Jefferson County Finance Committee Minutes March 9, 2017

Committee members:	Jones, Richard (Chair) Absent	Kutz, Russell
	Rinard, Amy	Jaeckel, George
	Hanneman, Jennifer (Vice Chair)	

- 1. Call to order Jennifer Hanneman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
- Roll call (establish a quorum) All committee members were present except for Jones who was excused. Other County Board members present were Jim Schroeder. Staff in attendance were Ben Wehmeier, Blair Ward, Connie Freeberg, Paul Milbrath, Barb Frank, Tammy Worzalla and Brian Lamers. Members of the public present were Virginia Kreger and Steve Sharp from Watertown Daily Times.
- **3.** Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law Wehmeier certified that the notice of the meeting complied with the Open Meetings Law.
- 4. Approval of the agenda- No Changes
- **5.** Approval of Finance Committee minutes for February 9, 2017. A motion was made by Jaeckel/Rinard to approve the February 9, 2017 minutes. The motion passed 4-0.
- 6. Communications None.
- 7. **Public Comments** Frank spoke in regards to Lamers last day and wished him the best of luck in his new position.
- 8. Discussion and possible action on contingency transfer for the Waterloo Tower for the Sheriff's Office. Milbrath explained the need for the replacement tower now and in the future and the potential lawsuit if the current tower did fall. A motion was made by Rinard/Jaeckel to approve the contingency transfer for the Waterloo Tower in the amount of \$25,000. The motion passed 4-0.
- 9. Discussion and possible action on Resolution authorizing the transfer of capital funds of \$85,000 in the Human Services Department budget from "replacement of roofing" to "upgrade and replacement of alarm system" and the authorization to issue an RFP for the project. Wehmeier explained an analysis was done resulting in a greater need for the alarm system. The life of the roof could be extended for replacement at this time. A motion was made by Rinard/Jaeckel to forward the resolution to the County Board for approval. The motion passed 4-0.
- 10. Discussion and possible action on determining disposition of foreclosed properties, setting minimum bids for the sale of foreclosed properties and considering offer to purchase on foreclosed properties. Freeberg talked to the Committee regarding the current list of properties that are for sale. She also stated that she is waiting for the Treasurer to submit the next foreclosure listing to the Corporation Counsel Office to start foreclosure proceedings. She stated that the letters sent to delinquent land owners resulted in many of them paying their delinquent taxes.

Freeberg stated that the County took ownership of PIN #291-0815-0412-218 (510 Market St, Watertown), which was a property subject to a bankruptcy proceeding which was dismissed.

Wehmeier stated that he has been in contact with the Village Administrator of Johnson Creek regarding property #31 on the listing (PIN 141-07515-0731-004). Wehmeier sent him information including the delinquent tax amounts regarding this property and has not received a response.

Virginia Kreger addressed the Committee regarding her property at W3675 Lower Hebron Rd (PIN #010-0515-0333-000) She had asked the Committee if they would allow her to get caught up on payments with a payment today of \$1,500. She was fine with the County holding title while the payments were being made.

- 11. 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. A motion was made by Jaeckel/Rinard to convene in closed session. Hanneman asked for a roll-call vote to go into closed session. The motion passed 4-0
- **12. Reconvene in open session.** A motion was made by Rinard/Jaeckel to reconvene in open session. The motion passed 4-0.
- **13.** Discussion and possible action on foreclosing on tax delinquent properties. A motion was made by Jaeckel/Kutz to decline the offer of Virginia Kreger to continue with the delinquent tax repayment plan. The County will start charging rent in accordance to the tax foreclosure policy commencing March 1. The property could be fully redeemed in accordance with the County Ordinance prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> and if not redeemed the property could be sold.. The motion was passed 4-0.
- 14. Discussion and possible action on amending Resolution No. 2005-72 regarding settling with municipalities for unpaid special assessments or special charges not to exceed a total of \$10,000 per tax parcel. Ward stated the state law changed in 2013. Prior to the law change, Municipalities would decide if the property should be razed and if the Municipality would assess the County for costs associated with razing the building as a special tax. With the new law, the Municipality could raze a property and charge the County, not through a special tax, but now as a special assessment which by law the County could pay at its discretion. However, the County's existing ordinance states that the County will settle in full not to exceed \$10,000. This could cause the County to pay costs that it is not legally required to pay. After further discussion, a motion was made by Rinard/Jaeckel to recommend to the County Board to repeal the existing ordinance and follow the state law. The motion passed 4-0.
- **15.** Discussion and possible action on recommendation to the County Board regarding department surplus (deficit) activity for 2016 and related budget amendments for 2016. A motion was made by Jaeckel/Rinard to approve the budget amendments for the 2016 budget to cover the deficit activity for 2016 and forward it to the County Board for approval. The motion passed 4-0.
- 16. Discussion and possible action on recommendation to the County Board regarding 2016 nonlapsing departmental request amending the 2017 budget. A motion was made by Kutz/Jaeckel to approve the non-lapsing departmental request amending the 2017 budget and forward it to the County Board for approval. The motion passed 4-0.

- 17. Discussion of funding for projects related to the new Highway Facilities for sale of old Highway Facilities. Wehmeier stated that the buildings are in the process of being demolished. The County is waiting for final construction plans for the outlaying shops which may go to the April or May County Board. Discussion took place on moving the salt shed and the associated cost between \$70,000 and \$100,000 which may be shared with the WDOT.
- **18.** Review and discussion on the 2018 budget calendar. The tentative 2018 budget calendar was discussed with the Finance Committee.
- **19.** Update on the ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system. Lamers explained where the Financial and Payroll/HR systems are in the implementation process. The tentative implementation date for the Finance part of the system is July 1<sup>st</sup>. The tentative implementation date for the Payroll/HR part of the system is October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **20.** Update on contingency fund balance. Lamers directed the Finance Committee to the schedule showing the current balance of 2017 general contingency of \$521,482. With the approval of agenda item #8 for \$25,000 that will reduce it to \$496,482. There will also be another contingency expense of \$28,000 for the possible use for UW Extension. The vested benefits balance is \$290,000.
- **21.** Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items. The next regular meeting is April 13, 2017. Agenda items will include foreclosed properties, update on the Highway Shop projects and budget to actual projections.
- **22. Payment of Invoices-**After review of the invoices, a motion was made by Jaeckel/Rinard to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$355,314.27 for the main review and \$3,388,462.58 for the other payments, p-cards, Library payments and payroll deductions. The motion passed 4-0.
- 23. Adjourn A motion was made by Jaeckel/Rinard to adjourn at 10:08 a.m. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Kutz Finance Committee Jefferson County /bll