Jefferson County Finance Committee Minutes August 2, 2023

Committee members: Jones, Richard (Chair) Christensen, Walt Jaeckel, George (Vice Chair)

Kutz, Russell Drayna, David

**1. Call to order** – Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Supervisor Jones was dismissed at 11:25 am.

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 were Steve Nass, Meg Turville-Heitz and Anita Martin. Staff in attendance were County Administrator, Ben Wehmeier; Assistant to the County Administrator, Michael Luckey; Finance Director, Marc DeVries; Assistant Finance Director, Tammy Worzalla; Budget Analyst I, Morgan Toutant; Corporation Counsel, Blair Ward; County Treasurer, Kelly Stade; Paralegal, Sarana Stolar; Economic Development Director, Deb Reinbold; Resource Conservationist, Joe Strupp; Human Resources Director, Terri Palm; Human Resources Coordinator, Jessica Tucker; Planning and Zoning Director, Matt Zangl; and Land and Water Conservation Department Director, Patricia Cicero. Members of the public present were Emily McFarland and Steve Chesebro, City of Watertown and Matt Slowinski, DANA Investment Advisors.

**3.** Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law – County Administrator Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

**4. Approval of the agenda** – Item #10 was moved to #8. The agenda was approved as amended.

**5. Approval of minutes for Finance Committee for July 5, 2023** – Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to approve the minutes for July 5, 2023. The motion passed 5-0.

**6. Communications** – None.

7. Public Comment - None.

8. Discussion and possible action on Dana Investment Advisors presentation regarding County investment performance – Matt Slowinski of DANA Investment Advisors presented the committee with the investment performance outlook for 2024. The County should expect to receive approximately \$1.5 million of interest earnings during 2024 as most of the low yielding short-duration securities have matured and have been replaced with higher earning investments. No action was taken.

**9. Discussion and possible action on entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Watertown for the purchase of property at 100 Western Ave, Watertown, Wisconsin – Motion by Jones/Drayna to offer \$8,525.16, which is the total for outstanding taxes on the property. The motion passed 5-0.** 

10. Discussion and possible action on letter of intent to purchase land from the County at State Road 26 Bypass and Business 26 – Motion by Jones/Christensen to hire appraiser to assess the value of

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the property. The motion failed 2-3 with Jaeckel, Drayna and Kutz dissenting. A question was raised by the Committee as to whether the offer had expired. DeVries responded that the offer expired on June 30, 2023. Motion by Jaeckel/Kutz to inquire of the potential buyer as to whether the party would extend their offer, and counteroffer at \$7,000 per acre. The motion passed 4-1 with Christensen dissenting.

**11. Discussion and possible action on accepting bid for cyber liability insurance** – County Administrator Wehmeier explained that the County's insurance group, WMMIC, had previously bid cyber insurance for the group. However the market for this coverage is tightening and our current carrier, Beazley, is increasing premiums significantly. The members of WMMIC decided to each bid their policies separately, with WMMIC managing the process. The result was 3 viable choices, and of these choices, the best coverage and lowest premium came from Cowbell. Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to enter into a contract with Cowbell for cyber liability insurance. The motion passed 5-0.

**12.** Discussion and possible action on implementing a wellness incentive program for the remainder of 2023 – Human Resources Director Palm explained that the Human Resources Committee had approved a wellness incentive for employees to participate in during 2023. The cost is approximately \$52,000. The committee discussed this and decided to recommend to the Human Resources Committee to consider this program for the 2024 budget. No action was taken.

**13. Discussion and possible action on 2024 budget parameters and issues affecting the 2024 budget** – County Administrator Wehmeier updated the Committee on the progress of the 2024 budget. Human Resource Director Palm is working on an informal wage study that could affect the budget for 2024. The committee asked to be updated on the results of the study at a future meeting, and directed the County Administrator to accommodate market adjustments into the 2024 budget. No action was taken.

14. Discussion and possible action on Courthouse/Sheriff/Jail improvement project and status of 2021A and 2022A bond funds - DeVries updated the Committee on the status of the bond funds and project costs vs budget. 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 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 status of current foreclosures. No action was taken.

17. 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.

**18.** Reconvene in open session for action on closed session items if necessary – Motion by Drayna/Christensen to convene into open session. The motion passed 4-0. No action was taken on closed session items.

**19. Discussion and possible action on 2023 projections of budget vs. actual revenues and expenditures** – DeVries directed the Committee's attention to a budget narrative in the agenda package prepared by Morgan Toutant, Budget Analyst I. No action was taken.

**20.** Review of the financial statements and department update for June 2023-Finance Department - No action was taken.

**21.** Review of the financial statements and department update for June 2023-Treasurer's Office - No action was taken.

**22. Review of the financial statements and department update for June 2023-Child Support** – No action was taken.

**23.** Update on contingency fund balance – Before any action taken during the meeting, the balance of the 2023 general contingency is \$413,000 for general contingency, \$2,463,183 for other contingency and \$300,000 for vested benefit contingency.

24. 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.

**25.** Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items – The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. Potential agenda items will be discussion and possible action on letter of intent to purchase land from the County at State Road 26 bypass and Highway 26.

**26. Review of Invoices -** After review of the invoices, a motion was made by Jaeckel/Christensen to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$8,087,814.67. The motion passed 4-0.

**27.** Adjourn – A motion was made by Kutz/Drayna to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director Jefferson County