amendment 3. The motion failed 0-4. Supervisor Jones reminded the audience that although two of the three amendments had failed at the Finance Committee, the amendments would be presented to the Board of Supervisors at its November 10, 2020 meeting and voted on by the entire Board at that meeting.

- 9. Discussion and possible action on 2021 fee schedule Wehmeier explained that the Parks Department and Sheriffs Department had requested to amend their fees for 2020. The amount of the amendment would have minimal impact on the 2021 budget, so no adjustment to the budget amounts was being proposed as a result. Motion by Rinard/Nelan to approve the amended fee schedules from the Parks and Sheriffs Departments. The motion passed 4-0.
- 10. Discussion and possible action on 2021 funding for the Farm Drainage Board Wehmeier explained that while the Finance Committee had set a goal to make the Farm Drainage Board an body that was financially independent from the County, this could not feasibly be accomplished by the end of 2020 without serious disruptions to the operations of the current Drainage Board. Wehmeier proposed to extend funding for the Drainage Board using contingency funds budgeted for 2021 to allow the Drainage Board to plan for replacement of the County levy funding in the 2022 budget. Motion by Rinard/Nelan to move \$10,000 from the 2021 contingency budget to the Farm Drainage Board budget under the Clerk of Courts to allow for a transition to self-sufficiency during 2021. The motion passed 4-0.
- 11. Discussion and possible action on determining disposition of foreclosed properties, setting minimum bids for the sale of foreclosed properties, and considering offers to purchase on foreclosed properties No action was taken.
- 12. Convene in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1)(e) Wis. Stats. for 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, for the purpose of discussion and possible action on setting minimum bids, selling and considering offers to purchase on tax foreclosed properties and other county owned properties and pursuant to section 19.85 (1)(g) Wis. Stats. to confer with legal counsel concerning strategy

to be adopted by Jefferson County with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved for the purpose of discussion and possible action on claims against Jefferson County – Motion by Jones/Rinard to convene into closed session. The Committee voted by roll call to convene into closed session. The motion passed 4-0.

- 13. Reconvene in open session for action on closed session items if necessary Motion by Jones/Rinard to convene into open session. The motion passed 4-0. Motion by Rinard/Nelan to accept the offer from the City of Waterloo to purchase the property at 122 South Monroe Street for \$4,000 plus the cost of locksmith services to open the building and replace the locks, and give the County Administrator the authority to further negotiate an agreement that is favorable to Jefferson County. The motion passed 4-0. Motion by Jones/Nelan to advertise the Rubidell properties at their appraised value and direct the County Administrator and Corporation Counsel to negotiate with the owners for the sale of the property tax foreclosed properties. The motion passed 4-0. Motion by Jones/Nelan to advertise the property on Lamp Road at its appraised fair market value, with any agreement to sell the property containing deed restrictions on development that are consistent with the Federal Flood Mitigation Program. The motion passed 4-0. Motion by Rinard/Nelan to accept the bid from Michael Guyer on the Ice Pump property and authorize the County Administrator and Corporation Counsel to immediately negotiate the sale of the property at the bid price. The motion passed 4-0.
- **14.** Discussion and possible action on capital funding for the Courthouse, Sheriff complex and Jail facilities Wehmeier explained to the Committee that guidance was needed on how to proceed with the results of the space needs report produced by Potter Lawson. The Committee agreed that some action should be taken at a minimum due to the aging mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems but the scope of the structural work would need to be discussed further. No action was taken.
- **15.** Discussion and possible action on amending the Jefferson County Real Estate Tax Foreclosure Policy Corporation Counsel Ward explained the proposed changes to the policy. Motion by Rinard/Nelan to approve the proposed changes to the Real Estate Tax Foreclosure Policy. The motion passed 4-0.
- **16.** Discussion and possible action on 2020 projections of budget vs. actual revenues and expenditures DeVries reviewed the unadjusted October 31 results and comparison to prior years at October 31, noting that current trends are favorable and if continued, Jefferson County will end the year in a stronger position than previously anticipated. DeVries also explained that the County expected to fully utilize its allocation of CARES funding from the Department of Administration. No action was taken.
- 17. Review of the financial statements and department update for September 2020 Finance Department No action taken.
- 18. Review of the financial statements and department update for September 2020 Treasurers Department - No action taken.
- 19. Review of the financial statements and department update for September 2020 Child Support Department No action taken.

- **20. Update on contingency fund balance** The balance of the 2020 contingency funds is \$529,534. There are currently no contingency funds budgeted in the other contingency line, and the vested benefits balance is \$300,000.
- 21. Discussion of funding for projects related to the new Highway Facilities and sale of old Highway Facilities. Wehmeier updated the Committee on the progress of the old highway site.
- **22. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items** The next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. Potential agenda items include a report on the final CARES purchases and expenditures, and renewal of the County's insurance policies, including the tri-annual resolution authorizing the County to self-insure for worker's compensation claims.
- **23. Review of Invoices** After review of the invoices, a motion was made by Rinard/Kutz to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$5,689,723.66. The motion passed 4-0.
- 24. Adjourn A motion was made by Nelan/Kutz to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Kutz, Secretary Finance Committee Jefferson County /mad