

**Minutes of the October 14th 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
- Dawn Petit – Virtual
- Tom Duffy
- Stacey Hessel

Others Present:

Tom Hoff
Lynn Fitch
Mike Coleson
Mike Keefe
Linda Zillmer - Virtual
G Genari – Virtual
April Anderson & Melissa Roach

Call to Order – Chair Bruce Paulsen 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 Ms. Hessel to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote.

ARPA Funding Update – Mr. Hoff advised that the ARPA fund reporting date has been delayed until the end of January and we are still awaiting final rules. However, should any funds committed now until final ruling is received be deemed not within guidelines, then we've been advised those commitments will be accepted. Mr. Kinsley presented a request from the Village of Radisson that the County pay the costs of ordering new election equipment. No action was taken.

2022 Operating Budget Request Update – Written report provided. Representatives from Clifton-Carlson-Allen presented a high-level opinion on the recent audit completed. The result was an “unmodified statement” which is the highest opinion available. They reviewed key points of the Executive Summary, indicating two material weaknesses which they stated as being common in counties of our size and makeup.

Finance Budget – Written reports were provided. Mr. Keefe advised that the accounting budget is up a bit due to budgeting the payroll staff position within the administration department and adjusting hours at 8/day versus the current 7/day. The Treasurer's budget will experience the same with moving two staff members from 7 to 8 hours/day. The Total Fund Balance increased \$1.4 in the budget due to \$1.3M additional in revenues. The County debt is at a good level and general funds moved to a more positive position to increase the funds balance.

Mr. Hoff reviewed options available for addressing the high out-of-county mental health placement costs, and advised that the County is working with WCA and other Counties to draft legislation to send to Senator Petrouske to attempt managing these continued high costs. Mr. Keefe reviewed the operating budget reports and recommended budget changes. Public comment made by Linda Zillmer.

Board of Commissioner Public Lands (BCPL) Loan Application – Mr. Keefe presented an application and borrowing resolution to fund capital projects through the BCPL instead of using local banks. This would be a 2-year debt plan. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Duffy to approve this borrowing plan. The vote carried 3-1 with Ms. Hessel voting “nay”. The Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for October 28th.

Budget Watch List – Written report provided. Mr. Keefe reported a strong sales tax year and advised the stumpage sales are likely to exceed budget. Collection of ambulance fees has slowed down the past couple of months.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, November 4, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

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