

Minutes of the June 9th meeting of the Sawyer County
Finance Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- Chair: **Ron Kinsley**
- Vice Chair, John Righheimer
- Stacey Hessel
- Tom Duffy
- Dale Schleeter

Others Present:

- Andy Albarado
- Lynn Fitch
- Mike Coleson
- Tweed Shuman
- Janeen Abric - Virtual
- Tweed Shuman
- Ron Buckholtz
- Linda Zillmer

Call to Order –Chair Kinsley called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

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

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Minutes of the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Treasurer's Report -- An annual sales tax report was provided. Ms. Abric advised that the postcard for the 2nd half of taxes will go out June 13th.

Opioid Settlement Update – Mr. Albarado advised we expect to see more information on the payout and timeline in the next 30 days. An option to get all funds upfront would reduce our net amount by 25%; these are funds that are withheld to secure the cost of securing the upfront money. First payment may be available in August.

Funds from Airport Sum of \$5,000 for Civil Air Patrol – Public Works has approved a \$5,000 amount from the airport's STATE ARPA funds to go to CAP. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Schleeter to approve the request.

EMS/LifeQuest Billing Update – The most recent billing report was provided to the Public Safety Committee. Revenues have started to come in but a current report is still forthcoming.

Carbon Credit Update – Mr. Albarado advised that at LWFRC meeting, it was recommended to move forward with a contract with BlueSource. Mr. Albarado will negotiate the contract terms with assistance from our attorney's and continue to research answers to questions that remain.

Grant Writing Update – Mr. Albarado has talked to individual departments and some are already working internally on grant searches/writing. He would like to meet with other entities about possibly partnering to search for grants.

Budget Projections for Out-of-County Placement – Mr. Albarado advised that at this point there are no new concerns for additional placements but at any point in time that can change.

Courthouse Expansion/Renovation Budget Update – The initial contingency allocation has increased due to some change orders reducing original estimated costs. Some of our staff have been able to complete upfront tasks so that Miron can continue moving forward.

Addressing Funding Gap for Upper Brunet Dam Project – The bids came in approximately \$400K over original expectations. Cost reduction measures are being considered. The recommendation of the LWFRFC was to approve the bid and forward to County Board.

Resolution to Consider Wage Adjustments and Retention Pay – Mr. Albarado has been working with HR and Finance to identify specific positions that are vulnerable to the current competitive market and is presenting a resolution to adjust. A second resolution recognizes the high jumps in cost of living increases and would provide a one-time payment to employees. Budgets for each have been developed. The retention resolution amount would be \$121K; The adjustments resolution amount would be \$143K. Using some from general surplus funds is recommended for this purpose. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to bring the final resolutions to the full board. Motion carried without negative vote.

ARPA Funds Update and Process – Ms. Hessel left the meeting at 9:38 am. Mr. Albarado presented a recap on ARPA funds. The remaining fund amount is \$1,432,417. When reviewing other county allocations, not many were used for requests from outside municipalities or organizations. The majority were used for internal County capital expenses including facility upgrades, technology upgrades, and Broadband partnership projects. A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to reserve ARPA funds for the courthouse expansion/building project; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, July 14, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk