Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
March 6, 2024

Committee members: Jones, Richard (Chair)

Kutz, Russell Drayna, David

Christensen, Walt

Jaeckel, George (Vice Chair)

- **1. Call to order** Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- **2. Roll call (establish a quorum)** Finance Committee members present were Richard Jones, George Jaeckel, David Drayna, Russell Kutz, and Walt Christensen. Other board members present were Steve Nass and Anita Martin. Staff in attendance were County Administrator, Ben Wehmeier; Finance Director, Marc DeVries; Assistant Finance Director, Tammy Worzalla; Corporation Counsel, Danielle Thompson; Paralegal, Sarana Stolar; Budget Analyst I, Morgan Toutant; County Treasurer, Kelly Stade; Emergency Management Director, Donna Haugom; Economic Development Director, Deb Reinbold; Assistant to the County Administrator, Michael Luckey; and Human Services Director, Brent Ruehlow. Members of the public present were Sue Marx and Michael Nass.
- **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 as presented.
- **5.** Approval of minutes for Finance Committee for February **7, 2024** Motion by Christensen/Jaeckel to approve the minutes for February **7, 2024**. The motion passed 5-0.
- **6. Communications** None.
- **7. Public Comment** None.
- 8. 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 Chairman Jones recognized Michael Nass who petitioned the Committee for an extension of time to pay delinquent property taxes. The Committee will discuss in closed session. No action taken.
- **9. Discussion and possible action on establishing a funding source for Agricultural Conservation Easements** The Committee reviewed the resolution proposed by the Land and Water Conservation Committee. The Finance Committee will support using \$500,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the County farmland to fund the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. However, the annual request for \$50,000 requires further discussion with the Land and Water Conservation Committee. No formal action was taken as the allocation of \$500,000 from County farmland sales is included in another agenda item.
- 10. Discussion and possible action on Live Local Development Fund Contribution/Donation agreement The Committee discussed the agreement which would bind the Jefferson County and a local bank as well as the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation to an agreement where the

parties would contribute funding to the Live Local Development Fund program for the purpose of providing gap financing to developers to assist with housing in Jefferson County. No action was taken.

- **11.** Discussion and possible action on awarding bid for demolition for the Flood Mitigation project Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to award the bid for demolishing the structure at W7696 Blackhawk Island Road to Minocqua Grading, LLC. The motion passed 5-0.
- **12. Discussion and possible action on opening a bank account with Ixonia Bank** DeVries explained that as a part of the Contribution/Donation and Investor agreement previously discussed, Ixonia Bank requires a deposit of \$175,000. Motion by Drayna/Jaeckel to open a bank account, preferably a Certificate of Deposit, with Ixonia Bank. The motion passed 5-0.
- 13. Discussion and possible action on authorizing year-end requests to carry over budget appropriations from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024 and amending the 2024 budget - DeVries discussed the year-end results with the Committee. Before audit adjustments, the General Fund is showing a deficit of approximately \$675,000. Other fund results were as expected. Overall, the results are favorable as the budgeted deficit was over \$4 million. DeVries discussed the reasons for budget deviations, citing a jump in sales tax and interest/investment income. Wehmeier then discussed the budget carryovers, which were also discussed at last month's meeting. There were no significant changes to the requests presented. DeVries explained that the budget carryovers requested will result in an available fund balance (as defined by County policy) that is less than the 3-month goal by \$3.3 million. However, the County plans to restore the fund balance to its goal through a variety of strategies including allocating \$1 million from the sale of County farmland to the General Fund. The proposed budget amendment will see the Courthouse/Sheriff/Jail improvement project through to its conclusion as well as supporting several other strategic goals. Motion by Jaeckel/Christensen to approve the resolution to carry forward budget amounts from 2023 to 2024 and forward the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0.
- **14.** Discussion and possible action on authorizing contingency fund transfer to offset fiscal year **2023 departmental deficits** DeVries reviewed the list of departments that request a contingency transfer and the reasons why, and any future corrective action needed. Motion by Kutz/Jaeckel to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0.
- **15.** Discussion and possible action on status of Courthouse/Sheriff/Jail improvement project and **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.
- **16. Discussion and possible action on update on American Rescue Plan Act funding** DeVries discussed the status of the ARPA funding. No action was taken.
- 17. Convene in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1)(e) Wis. Stats. for deliberating or negotiating the sale of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, specifically for the purpose of discussion and possible action regarding the proposed sale of approximately 100 acres of county owned property to Project Dove, LLC Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to convene into closed session. Roll call vote with motion passing 5-0.

- **18.** Reconvene in open session for action on closed session items if necessary Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to convene into open session. The motion passed by roll call vote 5-0. Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to follow the County's policy on delinquent property tax foreclosure in the case of Mr. Nass and to keep the foreclosure in process unless Mr. Nass presents a long-term plan by end of business on April 3, 2024 to get property taxes current. The motion passed 5-0.
- **19. 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, \$2,395,432.66 for other contingency and \$300,000 for vested benefit contingency. The balance of the 2024 general contingency is \$499,999.38, other contingency is \$0, and vested benefit contingency is \$300,000.
- 20. 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.
- **21. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. Possible agenda items are authorize Fair Park grant amendment.
- **22. Review of Invoices** After review of the invoices, a motion was made by Jaeckel/Kutz to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$7,038,719.29. The motion passed 5-0.
- **23.** Adjourn A motion was made by Jaeckel/Kutz to adjourn at 11:24 a.m. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director Jefferson County