



Budget & Finance Committee

Tuesday, October 11, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.
Room 212 – Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM

Roll call – Present: Lee Olsen, Paul Beachnau, Erma Backenstose, Clark Bates, John Burt

Others present – Rachel Frisch, Ron Skoglund

Absent (excused) – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Bates to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2011 budget and finance committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Medical Examiner Rates

Ms. Frisch informed the Committee of the concern of potentially rising costs in the Medical Examiner department due to a possibility of more cases being sent down to Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. According to Chief Deputy Medical Examiner Tom Pudvan, his opinion is that the pathologists at Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey tend to send more cases down to Sparrow than our local pathologist, Dr. Banner, used to. This could lead to increased transportation costs.

Mr. Burt will meet with Dr. McNamara, Medical Examiner, to discuss the issue and report back to the Committee.

B. Telephone Support Proposal

Mr. Skoglund from Telephone Support presented a proposal for Otsego County to enter into a 3-year contract with 1-2-3 NET, a telephone service provider for larger businesses, in order to save roughly \$33,000 over the 3-year term. A T-1 line would be eliminated due to consolidation, and the rate of our local calls will drop from 7 cents a minute to 3 cents. Telephone Support also found additional savings during an audit of the County's telephone bills. Mr. Skoglund indicated that there are no start-up costs associated with the change and all of our equipment will remain the same. He also indicated that this changeover applies only to the main county lines attached to the downtown county building and the Alpine Center. It cannot apply to our outlying buildings as they are not attached to the same fiber. No change is recommended for those locations at this time.

Motion by Mr. Beachnau to recommend to the full entering into a 3-year contract with 1-2-3 NET for the County's telephone service. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Otsego County Dashboard

Mr. Burt distributed a draft of the Otsego County Dashboard information, which is now required by the State. The Committee reviewed the Dashboard information. Mr. Burt will put it on the County's website.

D. 2012 Budget Discussion

Ms. Frisch distributed the 2012 summary budget spreadsheet for the General Fund. The Committee discussed the highlights and changes from the 2011 budget.

The Committee would like more information on the recycling program and the Sheriff's Marine, Snowmobile, and ORV grant programs.

Mr. Burt will arrange for presentations on the programs at the next full board meeting.

Mr. Olsen adjourned the meeting at 3:10 PM.