

Draft

Minutes of the June 11, 2020, Finance Committee Meeting, Sawyer County Board of Supervisors

Members present: In Assembly Room: Bruce Paulsen, Ron Kinsley, Troy Morgan, Tom Duffy  
Virtually: Dawn Petit

Others present: Tom Hoff, Carol Williamson, Mike Keefe, Tweed Shuman, Ron Buckholtz, Helen Dennis, Doug Mrotek, Mike Coleson, Rose Lillyroot, and Alex Butterfield. Virtually Sherry Beckman, Marge Kelsey, Linda Zillmer, John P Anderson, Christopher Channing, Dianne Ince

Chair Paulsen called the meeting to order at 8:30.

Motion by Kinsley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duffy, to move agenda item #10 to after #7. Motion carried

Motion by Duffy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Morgan, to approve the May 14, 2020 minutes. Motion carried

The Committee discussed borrowing short term debt as an alternative to balancing the 2021 budget instead of moving forward with a referendum to exceed the levy limits. Administrator Hoff and the Committee agree a referendum should be the last option. The County can borrow for capital purchases outside the levy. Sales tax is projected to come in over \$300,000 under budget. The Highway Department is delaying projects and holding off hiring to fill vacant positions to help with the 2020 deficit. The County cannot continue to offer the current services to citizens with the current revenue and expenses. Motion by Morgan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duffy, to approve a resolution to issue short-term debt for Capital Improvements to cover 2021 operating expenses. Motion carried

The Committee discussed the amount the County will need to borrow in 2021. Business as usual to match the 2020 budget would require \$1,054,000. Other known 2021 expenses are the Brunet dam \$300,000, and a projected 8% increase in health insurance premiums.

The Committee discussed second courtroom options. A new option was brought up at the Public Works Committee meeting on Wednesday night, June 10, 2020. The City may be interested in extending California Avenue out to Nyman Avenue. The City has an easement for utilities, and the County owns the land. The County would be interested in a "trade", California Avenue for 5<sup>th</sup> Street. This would allow the County to build the second courtroom between the courthouse and the Sheriff's Department. This option deals with the safety issue of transporting inmates across the street for court. The only other option that deals with this safety issue is Option 3. The Public Safety Committee and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council both recommended Option 2. They both liked Option 3, but know the County cannot afford it. Administrator Hoff provided a copy of an email from the Tenth Judicial District Court Administrator Christopher Channing. Channing stated in his email the District is not in a position to provide any further reserve judge or visiting judge assistance if Sawyer County does not support a second circuit court. According to Channing, the second judge can be added without the need to add other staffing costs to the county.

Accounting Manager Mike Keefe provided handouts and discussed the effect of COVID-19 on revenues and expenses. The County is tracking expenses due to COVID-19 and will submit for reimbursement. Sawyer County's allocated share is \$285,000.

Sawyer County Treasurer's Department provided a Financial Report and Sales Tax Report.

Adjourned 10:05 am

Minutes prepared by Carol Williamson