

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

Committee members: Jaeckel, George (Chair) Braughler, Jim
 Christensen, Walt Ristow, Phil
 Drayna, David (Vice Chair)

1. **Call to order** – Finance Committee Chair Jaeckel called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Roll call (establish a quorum)** – Finance Committee members present were George Jaeckel, Walt Christensen, David Drayna, Jim Braughler, and Phil Ristow. Other board members present were Francine Gies. Staff in attendance were County Administrator, Michael Luckey; Finance Director, Marc DeVries; Assistant Finance Director, Tammy Worzalla, Budget Analyst I, Morgan Toutant; Interim Human Resources Director, Jessica Tucker (Zoom); Corporation Counsel, Danielle Thompson; and Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Ryan Roecker (Zoom). Members of the public present were James Kukkanen from Watertown Daily Times (Zoom).
3. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law** – County Administrator Luckey certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
4. **Approval of the agenda** – The agenda was approved.
5. **Communications** – none.
6. **Public comment** – none.
7. **Department 2027 Budget Hearings** – The Finance Committee considered the recommended budgets for each department listed below and motions were made to tentatively accept the recommended budget figures for each department, unless otherwise noted. *[The format for each department lists (i) budget presenters in addition to Michael Luckey, (ii) any other information specific to the department budget, (iii) who moved/seconded to tentatively accept the recommended budget figure, unless otherwise noted, along with the amount, and (iv) the voting record]*
 - a. **County Clerk**
 - i. Audrey McGraw
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Braughler/Ristow to approve the recommended budget of \$436,448 (estimated levy amount \$245,283)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
 - b. **Planning and Development**
 - i. Matt Zangl
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Christensen/Drayna to approve the recommended budget of \$1,297,206 for the Zoning Division (estimated levy amount \$494,225) and motion by Jaeckel/Christensen to approve the recommended budget of \$1,325,407 for the LIO Division (estimated levy amount \$619,031)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.

c. Management Information Systems

- i. John Rageth
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Ristow/Jaeckel to approve the recommended budget of \$3,302,177 (estimated levy amount \$0)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

d. County Board

- i. Michael Luckey
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Braughler/Drayna to approve the recommended budget of \$562,726 (estimated levy amount \$551,339)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

e. District Attorney

- i. Monica Hall/Leigh Scherer
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Christensen/Ristow to approve the recommended budget of \$1,121,934 (estimated levy amount \$978,381)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

f. Land and Water Conservation

- i. Patricia Cicero
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Jaeckel/Braughler to approve the recommended budget of \$1,555,369 (estimated levy amount \$415,657)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

g. Emergency Management

- i. Tracy Hameau
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Ristow/Christensen to approve the recommended budget of \$350,296 (estimated levy amount \$235,996)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

h. Parks

- i. Kevin Weismann, Rolland Klement and Mary Truman
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Braughler/Christensen to approve the recommended budget of \$1,973,492 (estimated levy amount \$1,099,698)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

i. Health Department

- i. Elizabeth Chilsen and Michele Schmidt
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Drayna/Christensen to approve the recommended budget of \$2,150,368 (estimated levy amount \$1,022,606)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

j. Treasurer

- i. Kelly Stade
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to approve the recommended budget of \$367,061 (estimated levy savings \$1,812,808)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

k. Highway Department

- i. Sean Heaslip/Jacob Borth
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Zarling/Jaeckel to approve the recommended budget of \$13,593,168 (estimated levy amount \$6,309,642)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

l. Court Support Services

- i. Jennifer Weber
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Christensen/Ristow to approve the recommended budget of \$1,904,436 (estimated levy savings \$1,312,675)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

8. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items – The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th at 8:30 a.m.

9. Adjourn – A motion was made at 10:54 to recess until Wednesday, September 16th by Drayna/Jaeckel. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director
Jefferson County