



**COLUMBIA COUNTY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2012**

PRESENT: Chair John Tramburg, Supervisors Harlan Baumgartner, Robert Westby, and Vern Gove

Excused: Supervisor Barry Pufahl

ALSO PRESENT: County Board Chair Andy Ross, Lois Schepp, Joe Ruf, Dennis Richards, Richard Hasse, and Lyn Jerde (Portage Daily Register)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and was properly noticed and published.

MINUTES

MOTION: On motion by Baumgartner, second by Gove, the minutes of the May 10th, 2012 Finance Committee meeting were approved.

VOUCHERS

MOTION: On motion by Westby, second by Baumgartner, monthly expenditures for the Accounting Department and County Treasurer for May 9 thru June 12, 2012 were approved for a total of \$312,625.78.

MOTION: On motion by Baumgartner, second by Westby, the disbursement journal for May 9 thru June 12, 2012 was approved for a total of \$3,178,138.32.

MOTION: On motion by Westby, second by Gove, County Board Payroll for May meetings paid in June was approved for a total of \$5,864.46

REVIEW PROPOSED AMENDMENT – CODE OF ORD. SEC. 9-1-5

The Committee reviewed an amendment to the Code of Ordinances for the Sheriff's Office fee schedule. The amendment adds a \$7.50 fee for prisoners who receive TB skin tests. The fee will cover staff time and testing materials.

SETTLEMENT OF AFSCME PROHIBITED PRACTICE CASE – 2010 FURLOUGHS

Ruf reported that the County and the three AFSCME unions (Courthouse/Human Services, Professional, and Highway) involved in the prohibited practice case re the 2010 furloughs had reached an agreement to settle the case. In the agreement, the County will pay back the employees affected for two of the four furlough days.

SETTLEMENT OF AFSCME PROHIBITED PRACTICE CASE – 2010 FURLOUGHS, CONTINUED

Public Health Nurses and the County's non-represented staff were not part of the prohibited practice case. Westby strongly recommended that they receive the same consideration under the terms of the settlement.

MOTION: On motion by Westby, second by Baumgartner, the Committee agreed to forward the settlement agreement to the full County Board for approval, including the back pay of two previous furlough days for all furloughed staff.

HR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REVISIONS

Ruf reported on current and upcoming revisions to the County's policies & procedures manual.

LINE ITEM TRANSFER – VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Veterans Service Officer Rich Hasse joined the meeting to request a line item transfer. In order to streamline the claims and filing processes, and to extend outreach services to veterans at remote locations, Hasse is proposing that the County purchase a new data management application. The new application will cost \$2,397.

MOTION: Motion by Westby to approve the line item transfer to purchase the VectraSpec data management application for \$2,397. Funding for the purchase is available in the department's 2012 unused salaries/wages budget. Second by Gove. Motion carried.

Hasse reported that the new Deputy Veterans Service Officer starts on June 25th. Hasse has also applied to have his office approved as a worksite for a VA work/study program. Once approved, a veteran in the work/study program can work in the Veteran's office and be paid through the G.I. Bill.

LINE ITEM TRANSFERS/CHANGE IN OUTLAY

None, other than previously discussed/approved.

AMEND ORDINANCE TO INCREASE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE

The Committee reviewed the proposal to increase the mileage reimbursement rate from \$.44 to \$.50 per mile, effective July 1, 2012.

MOTION: On motion by Baumgartner, second by Gove, the ordinance to amend Title 5-3 (Mileage Reimbursement) was approved. The cost of the increase in 2012 will be \$6,000 with funds to be transferred from the Fuel/Utility Reserve Account. Moving forward, the increase will cost an additional \$12,000 per year.

BUDGET 2013

Schepp outlined preliminary budget facts for 2013. Counties will again be allowed a "0" increase in tax levy.

Expenses: Step increases and a 7.5% increase in health insurance will be included in preliminary budget numbers. Funds for other potential wage increases will be held in the contingency fund, to be used if needed.

Revenues: Starting in November 2012, the County will receive wind turbine revenue (expected to be \$378,000/year). Interest rates remain very low (.15%), causing a continued reduction in investment revenue. Interest earned used to be \$2 million and is now only \$200,000.

BUDGET 2013, CONTINUED

The Committee decided that departments will be allowed a 1.5% increase in their operational budgets for 2013, if justified/needed. Staff requests for 2013 were discussed. Requests for new personnel will be reviewed and approved/not approved at a Joint Human Resource/Executive Committee meeting in July.

UPDATE ON SOUTHERN HOUSING CONSORTIUM

Schepp reported on changes to the State CDBG Housing Program. Instead of each county having their own program, the state is being divided into regional housing consortiums. Columbia County has been selected to be the lead county for the Southern Housing Consortium, consisting of Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Washington, Ozaukee, Jefferson, Rock, Walworth, Racine and Kenosha Counties.

Housing grants for 2011/12 will not be affected, but future funding will go to the consortiums.

The RLF/Housing Committee will present a resolution authorizing the consortium cooperative agreement to the full County Board on June 20, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion by Westby, second by Baumgartner, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Next meeting: July 12, 2012
Baumgartner will be unable to attend.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robert R. Westby, Secretary

Recording Secretary, Cindy Devine

cc: Finance Committee
County Board Chair
Lois Schepp
Joseph Ruf III
Susan M. Moll
Internet