

Finance & Economic Development
October 17, 2023 at 9:00 am
County Board Room

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

Others: Dan Grady, Lori Schmidt, Dick Pufall, Steve Corbeille, Max Lindsey, Kristin Schmidt, Kelly Burgess, Pat Daoust, Gary Mertig, Heather Schutte

Mike Berlin called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and roll call was taken. Motion by Pat Kinney to approve the agenda, 2nd by Ron Sztynodor. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Ron Sztynodor to approve the September 27, 2023 meeting minutes as presented, 2nd by Pat Kinney. Motion carried. Pat Kinney made a motion to amend the September 27, 2023 Finance meeting minutes (#4 to read Finance Committee instead of Executive Committee), 2nd by Ron Sztynodor. Motion carried.

Kristin Schmidt from M3 gave an update on the health insurance plan. The plan has been renewed and a stop loss is locked-in. Kristin stated that it renewed at a 10% increase but is hoping that this will be lowered slightly as more figures come in for later months. The health plan will remain the same as well as the dental plan, however, Kristin would like to see the premiums for the dental insurance increase for 2025. Discussion followed.

Steve Corbeille presented the 3rd quarter report to the Committee. There is really nothing that seems out of line at this point. Discussion followed.

Tri-County Corridor loan review: Dan Grady stated that the other 2 counties that gave a \$10,000 loan to the Tri-County Corridor due to financial theft within have since forgiven the loan. Motion by Laura Nagro to forgive the \$10,000 loan given to the Tri-County Corridor, 2nd by Ron Sztynodor. Discussion. Motion carried with Pat Kinney not in favor of the motion.

Loan to the Snowmobile Alliance: Ron Sztynodor stated that the Alliance is looking at updating/upgrading equipment and have the opportunity to purchase a 2012 Trucker with less than 25 hundred hours. Brand new this piece of equipment sells for \$268,000. The Alliance will be selling other equipment to help pay for this Tucker. Discussion followed. Motion by Pat Kinney to approve the loan to the Ashland County Snowmobile Alliance and to move it forward to the full Board with more information for action. 2nd by Laura Nagro. Motion carried with Blake Ellefson abstaining.

Discussion followed regarding the 2024 budget. Dan Grady stated that the amount put in for health insurance may have to change as 9% was put into the budgets and it may need to be changed to 10% which would mean another \$24,000. A 2.5% wage increase effective 1/1/24 was put in for all employees except those that are contracted or have a hiring letter in place. \$100,000 was put in for a grant writer and \$50,000 for a space needs study. Discussion. Steve Corbeille stated that just because money was put into the budget and earmarked for something, the full Board would still need to approve/deny it, if something would be denied, the money would just be placed in the Contingency Fund. The ARPA money that was put into the 2024 budget for roof repair may also change as the bids are not due until the end of this month.

Meeting times: discussion followed regarding changing the times of the meetings to better fit work schedules of Committee members. Motion by Ron Sztynodor to move the meeting times of this

Committee to 3:00 pm and to be on the 2nd Thursday of the month. 2nd by Blake Ellefson. Motion carried.

Economic development, investment report and sales tax report, Dan Grady stated that information is in the packets.

Motion by Ron Sztynodor, 2nd by Laura Nagro to convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved: regarding land sold at Tax Sales. Roll call vote: all yes. The meeting convened into closed session at 10:09 am.

Motion by Mike Berlin, 2nd by Laura Nagro to reconvene into open session. Roll call vote: all yes. Motion carried and the meeting reconvened into open session at 10:40 am.

Dan Grady presented 2 handouts to the Committee that he just received for Administrator updates. Discussion followed.

The next meeting is TBD.

Motion by Laura Nagro to adjourn with a 2nd by Ron Sztynodor. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:53 am.

Lori Schmidt,
Administrative Assistant