Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
November 5, 2024

Committee members: Jones, Richard (Chair)

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

Jaeckel, George (Vice Chair)

- 1. Call to order Finance Committee Chair Richard 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, Walt Christensen, Russell Kutz, and David Drayna. Staff in attendance included County Administrator Ben Wehmeier, Corporation Counsel Danielle Thompson, Finance Director Marc DeVries; Assistant Finance Director, Tammy Worzalla; Budget Analyst, Morgan Toutant; Assistant to the County Administrator, Michael Luckey; County Treasurer, Kelly Stade; Health Department Director, Elizabeth McGeary; Economic Development Director, Deb Reinbold; Financial Partnership Manager, Emily Clavette; Paralegal, Sarana Stolar; and Recruiter and Retention Specialist, Jennifer Robinson. Members of the public included Anita Martin from Lake Mills, Sarah Moore from Crown of Life Academy, and Ben Conrad and Jake Apostoly from Attolles Law.
- **3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law** County Administrator Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
- **4. Approval of the Agenda -** No changes were made to the agenda.
- **5.** Approval of Minutes for Finance Committee for October **1, 2024** and October **22, 2024** Motion by Drayna/Jaeckel to approve the minutes from the Finance Committee meetings held on October **1 2024** and October **22, 2024**. The motion passed 5-0.
- 6. Communications None.
- **7. Public Comment None.**
- **8.** Public Hearing on issuance of Tax-Exempt Private Activity Bonds by Crown of Life Christian Academy Jones/Jaeckel moved to open the public hearing. The motion passed 5-0. There were no comments or questions. Jones/Jaeckel moved to close the public hearing. The motion passed 5-0.
- **9. Discussion and Possible Action approving Education Revenue Bonds (Crown of Life Christian Academy) Series 2024** Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to approve the resolution that approved the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds by the Crown of Life Christian Academy and forward to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0.

- **10.** Discussion and Possible Action on accepting \$1,900 in restricted donations for facilitating conversations with groups at risk for social isolation and amending the 2024 Health Department budget Health Department Director McGeary explained that the Health Department had received a donation of \$1,900 restricted for facilitating conversations with group at risk for social isolation. Motion by Christensen/Kutz to approve the budget adjustment and forward the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0.
- 11. Discussion and possible action on Live Local Development Fund donor agreement Economic Development Director Reinbold explained that the County, ThriveED, the Greater Watertown Foundation and some area banks have collaborated to establish the Live Local Development Fund to act as gap financing for housing development in Jefferson County. The County has pledged \$2 million toward this fund. Reinbold is seeking approval of a Donor agreement with Jefferson County for the \$2 million. A Donor agreement means that the County will donate \$2 million of proceeds to ThriveED and ThriveED will manage the loans made from these funds, and the interest and principal will go back to ThriveED. DeVries mentioned that there is another agreement type called an Evergreen Equity agreement that would allow the County to collect the interest, or a portion of the interest, which it could use to assist with funding a position in ThriveED. The Committee discussed and decided they did not want control of the interest earned on the loan funds. Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to approve the Donor agreement for the Live Local Development Fund. The motion passed 5-0.
- **12. Discussion and possible action on 2025 supervisor budget amendment requests** There were no budget amendment requests submitted. No action was taken.
- **13.** Discussion and possible action on 2025 budget no action was taken.
- **14.** Discussion and possible action on appointment of official County representative for Wisconsin Mutual Municipal Insurance Company (WMMIC) Wehmeier explained that with his departure, a new representative and alternate representative to WMMIC for Jefferson County will need to be appointed. Motion by Jones/Drayna to appoint Finance Director Marc DeVries as the WMMIC representative for Jefferson County with Corporation Counsel Danielle Thompson as alternate representative. The motion passed 5-0.
- **15.** Discussion and Possible Action on Status of Courthouse/Sheriff/Jail Improvement Project and 2021A and 2022A Bond Funds Wehmeier and DeVries updated the Committee on the financial status of the Courthouse/Sheriff/Jail improvement project. No action was taken.
- **16.** Discussion and Possible Action on Update on American Rescue Plan Act Funding Wehmeier and DeVries provided an update on the status of ARPA funds and remaining project allocations. 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 Danielle Thompson presented updates on foreclosed properties. 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 Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to convene in closed session. Motion passed 5-0.
- **19. Reconvene in Open Session -** Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to reconvene in open session. The motion passed 5-0.
- **20.** Discussion and possible action on sale of County land Motion by Jones/Jaeckel to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate a letter of intent with Project Goldeneye for the sale of County farmland. The motion passed 5-0.
- **21.** Discussion and Possible Action on 2024 Projections of Budget vs. Actual Revenues and Expenditures DeVries directed the committee to the budget summary prepared by Budget Analyst, Morgan Toutant. No action was taken.
- **22.** Review of Financial Statements and Department Update for August 2024 Finance Department The Committee reviewed the Finance Department's financial statements for August 2024. No action was taken.
- **23.** Review of Financial Statements and Department Update for August 2024 Treasurer's Office The Committee reviewed the Treasurer's Office financial statements for August 2024. No action was taken.
- **24.** Review of Financial Statements and Department Update for August 2024 Child Support The Committee reviewed the Child Support financial statements for August 2024. No action was taken.
- **25. Update on Contingency Fund Balance** DeVries reported the current balance of contingency funds as \$429,999.38 for the general contingency, \$653,650 for other contingency funds, and \$300,000 for vested benefits. No action was taken.
- 26. Discussion of Funding for Projects Related to the New Highway Facilities and Sale of Old Highway Facilities No action was taken.
- **27. Set Future Meeting Schedule, Next Meeting Date, and Possible Agenda Items -** The next scheduled meeting is set for December 3, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Possible agenda items include 2025 budget adjustment.
- **28. Review of Invoices -** Motion by Jaeckel/Kutz to approve invoices totaling \$7,289,668.55. The motion passed 5-0.

29. Adjourn - Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to adjourn at 10:17 a.m. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director Jefferson County