

**Minutes of the March 11th meeting of the Sawyer County
Finance Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- Chair: **Bruce Paulsen**
- Ron Kinsley, Vice Chair
- Don Petit – Virtual
- Tom Duffy
- Stacey Hessel

Others Present:

Tom Hoff
Lynn Fitch
Mike Coleson
Dianne Ince – Virtual
Mike Keefe
Linda Zillmer - Virtual

Call to Order – Chair Bruce Paulsen called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Mr. Paulsen and Committee members welcomed Ms. Stacey Hessel to the Finance Committee.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call taken; quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance and Public Comments

Minutes of the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Kinsley. Motion carried without negative vote.

Governor's State Biennial Budget Summary – A written report was provided. Mr. Hoff reviewed the Governor's budget proposal. An additional .5% sales tax is being proposed if it can be supported by County referendums. The annual listening sessions with State legislators will be coming up next month, and it is here where we can express our requests to be heard at the State level. Six listening sessions will be held beginning March 18th. The Wisconsin Counties Association is sponsoring a ZOOM meeting that will cover the state budget proposal on Monday, March 15, at 8:15am.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 passed at the Senate, and once signed by the President on Friday, will provide more federal assistance over a two -year period. Designated funds will be allocated directly to Counties in this plan. A \$3.2 million allocation is estimated to be received by Sawyer County to be used on Covid-related projects and recovery efforts. It will be paid out in two installments with the first expected to be received within 60 days; second half by December 31, 2024. Reporting and documentation will be required on our part.

Timing of Courtroom Addition Borrowing - Written reports were provided. Mr. Keefe advised that interest rates are currently increasing on bond borrowing. He has talked with our PMA municipal advisor and has been advised we should not try to lock in current interest rates. It is possible that future interest rates will decrease even though the rates are currently increasing. He advised to proceed as planned regarding the courtroom construction and remodel project despite the rising costs of materials at this time.

Review Updated 5-year Financial Plan – Mr. Keefe presented a five-year financial projection with the Committee. The next phase in developing the Financial Projection is to meet with department heads to confirm or adjust projections. The rising costs in placements within the Human Services budget continues to be a concern.

Request to Close Bankcorp Account – A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley, second by Mr. Duffy to close the Bankcorp account. Motion carried without negative vote.

Supplemental Information – Sales Tax and February 2021 financial written reports were provided and reviewed.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, April 15, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT