Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
September 7, 2022

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

Christensen, Walt Drayna, David

Jaeckel, George (Vice Chair)

1. Call to order – Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

- 2. Roll call (establish a quorum) Finance Committee members present were Richard Jones, David Drayna, George Jaeckel, Russell Kutz, and Walt Christensen. Other supervisors in attendance were Anita Martin and Meg Turville. Staff in attendance were County Administrator, Ben Wehmeier; Finance Director, Marc DeVries; Assistant Finance Director, Tammy Worzalla; Budget Analyst, Morgan Endl; Corporation Counsel, Blair Ward; Paralegal, Sarana Stolar; Human Resources Director, Terri Palm; and Captain Travis Maze. Members of the public present were David Messmer and Travis Messmer from the Town of Milford; Diane Stueller from the Town of Milford; and Kathy Zimmerman from the Town of Milford.
- **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 moved agenda item number 13-15 to be agenda items number 8-10. The agenda was approved as amended.
- **5. Approval of Finance Committee minutes for August 3, 2022 -** A motion was made by Jaeckel/Drayna to approve the minutes for August 3, 2022. The motion passed 5-0.
- **6.** Communications None.
- 7. Public Comment David Messmer spoke about the escalation clause he used in his bid for the Hooper's Mill property. Trevor Messmer spoke about the history of Hooper's Mill. Diane Stueller and Kathy Zimmerman both spoke in support of the Messmer's acquisition of Hooper's Mill.
- **8.** Discussion and possible action on claims against Jefferson County The Committee decided to discuss the claims in closed session and take any action after closed session. No action was taken at this time.
- 9. 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 Paralegal Sarana Stolar reviewed the list of outstanding foreclosed properties with the Committee. No action was taken.
- 10. 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.

- 11. 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 Jaeckel/Drayna to deny the claim from Dawn Kiernan for \$100,000 and forward the resolution to the Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0. Motion by Jaeckel/Kutz to deny the claim from Defend Town Plans to reverse its decision granting a rezoning petition and forward the resolution to the Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0. Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to accept the written appraisal as minimum bid amount for the Jolliffe tax delinquent property and use a realtor to market the property if it does not sell after the first notice. The motion passed 5-0. Motion by Christensen/Jaeckel to accept the bid from David Messmer for the Hooper's Mill property. The motion passed 5-0.
- 12. Discussion and possible action on employee health insurance options for the 2023 budget County Administrator Wehmeier explained that the County has two choices for health insurance for 2023; stay with Dean or move back to the plan offered by the State of Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund (ETF). Based on the analysis done on preliminary rates from ETF it makes the most fiscal sense to move, even though the County faces a large surcharge for the next two years, the projected rates from Dean are more expensive over time than the cost of moving to ETF. Wehmeier is seeking authority to enter into the agreement with ETF once the final rates are released and the County can complete its analysis and draft a resolution for the Board of Supervisors to tentatively enter into a contract with ETF. Motion by Jones/Christensen authorize the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with the State of Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund pending further fiscal analysis and forward the resolution to the Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0.
- **13.** Discussion and possible action on Courthouse/Sheriff/Jail improvement project There were no updates. No action was taken.
- 14. Discussion and possible action on setting 2023 budget parameters Finance Director DeVries referenced the 2022A General Obligation Bond presale report provided by Ehlers and noted that even with the additional debt service related to the new issue, the mill rate is projected to decrease significantly because of significant appreciation in assessed value. DeVries noted that the first principal payment was \$100,000 and that he projected that raising this to \$1,000,000 could save the County over \$900,000 in interest over the term of the bond and the County would still realize a reduction in the general and debt mill rate of over 8%. Motion by Jaeckel/Christensen to direct Ehlers to increase the 2023 debt service to an amount that would yield an 8% reduction in the mill rate. The motion passed 5-0. DeVries then advised the Committee that the bonds would likely sell at a premium. This additional amount received by the County can only be used for debt service, however, the County can still levy the full debt service amount according to the final payment schedule. This would not negatively impact the mill rate just agreed to by the Committee and could be a potential source of relief for the health insurance surcharge. Motion by Christensen/Drayna to levy the full amount of debt service regardless of the amount of premium received. The motion passed 5-0. Finally, DeVries advised, and Captain Maze confirmed, that the County could take advantage of current year pricing on its proposed 2023 squad purchases if we

act within the next week. This immediate action would save the County approximately \$30,000. Motion by Jones/Drayna to immediately authorize the order of the 2023 squads. The motion passed 5-0.

- **15.** Discussion and possible action on update on American Rescue Plan Act funding The committee requested that a column be added to the report to show how much funds from each project was committed to date. No action was taken.
- **16.** 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.
- **17.** Review of financial statements and department update for July 2022 Finance Department No action taken.
- **18. Review of financial statements and department update for July 2022** Treasurer's Office No action taken.
- **19. Review of financial statements and department update for July 2022** Child Support No action taken.
- **20. Update on contingency fund balance** Before any action taken during the meeting, the balance of the 2022 general contingency is \$449,227, the balance of other contingency is \$4,190,000 and the vested benefit 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 September 12, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Agenda items include 2023 budget hearings.
- **23. Review of Invoices** After review of the invoices, a motion was made by Jaeckel/Drayna to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$34,311,941.93. The motion passed 5-0.
- **24. Adjourn** A motion was made by Jaeckel/Christensen to adjourn at 11:21 a.m. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director Jefferson County