

Finance & Economic Development  
August 30, 2023 at 9:00 am  
County Board Room

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

Others: Dan Grady, Lori Schmidt, Dick Pufall, Mike Konecny, Steve Corbeille, Kelly Burgess, Kristin Schmidt, Kelly Westlund, Scott Bretting

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Szyndor. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Pat Kinney to approve the July 27, 2023 meeting minutes as presented with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Szyndor. Motion carried.

M3 Insurance Update: Kristin Schmidt reviewed the latest PPM thru July. Claims were a little higher but still better than past years. Overall the plan is looking better. Regarding dental – Kristin stated that the County really needs to change the funding rates. Discussion followed.

Kristin then reviewed the advantages of offering the employees a HSA. Discussion followed. Motion by Pat Kinney to have the County Administrator work with the provider to give the County the option of providing the employees a HSA for the 2024 budget. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Nagro. Motion carried.

Financial Consultants Update: Mike Konecny and Steve Corbeille reviewed the July budget report with the Committee. They stated that as of now there is nothing unusual to report. Discussion followed. Motion by Laura Nagro, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Kinney to accept the report for 2023 as given. Motion carried.

2024 Budget Discussion: Mike and Steve stated that these are very preliminary numbers. Dan Grady stated that the final numbers came in yesterday and that there are some duplications that will have to be looked at. Some departments with higher increases or decreases in revenue will need to be looked at deeper. The largest increases are in HHS, IT, Sheriff's Department and a decrease in revenue in the Forestry budget. Dan stated that we don't know what our levy is at this time and that we are still waiting on a lot of numbers. Dan also informed the Committee that regarding the VSO budget for 2024 the grant that they receive will be used to offset wages and not placed in a special fund. There were no objections to this. Discussion followed.

Town of Sanborn update. Dan Grady stated that the Town received a loan for just over \$600,000 to payback Tribal members for property taxes from 2015 – 2018. The County will have to pay a chargeback \$150,355.92 for this same timeframe. Dan stated that there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> charge going into effect next year for 2019 – present and that this is an ongoing moving target. Discussion followed.

Economic Development: Dan Grady stated that the County could use remaining ARPA money to buy land, work with the municipalities and developers to build housing. Kelly Westlund from Bayfield County UW Extension explained some of the things that they are currently looking at. Discussion followed.

Uniquely Wisconsin: Dan Grady stated that every County that has partaken in this program has seen an increase in sales tax and that it is something that would help out the entire County. The cost is \$60,000 and that it would help with tourism. Discussion followed regarding the City and Bayfield County doing a joint venture on this or perhaps the Chamber of Commerce would like to be involved and help defray costs.

Investments and Sales Tax report: Dan Grady stated that the investment report is in the packet along with the sales tax report. Sales tax is up roughly \$35,000 for the month of August.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 27, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Motion by Blake Ellefson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Kinney to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

\*\*Please note that the Zoom meeting lost its internet connection many times during this meeting and therefore will not be posted on YouTube.

Lori Schmidt,  
Administrative Assistant