

**Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
May 5, 2026**

Committee members: Jaeckel, George (Chair)
Christensen, Walt
Drayna, David (Vice Chair)

Braughler, Jim
Ristow, Phil

- 1. Call to order** – County Administrator Michael Luckey 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 in attendance were Francine Gies. 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 Stade; Paralegal, Sarana Stolar; Parks Director, Kevin Wiesmann; Facilities Director, John Fox; and Interim Human Resources Director, Jessica Tucker. Members of the public present were James Kuckkan of the Watertown Daily Times.
- 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. Election of officers – Chair and Vice Chair** – Motion by Ristow/Christensen to elect George Jaeckel as Chair. The motion passed 5-0. Motion by Ristow/Jaeckel to elect David Drayna as Vice Chair. The motion passed 5-0.
- 6. Approval of minutes for Finance Committee for April 15, 2026** - Motion by Drayna/Braughler to approve the minutes from the Finance Committee April 15, 2026. The motion passed 5-0.
- 7. Communications** – Luckey shared a presentation from the WisPolitics Economic Forecast Lunch.
- 8. Public comment** – None.
- 9. Discussion and possible action on review of 2027 capital requests** – Finance Director DeVries presented the Committee with the 2027 capital requests and explained that the requests have not yet been approved. The purpose of exposing the requests at this time was to give the committee a sense of the scope of requests so they could begin to think about how they wish to finance them. There was some discussion about options for financing and the direction from the Committee was to prioritize the list and use excess fund balance to finance. No action was taken.
- 10. Discussion on 2025 Wisconsin Act 188 and amending the Purchasing Ordinance** – DeVries explained that recent changes in state statute would allow the County to raise its threshold for bidding from \$25,000 to \$50,000. This may also be an opportunity to amend the threshold for

requisitions from \$5,000 to something else. The Committee is supportive of these changes and directed Administration, Corporation Counsel and Finance to work together to amend the Purchasing Ordinance and present the proposed changes at a future meeting. No action was taken.

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. Consider a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(g) 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 be involved. The purpose of this closed session will be discussion and possible action on pending claims against Jefferson County

13. Discussion and possible action on proposed Amendment to the Purchase & Sale Agreement with Virtus Development for 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 possible amendment. Following any closed session, the Committee will reconvene in open session.) – Items 12 and 13 were taken together. Motion by Drayna/Jaeckel to go into closed session. The Committee voted by roll call. The motion passed 5-0.

14. Reconvene into open session for action on closed session items, if necessary – Motion by Drayna/Jaeckel to reconvene into open session. The motion passed 5-0.

15. Discussion and possible action on Resolution Denying Claim for Damages – Motion by Braughler/Drayna to deny the claim for damages from Alexandria O'Brian and forward the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed 5-0.

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

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

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

19. 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.

20. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items - The next scheduled meeting is set for June 9, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

21. Review of invoices - Motion by Drayna/Christensen to approve invoices totaling \$3,900,422.63. The motion passed 5-0.

22. Adjourn - Motion by Ristow/Drayna to adjourn at 10:07 a.m. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director
Jefferson County