

**Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
April 15, 2026**

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

Zarling, Karl
Drayna, David

- 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, David Drayna, and Karl Zarling. Other board members in attendance were Phil Ristow. Staff in attendance included County Administrator Michael Luckey, Corporation Counsel Danielle Thompson, Finance Director Marc DeVries; Assistant Finance Director, Tammy Worzalla; Budget Analyst I, Morgan Toutant; County Treasurer, Kelly Stadel Paralegal, Sarana Stolar; Assistant Corporation Counsel, Jordan Lippert; Veterans Service Officer, Brandie Hanson; Facilities Director, John Fox, and Economic Development Director, Deb Reinbold. Members of the public present were David Koziol of Virtus.
- 3. Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law** – County Administrator Luckey certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
- 4. Approval of the agenda** – Agenda was approved as presented.
- 5. Approval of minutes for Finance Committee for March 3, 2026** - Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to approve the minutes from the Finance Committee March 3, 2026. The motion passed 5-0.
- 6. Communications** – None.
- 7. Public comment** – None.
- 8. Recognition of Dick Jones’ service to the Finance Committee** – The Committee recognized Supervisor Jones’ outstanding 20 years of service to the County. No action was taken.
- 9. Discussion and possible action authorizing Jefferson County to enter into an equity agreement with Thrive ED for the Live Local Development Fund in the amount of \$1.7 million** – DeVries explained that the change in fund balance policy adopted by the board in November of 2025 allowed for additional investment in community assets that would provide a rate of return that could assist with supporting County operations. Jefferson County has an opportunity to invest further in the Live Local Development Fund (LLDF) which would potentially provide a rate of return competitive with the Local Government Investment Pool. The County currently has \$1.1 million budgeted for this purpose and seeks approval for an additional \$700,000. The \$700,000 would come from the recent closure of a tax increment district in the City of Watertown. The County previously donated \$2 million to LLDF. This agreement would be different in that it is not a donation but rather an investment where the proceeds from principal and interest would return to the County, at which point the County could decide whether to continue to reinvest in the program. Currently, the interest from the donation is being used to fund a position that

administers the loans. This would be supplemented by the proposed agreement in an effort to support the full cost of the position. Motion by Zarling/Jaeckel to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0.

10. Discussion and possible action on accepting grant funding from the National Association of County Veterans Services Officers for attendance at the national conference and amending the 2026 budget – Veterans Service Director Hanson explained that their office was awarded a grant that would fund the attendance of the national conference. In order to expend the grant, a budget amendment is necessary. Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna approve the resolution and forward the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0.

11. 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 – County Treasurer Stade and Corporation Counsel Thompson updated the Committee on the status of tax foreclosed properties.

12. Discussion and possible action on sale of old highway facility property (if appropriate and necessary for the public interest, the Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(e) to discuss negotiation strategy for parameters of Purchase & Sale Agreement with Virtus. Following any closed session, the Committee will reconvene in open session.) – Motion by Zarling/Drayna to convene into closed session. Roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0. Motion by Christensen/Drayna to reconvene into open session. The motion passed 5-0.

13. Review of the financial statements and department update for February 2026-Finance Department – No action taken.

14. Review of the financial statements and department update for February 2026-Treasurer's Office – No action taken.

15. Review of the financial statements and department update for February 2026-Child Support – no action taken.

16. Update on contingency fund balance – The 2026 contingency amounts are \$472,063.43 for general contingency, \$100,343.53 for other contingency, and \$300,000 for vested benefits contingency. No action was taken.

17. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items - The next scheduled meeting is set for May 5, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

18. Review of invoices - Motion by Drayna/Zarling to approve invoices totaling \$10,706,622.33. The motion passed 5-0.

19. Adjourn - Motion by Jones/Zarling to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director
Jefferson County