



Budget & Finance Committee

Wednesday April 21, 2010 – 9:30 a.m.
Room 100 – Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Beachnau called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM

Roll call – Present: Paul Beachnau, John Burt, Clark Bates, Erma Backenstose, Ken Glasser

Others present – Diann Axford, Rachel Frisch, Marilyn Kaczanowski, Todd Chwatun

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Glasser to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2010 budget and finance committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Friendship Shelter Funding Request and Presentation by Marilyn Kaczanowski

Ms. Kaczanowski presented a power point presentation to the Committee and also provided them with 2010 budget and year-to-date financial figures. She inquired as to whether the County would consider participating in the funding of the Friendship Shelter.

The Committee discussed that while it is inappropriate for a government to use taxpayer dollars to donate to a 501c3 organization, it may be permissible to enter into a contract for services arrangement. A per-day, per-county resident stipend was suggested, up to a maximum amount.

Ms. Frisch was directed to contact the auditors to get an opinion on if this would be an allowable expenditure for the County.

Motion by Mr. Bates to postpone this issue until the May Committee meeting (5/19/10), to allow time to discuss this issue with the auditors, and to invite Ms. Kaczanowski to the full Board meeting on 5/25/10 to do another presentation. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Long-Term Budgeting

Ms. Frisch distributed an updated budget/cash flow spreadsheet that projects the General Fund activity and balances through 2014.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficient Grant

Mr. Burt informed the Committee that our region has been awarded an energy efficient grant. For our part of the grant, we will replace 1,000 light fixtures with more efficient fixtures and bulbs. The County will have to pay the cost up front, estimated to be \$50,000 - \$60,000 and will be reimbursed by the grant.

The Committee discussed paying the up-front costs out of the Delinquent Tax Fund (fund 516), and then replenishing the Delinquent Tax Fund once we are reimbursed.

Mr. Burt will update the Committee when the final costs are available.

B. Courthouse Restoration Loan

Mr. Burt informed the Committee that the courts feel that it is necessary to update the Friend of the Court entrance at the Alpine Center to be handicap accessible. The cost of this project is estimated at \$3,500. They will be applying for a RAP grant through MMRMA to cover a portion of the cost.

Motion by Mr. Burt to recommend to the full board loaning the Courthouse Restoration Fund (fund 497) \$3,500 from the Public Improvement Fund (fund 245) to update the Friend of the Court entrance at the Alpine Center to be handicap accessible. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Cost Allocation Plan Bids

Ms. Frisch informed the Committee that bids have been received from Maximus and MGT for cost allocation plan services for the county and the court system. She requested that the Committee allow her a little more time to analyze the proposals, as she has a couple of outstanding questions for each bidder. She will have a summary and her recommendation ready for the board meeting.

D. Court Budget

Mr. Burt explained to the Committee that several court line items are in need of more budget dollars, due to the high cost of the Platte trial. The courts have requested additional funding, and Mr. Burt is recommending the following: \$10,000 for juror costs, \$5,000 for excess court-appointed attorney fees, and \$20,000 for the retrial of the Platte case.

Motion by Mr. Glasser to recommend to the full board transferring \$10,000 for jury services and \$5,000 for court-appointed attorney fees into a separate Platte trial line item, from contingency. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Glasser to recommend to the full board transferring \$20,000 for the Platte retrial into a separate Platte trial line item, funds to come from the Delinquent Tax Fund (fund 516). Motion passed unanimously.

E. March 2010 Quarterly Financial Reports

Ms. Frisch distributed the March 2010 financial reports.

F. SANE

Ms. Backenstose asked that the Committee assist her in wording the explanation to the SANE board as to why Otsego County cannot increase the SANE allocation for 2010. The Committee suggested that she speak to budget cutbacks and the property tax decline in the county.

G. Zoning Contract with Townships

Ms. Backenstose requested an update on the status of the Township agreement. Mr. Burt informed her that the 2-year contract for 2011 and 2012 has been sent to all of the townships, and has already been passed by the majority of the townships.

Mr. Beachnau adjourned the meeting at 11:42 AM.