

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

September 16, 2020

The Finance and Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., in the Banquet Room of the Phoenix Center, 100 South Orange Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Committee members present included: Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Marc Couey, Marty Brewer, Linda Gentes, Melissa Luck and David Turk. Don Seep WebEx.

Others present included: Victor Vlasak, County Clerk; elected officials, department heads and employees.

Committee Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting to order.

The Clerk verified that the meeting had been properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were sent by email to all Committee members, WRCO and County department heads, a copy was posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board and a copy was faxed to The Richland Observer.

Motion by Brewer, second by Turk for approval of the agenda. Motion carried.

2021 Budget Options and Amendments – Administrator Langreck reviewed the document outlining his thirty-one proposed 2021 budget adjustment options and proposed amendments. Departmental concerns to the proposed adjustments were expressed by the following department heads:

- Susan Triggs, Register of Deeds – Concern about the use of remaining funds in the Redaction Fees Fund for a one-time offset for the cost of the Deputy Register of Deeds position.
- Roger Petrick, Highway Commissioner – Levy reduction impact on road maintenance and operational costs.
- Mike Bindl, Zoning Administrator – Negative effects of the diversion of grant funds from its original purpose and instead using the funds to offset salary and fringe costs
- Therese Deckert, Pine Valley – Census number fluctuations and possible effect on operational costs and cash reserves.
- Tracy Thorsen, Health and Human Services Director – Levy reduction impact on operations and services provided.
- Clary Porter, Chief Deputy Sheriff – Levy reductions would require the reduction of on deputy position. Outlined were the staff reduction's effect on services provided.
- Troy Maggied, Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Director – Mr. Maggied reviewed services provided by Regional Planning
- Tri-County Airport – Brewer noted the use of the airport by Cardinal Glass and Cardinal Glass's positive impact on employment in Richland County.
- County Administrator, Clinton Langreck – Administrator position a new creation and budgetary cost.
- Jasen Glasbrenner, Economic Development Director – Reviewed impact of the creation of the position.

Written responses to proposed levy reductions will be placed on the County web site.

Questioned was the proposed reduction in the levy to the Highway Department in lieu of implementation of the wheel tax. Langreck noted that the resolution approving the wheel tax it did not specify that the highway levy limit could not be reduced. The proposed short-term borrowing would

provide 650,000 in additional funding for county road maintenance. General transportation aids are affected by any decreased expenditures for road maintenance.

Discussed was the proposed withdrawal from Regional Planning. The statutory deadline has been missed to withdraw from Regional Planning. The \$411,000 EDA study and grant was discussed.

A change in Richland County's proposed reduced funding level to the Tri-County Airport was discussed. The Tri-County Airport Commission has not met to take action on the proposal.

Motion by Murphy-Lopez, second by Brewer that the Finance and Personnel Committee commit to no less than \$1,215,042.21 in proposed budget adjustments options to address the 2021 budget gap and obligations. Motion by Brewer, second by Couey to amend the motion to add the \$242,000 cost of a wage step increase cost to the list. Motion carried on the amendment. The amended amount is 1,457,042.21. Roll call vote. AYES: Brewer, Luck, Murphy-Lopez, Gentes, Turk, Couey, Seep. Ayes 7. Noes 0. Total 7. Motion carried on the original motion, as amended.

Motion by Murphy-Lopez, second by Gentes to reject the possibility of across the board cuts of 10.7%. Roll call vote. Brewer, Luck, Murphy-Lopez, Gentes, Turk, Seep, Couey. Ayes 7. Noes 0. Total 7. Motion carried.

Motion by Murphy-Lopez, second by Brewer to accept the list of proposed budget adjustment options and solicit to members of the County Board of Supervisors for consideration of their responses at the September 21, 2020 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Motion by Luck, second by Couey to amend the list to include the \$242,000 wage increase option in the list of areas to adjust. Motion carried on the amendment. Motion by Luck, second by Turk to amend the list by removing from the list withdrawing from the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Commission. Motion carried on the amendment. Gentes noted possible revenue increases to UW-Food Services from the nutrition program. HHS Director Tracy Thorsen noted that discussed was an increase in funding for nutrition meals of \$5.50 for the first half of the year and \$4.50 for the second half of the year. Motion by Gentes, second by Couey to amend the list to reduce the UW-Food Services proposed levy reduction from \$70,000 to \$30,000. Motion carried on the amendment. Motion by Couey, second by Gentes that departments which were increased to 40 hours per week, be moved back to 35 hours per week and 37.5 hours per week. Roll call vote. AYES: Couey. NOES: Brewer, Luck, Murphy-Lopez, Gentes, Turk, Seep. Ayes 1. Noes 6. Total 7. Motion on the amendment declared defeated.

Motion by Murphy-Lopez, second by Luck to accept the list of proposed budget options, as amended, and to solicit the list to members of the County Board and for consideration of their responses at the September 21, 2020 Finance and Personnel Committee meet. Roll call. Brewer, Luck, Murphy-Lopez, Gentes, Turk, Seep, Couey. Ayes 7. Noes 0. Total 7. Motion carried.

The Committee took a break at this time. The Committee will reconvene for a closed session. The break took place at 3:16 p.m.

Victor V. Vlasak
Richland County Clerk