



Budget & Finance Committee

Wednesday October 7, 2009 – 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 PM.

Roll call – Present: Paul Beachnau, John Burt, Clark Bates

Others present – Randy Stults, Debbie Dunham, Bill Kerr, Mary Sanders, Larry Griggs
Department of Treasury, Property Tax Division District 3 Supervisor, Ed Doss, Rachel Frisch

Excused – Ken Glasser, Erma Backenstose, Diann Axford

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Bates to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2009 budget and finance committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Equalization Update – Bill Kerr

Equalization Director Bill Kerr distributed a letter dated October 7, 2009, addressed to Paul Beachnau, Finance Committee Chairman, which updated the Committee on the projected outlook for the 2010 property taxes and summarized the process used in determining the sales for the studies.

Mr. Doss, Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee, discussed the importance of making sure the sales study used by county equalization accurately reflects the market.

Mr. Kerr explained that the study is distributed to all Township assessors for review before it is finalized and sent in to the state. Foreclosure sales are included in the study if they are validated by the assessor.

Ms. Dunham, City of Gaylord Assessor, Mary Sanders, Hayes Township Supervisor and Assessor, and Mr. Griggs of the State Tax Commission concurred, stating that the assessors are responsible for validating foreclosure sales for inclusion in the studies. Mr. Griggs also explained the reasoning behind whether or not foreclosure or short sales are included in the studies, and cited the state statutes governing the validation rules.

B. Vehicle Auction

Mr. Burt distributed a summary of the bids received for the county vehicles that were put up for auction.

Motion by Mr. Burt to recommend to the full board to accept the highest bid for each vehicle, with the funds to go back to the respective departments. Motion passed unanimously.

C. House Bill No. 5325

Mr. Burt distributed information on House Bill No. 5325, related to binding arbitration.

Motion by Mr. Bates to recommend to the full board adopting a resolution in support of House Bill No. 5325. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Register of Deeds Imaging Request

Mr. Burt informed the Committee that County Clerk Suzy Defeyter would like to extend the imaging project, to have documents scanned back to 1968. The project that was recently completed scanned documents back to 1983. Going back to 1968 would mean scanning an additional 140,000 documents (approximately).

The Committee directed Ms. Defeyter to follow the purchasing policy by obtaining bids for this project, as it falls in the "over 10,000" category.

E. 2010 Budget Discussion

Mr. Burt and Ms. Frisch updated the Committee on ideas that they have been discussing to balance the 2010 budget. One idea is to make some changes to the health care plan.

Motion by Mr. Burt to recommend to the full board making the following changes to the health care plan for 2010:

- Eliminate aggregate coverage
- Increase office visit to \$20 (non-union only)
- Change dental carrier from Blue Cross to Delta Dental
- Change life/add vendor
- Increase vision coverage to 12/12/12 plan (non-union only)

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beachnau adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.