

**Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
May 11, 2022**

Committee members: Jones, Richard (Chair) Kutz, Russell
Christensen, Walt Drayna, David
Jaeckel, George (Vice Chair)

1. **Call to order** – County Administrator Wehmeier called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Roll call (establish a quorum)** – Finance Committee members present were Richard Jones, David Drayna, George Jaeckel, Russell Kutz, and Walt Christensen. There were no other supervisors in attendance. Staff in attendance were County Administrator, Ben Wehmeier; Finance Director, Marc DeVries; Corporation Counsel, Blair Ward; and Paralegal, Sarana Stolar. Members of the public present were Shelly Jolliffe.
3. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law** – County Administrator Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
4. **Approval of the agenda** –The agenda was approved.
5. **Election of officers** – Motion by Jaeckel/Kutz to appoint Supervisor Jones as Chairman of the Committee. The motion passed 5-0. Motion by Jones/Kutz to appoint Supervisor Jaeckel as Vice-Chairman of the Committee. The motion passed 5-0.
6. **Approval of Finance Committee minutes for April 7, 2022** - A motion was made by Jaeckel/Kutz to approve the minutes for April 7, 2022. The motion passed 5-0.
7. **Communications** – None.
8. **Public Comment** – None.
9. **Discussion and possible action on review of County Delinquent Property Tax Foreclosure Policy** – Corporation Counsel Ward reviewed the County Delinquent Property Tax Foreclosure Policy with the Committee. No action was taken.
10. **Discussion and possible action on update on American Rescue Plan Act Funding** – The Committee requested to add a column with the expected obligation date of each project. No action was taken.
11. **Discussion and possible action on determining the disposition of foreclosed properties, setting minimum bids for the sale of foreclosed properties and considering offers to purchase on foreclosed properties** – Corporation Counsel Ward updated the Committee on the new Senate Bill 829 that was recently signed into law. The Bill requires any taxing jurisdiction that takes possession of a property through the tax foreclosure process to repay the property owner any proceeds collected in excess of the outstanding balance, less any special assessments and costs to sell the property. The property owner no longer needs to request the funds. Since most properties are sold at or below the outstanding tax amount, this legislation is not expected to have a material

effect on Jefferson County. Discussion ensued regarding Jefferson County's Tax Foreclosure Policy. Motion by Jaeckel/Kutz to amend the policy for tenants that are already paying rent when a property is foreclosed on, to adjust the rent amount to be the higher of the amount that the tenant is currently paying or 4% of assessed value. The motion passed 5-0.

- 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 –** The Committee voted by roll call to convene into closed session. The motion passed 5-0.
- 13. Reconvene in open session for action on closed session items if necessary –** Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to reconvene to open session. The motion passed 5-0. Motion by Jones/Jaeckel for Jefferson County to enter into an agreement with Shelly Jolliffe by June 14, 2022 that resolves the delinquent tax balance by September 1, 2022, or the County will take immediate possession of the property. The motion passed 5-0. Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to set the bid price on the delinquent tax foreclosed property at N6920 Hoopers Mill Lane in Lake Mills at \$87,000. The motion passed 5-0.
- 14. Discussion and possible action on 2022 projections of budget vs actual revenues and expenditures –** DeVries updated the Committee on the operating results to date. No action taken.
- 15. Review of financial statements and department update for March 2022 – Finance Department –** No action taken.
- 16. Review of financial statements and department update for March 2022 – Treasurer's Office –** No action taken.
- 17. Review of financial statements and department update for March 2022 – Child Support –** No action taken.
- 18. Update on contingency fund balance –** Before any action taken during the meeting, the balance of the 2022 general contingency is \$454,869, the balance of other contingency is \$4,190,000 and the vested benefit balance is \$300,000.
- 19. 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.
- 20. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items –** The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Agenda items include presentation of 2021 audit results, and update on Flood Mitigation project.
- 21. Review of Invoices -** After review of the invoices, a motion was made by Jaeckel/Kutz to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$8,717,512.97. The motion passed 5-0.

22. Adjourn – A motion was made by Jaeckel/Christensen to adjourn at 11:01 a.m. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director
Jefferson County