

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD MINUTES
TUESDAY, October 24, 2023, 7:00 P.M.**

Chair Steven Nass presiding.

County Clerk Audrey McGraw called the roll, all members being present in person except Supervisors Richardson and White, who were present via Zoom.

Supervisors Foelker and Roberts were absent.

District 1.....	Richard C. Jones	District 2..	Cassie B. Richardson
District 3.....	Robert Preuss	District 4.....	Karl Zarling
District 5.....	James B. Braughler	District 6.....	Dan Herbst
District 7.....	Dwayne C. Morris	District 8.....	Michael Wineke
District 9.....	Bruce Degner	District 10.....	Mark Groose
District 11.....	Jeff Johns	District 12.....	Jeff Smith
District 13.....	Anita Martin	District 14.....	Kirk Lund
District 15.....	Steven J. Nass	District 16.....	Meg Turville-Heitz
District 17.....	Russell Kutz	District 18.....	Brandon White
District 19.....	Dave Drayna	District 20.....	Curtis Backlund
District 21.....	John C. Kannard	District 22.....	Blane Poulson
District 23.....	George Jaeckel	District 24.....	Roger Lindl
District 25.....	Matthew Foelker	District 26.....	Joan Fitzgerald
District 27.....	Joan Callan	District 28.....	Anthony Gulig
District 29.....	Mary K. Roberts	District 30.....	Walt Christensen

Lund led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed.

Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

Approval of the Agenda. Backlund moved to accept the agenda as drafted. Seconded by Poulson and passed.

Communications: None

Public Comment: None

Reports:

1. Net New Construction 2023 given by Wehmeier.
2. 2023 County Apportionment given by Wehmeier.

Public Hearing on the 2024 Recommended Budget:
Jones moved to open the public meeting at 7:03 p.m. Seconded by Jaeckel and passed.

The floor was opened for public comment on the 2024 Recommended Budget. Short discussion followed.

Jones moved to close the public meeting at 7:07 p.m. Seconded by Poulson and passed.

Special Order of Business:

Questions and Answers on the 2024 Budget.

Presentation of the Final Strategic Plan given by Sheryl Trent from SBrand Solutions..

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Wineke, Executive Committee Chair, introduced

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Resolution No. 2023-41. Adopting the 2023-2033 Strategic Plan

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023-2033 Strategic Plan is hereby adopted in its entirety and the County Administrator is directed to finalize an Implementation Plan with staff, facilitate alignment with the priority-based budgeting system and develop a process for reporting progress to the County Board of Supervisors and public, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Executive Committee will continue to provide oversight of the Strategic Plan, which shall include referring any future amendments that may be necessary, for various reasons, including but not limited to, accomplishment of objectives, emerging trends, and/or change in priorities, to the County Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Fiscal Note: This resolution does not have a direct fiscal impact. This plan will help prioritize and align future budgeting processes with the intent of executing the overall plan. Departments have aligned the FY 2024 Budget goals and outcomes based on the Mission, Vision, Guiding Principles, Priorities and Objectives of the plan. Future budgets will be based on this plan with further refinement based on the priority-based budgeting process.

Wineke moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2023-41. Seconded by Poulson. Discussion followed.

Christensen moved to amend the Strategic Plan definition of the word “Rural” as follows:

An area of the County, outside of city limits, that is predominately land of open space, woodlands and agricultural use, with very light residential and non-agricultural related bustiness. In such a rural area the population would prefer to forego city traits such as congestion, noise, vehicle traffic and conveniences such as large retail businesses, wide/fast roads and amenities of development. These residents would not harbor fears of crime or neighbor conflicts but rather enjoy wildlife encounters, quiet days and dark nights. Seconded by Poulson, discussion followed and passed.

Christensen moved to amend this Resolution by adding the following paragraph:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that protection of rural areas be of equal or greater priority than rural development in the Strategic Plan, and. Seconded by Guilig, discussion followed.

Guilig moved to remove the words “or greater” from the above motion. Martin seconded, discussion followed and passed.

Vote on the Amended motion to amend this Resolution.

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Voice vote was taken and not being clear, roll call vote was taken and motion did not pass. Ayes 10 (Richardson, Smith, Martin, Lund, Nass, Turville-Heitz, Backlund, Callan, Gulig, Christensen), Noes 17 (Jones, Preuss, Zarling, Braughler, Herbst, Morris, Wineke, Degner, Groose, Kutz, White, Drayna, Kannard, Poulson, Jaeckel, Lindl, Fitzgerald), Abstain 1 (Johns), Absent 2 (Foelker, Roberts), Vacant 0.

Vote on Passage of Resolution as drafted. Roll call vote requested by Supervisor Gulig and passed.

Ayes 25 (Jones, Richardson, Preuss, Zarling, Braughler, Herbst, Morris, Wineke, Degner, Groose, Johns, Smith, Lund, Nass, Turville-Heitz, Kutz, White, Drayna, Backlund, Kannard, Poulson, Jaeckel, Lindl, Fitzgerald, Callan), Noes 3 (Martin, Gulig, Christensen), Abstain 0, Absent 2 (Foelker, Roberts), Vacant 0.

Fitzgerald, Broadband Working Group Chair, introduced Resolution No. 2023-42. Authorizing expansion of a public-private partnership with Hilbert Communications/Bug Tussel by Applying for Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program and Extending Conduit Debt Financing

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Administrator is authorized to continue efforts to coordinate with Bug Tussel for grant applications and to develop a final plan and budget for broadband financing options for projects located in the Towns of Milford, Cold Spring and Palmyra with an anticipated completion date of the end of 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Administrator is authorized to engage with bond counsel and financial advisors to assist in the preparation of appropriate documents for consideration if subject grants are awarded.

Fiscal Note: Passage of this resolution will have no fiscal impact at this time. If Jefferson County is awarded a grant, the Board of Supervisors will be required to approve additional resolutions to meet necessary statutory requirements for financing model, authorize a new agreement with Provider, and amend the budget accordingly will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Fitzgerald moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2023-42. Seconded by Johns and passed.

Jones, Finance Committee Chair, introduced Resolution No. 2023-43. Accepting \$1,009.90 from the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation for a universal hub for Ages and Stages Questionnaire Screening results

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts grant funding from the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation in the amount of \$1,009.90 to reimburse for the service fee, subscription, and registration charge to be applied toward the universal hub from Brooks Publishing Co. that will house Ages and Stages Questionnaire results.

Fiscal Note: Please see the accompanying Budget Adjustment or Amendment Request form for the specific accounts affected by this resolution. This is a budget amendment. This resolution requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of all board members (20 of 30) for passage.

Jones moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2023-43. Seconded by Turville-Heitz and passed. Ayes 28 (Jones, Richardson, Preuss, Zarling, Braugher, Herbst, Morris, Wineke, Degner, Groose, Johns, Smith, Martin, Lund, Nass, Turville-Heitz, Kutz, White, Drayna, Backlund, Kannard, Poulson, Jaeckel, Lindl, Fitzgerald, Callan, Gulig, Christensen), Noes 0, Abstain 0, Absent 2 (Foelker, Roberts), Vacant 0.

Jones, Finance Committee Chair, introduced Resolution No. 2023-44. Accepting a \$500 Randy Schopen Donation for a Jefferson County Community Baby Shower.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts grant funding from the Randy Schopen Foundation, JCF in the amount of \$500.00 to fund the meals provided at the Jefferson County Community Baby Shower on October 20, 2023.

Fiscal Note: Please see the accompanying Budget Adjustment or Amendment Request form for the specific accounts affected by this resolution. This is a budget amendment. This resolution requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of all board members (20 of 30) for passage.

Jones moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2023-44. Seconded by Jaeckel and passed. Ayes 28 (Jones, Richardson, Preuss, Zarling, Braugher, Herbst, Morris, Wineke, Degner, Groose, Johns, Smith, Martin, Lund, Nass, Turville-Heitz, Kutz, White, Drayna, Backlund, Kannard, Poulson, Jaeckel, Lindl, Fitzgerald, Callan, Gulig, Christensen), Noes 0, Abstain 0, Absent 2 (Foelker, Roberts), Vacant 0.

Jones, Finance Committee Chair, introduced Resolution No. 2023-45. Authorizing Jefferson County to enter into a General Obligation Promissory Note Agreement with Premier Bank in

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the amount of \$370,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that for the purpose(s) hereinabove set forth, Jefferson County, by its Chairperson of the County Board and Clerk, pursuant to Section 67.12(12), Wisconsin Statutes, borrows from Premier Bank, ("Lender"), the sum of \$370,000, and, to evidence such indebtedness, said Chairperson of the County Board and County Clerk shall make, execute and deliver to the Lender for and on behalf of the County the promissory note of the County, in said principal amount with interest at the rate of six and one quarter percent (6.25%) per annum and payable as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal Balance
4/1/2024	\$56,998.64	\$11,594.17	\$68,592.81	\$313,001.36
10/1/2024	58,784.72	9,808.09	68,592.81	254,216.64
4/1/2025	60,670.31	7,922.50	68,592.81	193,546.33
10/1/2025	62,527.92	6,064.89	68,592.81	131,018.41
4/1/2026	64,509.71	4,083.10	68,592.81	66,508.70
10/1/2026	66,508.70	2,084.09	68,592.79	
Total	<u>\$370,000.00</u>	<u>\$41,556.84</u>	<u>\$411,556.84</u>	

A copy of the promissory note shall be attached to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there be, and there hereby is, levied on all the taxable property of the County, a direct annual irrepealable tax sufficient in amount to pay the principal and interest on said note as the same becomes due and payable, said tax to be in the following minimum amounts:

Amount of Tax (Principal and Interest)	To meet Note Payments Due On	Year of Levy (must be in years prior to due date)
\$ 137,185.62	April 1 and October 1, 2024	2023
137,185.62	April 1 and October 1, 2025	2024
137,185.60	April 1 and October 1, 2026	2025

If at any time there shall be on hand insufficient funds from the aforesaid tax levy to meet principal and/or interest payments on said note when due, the requisite amount shall be paid from other funds of the County then available, which sums shall be replaced upon the collection of the taxes herein levied.

In the event that the County exercises its prepayment privilege, if any, then no such direct annual tax shall be included on the tax rolls for the prepayments made and the amount of direct annual tax hereinabove levied shall be reduced accordingly for the year or years with respect to which said note was prepaid.

In each of said levy years, the direct annual tax so levied shall be carried into the tax rolls each year and shall be collected in the same manner and at the same time

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as other taxes of the County for such years are collected; provided, that the amount of tax carried into the tax roll may be reduced in any year by the amount of any surplus in the debt service account for the note. So long as any part of the principal of, or interest on, said note remains unpaid, the proceeds of said tax shall be segregated in a special fund used solely for the payment of the principal of, and interest on, said note.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there be and there hereby is established in the treasury of the County, if one has not already been established, a debt service fund, separate and distinct from every other fund, which shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Sinking funds established for obligations previously issued by the County may be considered as separate and distinct accounts within the debt service fund. Within the debt service fund, there be and there hereby is established a separate and distinct account designated as the "Debt Service Account for Promissory Note," which account shall be used solely for the purpose of paying principal of and interest on said note. There shall be deposited in said account any accrued interest paid on said note at the time it is delivered to the Lender, all money raised by taxation or appropriated pursuant hereto, and such other sums as may be necessary to pay principal and interest on said note when the same shall become due.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proceeds of said note shall be used solely for the purposes for which it is issued, but may be temporarily invested until needed in legal investments, provided that no such investment shall be in such a manner as would cause said note to be an "arbitrage bond" within the meaning of Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Regulations of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue thereunder; and an officer of the County, charged with the responsibility for issuing the note, shall certify by use of an arbitrage certificate, if required, that, on the basis of the facts, estimates and circumstances in existence on the date of the delivery of the note, it is not expected that the proceeds will be used in a manner that would cause said note to be an "arbitrage bond."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the projects financed by the note and their ownership, management and use will not cause the note to be a "private activity bond" within the meaning of Section 141 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and that the County shall comply with the provisions of the Code to the extent necessary to maintain the tax-exempt status of the interest on the note.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk shall keep records for the registration and for the transfer of the note. The person in whose name the note shall be registered shall be deemed and regarded as the absolute owner thereof for all purposes and payment of either principal or interest on the note shall be made only to the registered owner thereof. All such payments shall be valid and effectual to satisfy and discharge the liability upon such note to the extent of the sum or sums so paid. The note may be transferred by the registered owner thereof by presentation of the note at the office of the County Clerk, duly endorsed for the transfer or accompanied by an assignment duly executed by the registered owner or his legal representative duly authorized in writing. Upon such presentation, the note shall be transferred by appropriate entry in the registration records and a similar notation, including date of registration, name of new registered owner and signature of the County Clerk, shall be made on such note.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the note is hereby designated as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" for purposes of Section 265 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, relating to the ability of financial institutions to deduct from income, for federal income tax purposes, interest expense that is allocable to carrying and acquiring tax-exempt obligations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County officials are hereby authorized and directed, so long as said note is outstanding, to deliver to the Lender any audit statement or other financial information the Lender may reasonably request and to discuss its affairs and finances with the Lender.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said note shall be delivered to the Lender on or after the date of said note, upon receipt of the total principal amount of the loan evidenced thereby, plus accrued interest, if any, to date of delivery, provided that, if this is a refinancing, the refunding note shall be immediately exchanged for the note being refinanced.

Fiscal Note: This general obligation promissory note refinances an Equipment Finance Agreement with Leasing Services, LLC for the purchase of a new county phone system from Mitel, Inc., that was approved by the County Board on July 11, 2023. The purpose of the refinance is twofold: 1). Restructuring as General Obligation Debt will allow the County to shift the debt service payments from the operating levy to the debt levy; and 2). Refinancing from a 5-year, 8 percent note to a 3-year, 6.25% note will save an estimated \$24,485.32 in interest payments. Passage of this resolution requires a three-fourths vote of the full County

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Board of Supervisors.

Jones moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2023-45. Seconded by Jaeckel and passed. Ayes 28 (Jones, Richardson, Preuss, Zarling, Braughler, Herbst, Morris, Wineke, Degner, Groose, Johns, Smith, Martin, Lund, Nass, Turville-Heitz, Kutz, White, Drayna, Backlund, Kannard, Poulson, Jaeckel, Lindl, Fitzgerald, Callan, Gulig, Christensen), Noes 0, Abstain 0, Absent 2 (Foelker, Roberts), Vacant 0.

Special Order of Business:

Overview of County Board Rules and Review Process.

Public Comment: (General)

Supervisor Martin spoke in reference to the October 23, 2023, Open Forum Fair Park Meeting she attended.

Announcements:

Supplemental information presented at the October 24, 2023, Jefferson County Board meeting will be available at the County Clerk's office upon request during regular Courthouse hours or on the County's website at www.jeffersoncountywi.gov.

There being no further business, Guilig moved that the Board adjourn. Seconded by Jaeckel and passed at 8:24 p.m.

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