



Budget & Finance Committee

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
Room 212 – Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Beachnau called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Roll call – Present: Paul Beachnau, Ken Borton, Erma Backenstose, Lee Olsen, John Burt

Others present –Paul Liss, Tom Kellogg, Mary Kellogg, Brian Webber, Vicki Courterier, Rachel Frisch

Excused – Diann Axford

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Olsen to approve the amended minutes from the November 10, 2015 Budget and Finance Committee meeting. Seconded by Mr. Borton. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Vanderbilt Trailhead

Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg discussed the idea of creating a “community place” at the existing trailhead at the intersection block of Main Street and Cheboygan Street in the Village of Vanderbilt. This is next to the Gaylord to Mackinaw City Rail to Trail that runs through the Village. The area would include significant expansion and improvements to existing park, playground, and basketball court areas. The improvements would include playground equipment, portable restroom facilities, picnic tables, a pavilion, park benches, bike racks, a sign that would arch over Main Street, kiosks to promote local activities, potentially community gardens, and parking areas.

They presented the Committee with maps and handouts detailing the proposed project. They explained that the project cost estimates range from \$406,000 - \$550,000. They intend to apply for a DNR grant, which could provide up to \$300,000 of funding. The grant would require a minimum 25% cost share match, but the more match dollars you have, the better your chance of getting the grant. They are currently talking to local businesses, and also working with the Otsego County Economic Alliance to obtain contributions toward the project. Additionally, the Village will be contributing \$21,000 to fix Cheboygan Street for parking, and Corwith Township has already contributed \$5,000 for architect fees to draw up the project plans. Mr. Burt reminded the Committee that the full Board verbally committed to contributing \$50,000 toward this project at its Board Retreat in May 2015.

The ongoing maintenance of the grounds is estimated to be \$17,000 per year. The Village and Township both plan to contribute toward the maintenance.

Motion by Mr. Borton to recommend to the full Board a contribution to the Village of Vanderbilt in 2016 of \$5,000 toward plan development for the Vanderbilt Trailhead project, and to contribute \$50,000 toward the project itself, if the DNR grant is approved. Funds to come from the Delinquent Tax Fund (fund 516). If the project does not move forward, the \$50,000 will be returned to the County. Seconded by Mr. Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Mobile Laptops

Mr. Burt informed the Committee that Otsego County 911 will be receiving \$18,000 from the Homeland Security Grant (a federal grant for which Crawford County is the fiduciary), for the purchase of 5 new mobile laptops for City and County patrol cars. The laptops will cost \$21,060, with the additional \$3,060 to be funded from the 911 Fund (fund 261). Eventually, a total of 12 laptops will be needed between the City of Gaylord Police Department and the Otsego County Sheriff Department, but we will start with purchasing 5 for now. The 911 Fund must front the monies to purchase the laptops, and we will be reimbursed from the grant, via Crawford County.

Motion by Mr. Olsen to recommend to the full Board purchasing 5 mobile laptops for law enforcement vehicles totaling \$21,060 from the 911 Fund (fund 261), with \$18,000 to be reimbursed from a federal Homeland Security Grant, administered by Crawford County. Seconded by Mr. Borton. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Jail Medical Services

Mr. Webber informed the Committee that he, along with the Sheriff and Undersheriff, are recommending that Otsego County contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare (ACH) for jail medical services. The company will provide a doctor and nurse for the jail, on an on-call basis, and they will also come into the jail biweekly for regular checkups for the inmates. This has the potential to significantly reduce transports to the emergency room, and also to reduce liability for the County, as ACH will be governing the medical care for jail inmates. Alpena County currently contracts with ACH and has been pleased with the services. The contract proposal is \$41,506 for one year, based on 35 inmates, but will be adjusted in their monthly billings to reflect the actual jail population. A budget amendment is not necessary at this time, as the savings in the County's medical expenditure line items should cover the cost of the contract.

Motion by Mr. Borton to recommend to the full Board entering into a contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare in the amount of \$41,506 for jail medical services in 2016. Seconded by Mr. Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Juvenile Age Resolution

Ms. Courterier informed the Committee that House bills 4947 – 4966 are being discussed, which would raise the age of juveniles to 17 (the current age is 16; 17 year-olds are treated as adults). This could mean a decrease in revenue collected from 17 year-olds who commit crimes, as the court would no longer collect fines and fees associated with those criminal cases. The potentially larger impact would be an increase in expenditures, as the cost of juvenile detention is much more expensive than jail. She opposes these House Bills and encourages the Board to adopt the proposed resolution, as many counties already have.

Motion by Mr. Borton to recommend to the full Board to consider supporting a resolution to oppose House Bills 4947-4966, which would raise the age of juveniles from 16 to 17. Seconded by Mr. Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

E. 2015 Budget Amendment Authority

Ms. Frisch explained to the Committee that each December, authority is given to the Administrator to authorize budget amendments to the 2015, up to \$10,000 per line item, with subsequent approval by the Board at its January 12, 2016 meeting.

Motion by Mr. Olsen to recommend to the full Board giving authority to the County Administrator to authorize 2015 budget amendments up to \$10,000 per line item, with subsequent Board approval at the January 12, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Backenstose. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports October 2015

Ms. Frisch distributed and discussed the reports with the Committee.

G. November 2015 Credit Card Statements

Ms. Frisch distributed the statements. The Committee reviewed and discussed them.

H. Court Budget Amendment

Ms. Frisch explained that an amendment was submitted from the courts to move funds from the hospitalization line item to the payment in lieu of insurance line item, to reflect a change in coverage for an employee.

Motion by Ms. Backenstose to recommend to the full Board approving the court budget amendment to reflect change in employee health insurance coverages. Seconded by Mr. Borton. Motion passed unanimously.

I. Finance Department Update

Ms. Frisch informed the Committee that the Bus audit is underway for their year ended 9/30/15.

Mr. Beachnau adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.