Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
January 4, 2023

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 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. Other supervisors in attendance were Anita Martin. 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; Land and Water Conservation Director Patricia Cicero; Child Support Director Stacee Jensen; and Clerk of Courts Cindy Hamre-Incha. There were no members of the public present.
- **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. Approval of minutes for Finance Committee for December 7, 2022** Motion by Jaeckel/Kutz to approve the minutes for December 7, 2022. The motion passed 5-0.
- **6. Communications** None.
- **7. Public Comment** Supervisor Martin informed the Committee that the Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association voted to pursue option 3.
- **8.** Discussion and possible action on supporting an increase in county Child Support Enforcement Program funding Child Support Director Jensen explained that state funding is not keeping pace with the demand for services and is requesting the Board to pass a resolution requesting additional funding. Motion by Drayna/Christensen to approve the request to the state for additional funding for the Child Support department and forward the resolution to the Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0.
- 9. Discussion and possible action on segregating Register in Probate duties from the Clerk of Courts department and establishing a Register in Probate department County Administrator Wehmeier explained that the office of the Register in Probate is proposing to separate from the Clerk of Courts office to become its own department. Administration is working through the details with the Clerk of Courts. Because this is a structural change, this action will ultimately require approval from the Finance Committee and the Board of Supervisors. Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to support the separation of the Register in Probate office from the Clerk of Courts and direct administration to continue to work with the Clerk of Courts to this end. The motion passed 5-0.

- **10. Discussion and possible action on potential uses for County Farmland property** Supervisor Christensen addressed the Committee regarding his handout on alternate uses for the County Farmland property. The Committee discussed the proposals. No action was taken.
- **11. Discussion and possible action on 2023 insurance renewals** Finance Director DeVries presented the renewal rates for the various insurance coverages noting an overall increase of 14.4%. No action was taken.
- **12. Discussion and possible action on 2024 budget process** DeVries presented the 2024 budget calendar. Discussion ensued regarding the budget hearing dates. The Committee decided to hold the department hearings on September 11, 13, and 14 with a final wrap-up meeting on the regularly scheduled meeting on October 4. No formal action was taken.
- **13. Discussion and possible action on Courthouse/Sheriff/Jail improvement project** Wehmeier reviewed the progress on this project. DeVries updated the Committee on the status of the bond funds and project costs vs budget. No action was taken.
- **14. Discussion and possible action on status of 2021A and 2022A bond funds** No action was taken.
- **15. Discussion and possible action on update on American Rescue Plan Act funding –** DeVries discussed the status of the ARPA funding. No action was taken.
- **16. Discussion and possible action on claims against Jefferson County** No action was taken.
- 17. 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.
- 18. 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.
- **19.** 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 to direct the County Administrator to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Virtus for the development of property on the old highway shop site. The motion passed 5-0.
- **20. 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.

- **21. Discussion and possible action on defeasance of 2013A bonds** DeVries explained that a resolution would need to be passed 60-90 days prior to defeasing the 2013A bonds if the Finance Committee still wants to proceed with this action. Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to direct Finance to proceed with drafting the resolution for defeasance of the 2013A bonds and present the resolution to the committee at the next meeting. The motion passed 5-0.
- 22. Review of financial statements and department update for November 2022 Finance Department No action taken.
- **23. Review of financial statements and department update for November 2022** Treasurer's Office No action taken.
- **24. Review of financial statements and department update for November 2022** Child Support No action taken.
- **25. 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.
- 26. 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.
- **27. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items** The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. Future agenda items include a historical review of mileage costs.
- **28. Review of Invoices -** After review of the invoices, a motion was made by Jaeckel/Christensen to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$5,311,448.51. The motion passed 5-0.
- **29. Adjourn** A motion was made by Jaeckel/Christensen to adjourn at 10:44 a.m. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director Jefferson County