Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
July 2, 2024

Committee members: Jones, Richard (Chair) Kutz, Russell Christensen, Walt Drayna, David

Jaeckel, George (Vice Chair)

1. Call to order – Finance Committee Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

- **2. Roll call (establish a quorum)** Finance Committee members present were Richard Jones, George Jaeckel, and Walt Christensen. Kutz and Drayna were excused. There were no other board members present. Staff in attendance were County Administrator, Ben Wehmeier; Finance Director, Marc DeVries; Corporation Counsel, Danielle Thompson; Paralegal, Sarana Stolar; Assistant to the County Administrator, Michael Luckey; County Treasurer, Kelly Stade; Budget Analyst I, Morgan Toutant; Parks Director, Kevin Weismann; and Human Services Department Director, Brent Ruehlow. Members of the public present were Kelli Hembrook.
- **3. Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law** Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
- **4. Approval of the agenda** Motion by Jaeckel/Christensen to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 3-0.
- **5. Approval of minutes for Finance Committee for June 4, 2024** Motion by Jaeckel/Christensen to approve the minutes for June 4, 2024. The motion passed 3-0.
- **6. Communications** None.
- **7. Public Comment** Kelli Hembrook addressed the Committee regarding her plan for paying outstanding delinquent taxes.
- 8. Discussion and possible action on Eliminating a Vacant Full-Time Director of Community Development Position and Creating a Full-Time Financial Partnership Manager Position in the Economic Development Department Motion by Christensen/Jaeckel to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 3-0.
- 9. Discussion and possible action on Eliminating a Vacant Full-Time Community Support Program Professional position and Creating a Full-time Exempt Registered Nurse position in the Community Support Program division in the Human Services Department Motion by Christensen/Jaeckel to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 3-0.
- 10. Discussion and possible action on Authorizing Jefferson County Administrator to partner with the City of Jefferson on Access Improvement Projects at Jefferson County Parks Shop Wehmeier explained that the City of Jefferson will be bidding the work for construction of Kikkoman Way. Since this new road traverses past the current Parks Shop building, it may be cost effective for the County to join with the City to include improved drainage features, off-road parking, and access around the Parks

building in the bid package. Motion by Christensen/Jaeckel to join with the City of Jefferson on bidding this work and forward the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 3-0.

- **11. Discussion and possible action on opioid settlement with Kroger** Wehmeier explained that a Kroger was a major distributor of opioids during the crisis, and a settlement with Kroger is pending. Motion by Jaeckel/Christensen to join the settlement against Kroger and forward the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 3-0.
- **12. Discussion and possible action on claim against Jefferson County by Jeffrey Rodegheir** Motion by Jaeckel/Christensen to deny the claim against Jefferson County and forward the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 3-0.
- 13. Discussion and possible action on employee meal reimbursement amounts DeVries explained that Chairperson Jones had tasked the Finance Department with recommending new meal reimbursement rates. The last time rates were adjusted was April 2014. DeVries gathered information on employee meal reimbursements from over 20 counties in Wisconsin. Currently Jefferson County reimburses meals up to \$39 per day. Most counties are in the \$50-\$60 range with some higher, some lower and some using GSA rates. Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to approve an increase in reimbursement rates up to \$50 per day, broken down by meal as up to \$10 for breakfast, \$15 for lunch and \$25 for dinner, tip included and receipt required, and send the recommendation in the form of an Ordinance amendment to the August County Board of Supervisors meeting. The motion passed 3-0.
- 14. Discussion and possible action on Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) Luckey presented a proposed budget to the Finance Committee for the FEC. For the first year of operations, the out-of-pocket obligation to the County is proposed to be \$38,000. Discussion ensued regarding the sustainability of the program. Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to continue to support the concept of the FEC and direct Administration and Finance to draft a resolution to be considered by the Board of Supervisors at the August or September meeting (likely September) for the FEC to be up and running by the second quarter of 2025 with a two-year sunset on funding to expire 12/31/2026, at which time the Committee will re-assess the program. The motion passed 3-0.
- 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 building project bond funds.
- **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. 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 Thompson updated the Committee on the status of delinquent tax properties. No action was taken.
- 18. 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. The Committee voted by roll call to convene into closed session. The motion passed 3-0.

- **19.** Reconvene in open session for action on closed session items if necessary Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to convene into open session. The motion passed 3-0. Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to direct Corporation Counsel to offer Kelli Hembrook an arrangement to pay \$800 per month on outstanding delinquent property taxes until the balance is paid in full. Any lapse in payment will lead to immediate foreclosure. The motion passed 3-0.
- **20.** Discussion and possible action on 2024 projections of budget vs. actual revenues and expenditures DeVries updated the Committee on the department results to date. No action was taken.
- 21. Review of the financial statements and department update for May 2024-Finance Department no action taken.
- 22. Review of the financial statements and department update for May 2024-Treasurer's Office no action taken.
- **23.** Review of the financial statements and department update for May 2024-Child Support no action taken.
- **24. Update on contingency fund balance** Before any action taken during the meeting, the balance of the 2024 general contingency is \$489,999.38, other contingency is \$198,250, and vested benefit contingency is \$300,000.
- 25. Discussion of funding for projects related to the new Highway Facilities and sale of old Highway Facilities. No action was taken.
- **26. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items –** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 6, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Review of Invoices** After review of the invoices, a motion was made by Jaeckel/Christensen to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$6,105,726.58. The motion passed 3-0.
- **28.** Adjourn A motion was made by Jaeckel/Christensen to adjourn at 10:52 a.m. The motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director Jefferson County