

Finance & Economic Development Committee
July 27, 2023 at 9:00 am
County Board Room

Present: Mike Berlin, Laura Nagro, Blake Ellefson, Pat Kinney, Ron Sztynodor

Others: Dan Grady, Lori Schmidt, Kristine Schmidt, Kelly Burgess, Mike Konecny, Steve Corbeille, Dick Pufall, Gary Mertig

Mike Berlin called the meeting to order at 9:01 am. and roll call was taken. Motion by Pat Kinney to approve the agenda as presented with a 2nd by Laura Nagro. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Pat Kinney to approve the June 22, 2023 meeting minutes as presented, 2nd by Laura Nagro. Motion carried.

Kristin Schmidt of M3 Insurance gave an update on the health insurance. She stated that the health plan monitor thru June is at a 99.4% funding ratio as compared to 95% last month and that overall we are having a better year so far. She stated that enrollment has declined a little bit for unknown reasons and that there has been a savings of \$56,575.38 YTD on medication by using Scout RX. Discussion followed regarding the Wellness Plan. Kristin stated they we are currently looking at an increase for 2024 and Dan Grady stated that he informed department heads to plan on a 10% increase in their health insurance line item for the 2024 budget or that we could look at making changes in the health plan to reduce this percentage of increase. Kristin then talked about the dental plan and stated that it has been underfunded for many years and that employees need to plan more money for premiums. Discussion.

Financial Consultants Mike Konecny and Steve Corbeille gave the June 2023 budget status report to the Committee. Revenue is at 34% which is not unusual for this time of year – waiting for State and Federal funding to come in. Expenditures are in order, discussion regarding the debt service followed. All in all, things look good. Mike and Steve also gave updates on the 2024 budget process which they stated that they are fairly close to being on schedule.

Dan Grady updated the Committee on the Town of Sanborn. Dan stated that on February 10, 2023, the Town filed a court order where they agreed to pay back Tribal members who paid taxes. The action taken by the Town was not held in any type of open meeting. Dan said that a decision on the loan of the Tribe in the amount of \$610,000 will be made by the middle of August. Discussion.

In regards to the Town of LaPointe, they lost their case with DOR. They have now requested to set up a meeting with Dan Grady regarding this. Discussion followed.

Economic Development – Dan Grady stated that there is approximately \$750,000 in ARPA funds that need to be used/committed by the end of 2024 and that 1 idea for this money could be to partner with the City and purchase land and hire a developer to build some housing. Discussion followed. Gary Mertig stated that he felt that the County should have some type of number for the repairs to the Courthouse before any money is committed for anything.

Discussion followed regarding the sales tax.

Administrator updates – Dan Grady stated that they have now had the 2nd meeting with the Board for Joint Dispatch. Money was been approved to start purchasing equipment. A budget was handed out to Committee members. The County's portion to be paid to Bayfield County now is \$66,666. The Board agreed to start the hiring process of a Department Head to oversee Joint Dispatch. This will cost the

County approximately \$50,000 for our share. They will be applying for a 2nd grant for a new records system to replace the Cody system. The process is moving along at a very fast pace.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 30, 2023 at 9:00 am in the County Board Room.

Motion to adjourn by Laura Nagro with a 2nd by Ron Szyndor. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Lori Schmidt,
Administrative Assistant